



IODE Ontario

E-Newsletter

Summer 2025



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Meet Michelle... Our newly elected Provincial President.

I am honoured 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. Never underestimate the impact that each individual member makes in assisting those in need and helping to make Canada a better place for all.

I joined IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia in 2013 after attending the IODE Sarnia-Lambton Municipal Chapter's annual meeting. A very generous donation was being made to the Sexual Assault Survivors' Centre Sarnia-Lambton for the education program and support group supplies. I had the privilege of accepting the cheque and sharing information about the Centre's work. I remember looking at the displays and talking to many of the members and realized that the vision of IODE, women working together for a better Canada was the same as my life's work towards ending violence against women and children.

I've been passionate about all the various roles that I have held in my primary chapter as president, 1st vice president and secretary. I continue as treasurer and education officer and love the connection with our chapter's grade two adopted school in Hopedale NL. My three granddaughters, also IODE members, and I have a adopted the grade two class at Kattawapiskak Elementary School in northern Ontario. It is a delight to shop with the girls while introducing them to IODE. As members they have also helped at the Canadian National Exhibition, CNE booth, signing Christmas cards for our troops and participating at the Canada day parade. The opportunities are endless to engage friends and family into the world of IODE. I am thrilled to be a part of the virtual chapter, IODE Trillium 2023, by being a charter member, president and membership officer. The growth of this chapter with new members and the amazing success of the many projects is testament to how women make things happen. I know that the IODE Ontario office which is now virtual will also be a resounding success.

My introduction to the Ontario Provincial Executive Committee led me to several positions including Area Vice President, Citizenship Officer, Membership Officer, 1st and 2nd Vice President and various convenor positions. The opportunity to meet women from Ontario and across Canada has developed into many friendships. The enjoyment and comradery when we meet at annual meetings is very special.

Every one of our members has unique 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."

I would like to share a special Thank You to the IODE women who collected donations for the coveted silent auction, purple glitter purse. The presentation at IODE Canada National Annual Meeting, NAM, was the best welcome and support that a person could receive. IODE women are Inclusive, Organized, Dedicated and Enthusiastic!

Please reach out to me iodemichellebatty@outlook.com.

IODE Ontario has moved to a virtual office

The Provincial Office is now virtual as of March 1, 2025.

- Our mailing address is PO Box 80085, Burlington RPO Appleby, ON, L7L 6B1
- Phone 905-522-9537
- Email: IODEOntario@gmail.com Website: www.IODEOntario.ca
- Office Hours are 9:00 - 3:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 – 2:30 Wednesdays

EDUCATION

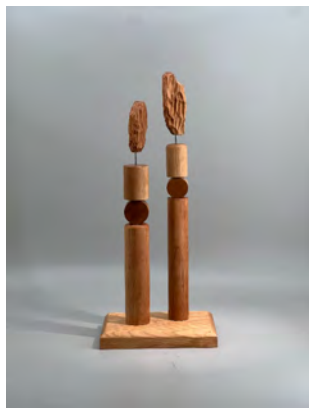
Lisa Cossar, Education Officer

Annually IODE Ontario has donated to IODE Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCAD U) Scholarship with a \$1,000 scholarship in 2025 to a 2nd or 3rd year student, chosen by the school.

Mariane Haché, currently a third-year student in the Drawing & Painting program is the 2024 recipient. Please enjoy her thank you note and sample artwork.



“To the generous donor of the IODE Scholarship,



I am deeply grateful for your generous support through the IODE scholarship. As an art student striving to develop my practice and establish a meaningful career, this scholarship is not just financial assistance—it is a profound encouragement that fuels my creative journey. Your generosity allows me to focus more on my studies, push my artistic boundaries, and engage with opportunities that would have otherwise been out of reach. It reassures me that my work has value and that there are people who believe in the power of art to shape culture and society. Thank you for investing in student artists like me. Your support makes a lasting impact, and I hope to one day pay it forward by contributing to the artistic community as you have. With gratitude, Mariane Haché”

Lucy Morrison Bursary

The bursary will be a tremendous help in achieving educational goals, and students deeply appreciate the recognition and opportunity it represents. Primary chapters are thanked for past support and are encouraged to consider a donation to the Lucy Morrison Fund as part of their annual disbursements.

CITIZENSHIP

Kathryn Weston, Citizenship Officer & Standard Bearer

“IODE Ontario Police Community Relations Award: For the past two years, Provincial Sergeant Jill Lewis and Detective Constable (DC) Vicky McGough of the OPP 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 are showcased as are members from the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) specialized units such as the Canine Unit, and Tactics and Rescue. Sgt. Lewis and DC McGough created the camp curriculum, engaged other units and officers to attend, and spent their own time and money in support of the camp.

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum: Several attendees of the Provincial Annual Meeting attended the museum at the Hamilton Airport on Saturday and enjoyed a private guided tour and a lovely lunch. The tour focused on the Bolingbroke bomber that is slowly being restored. Although it will never be flown, it will be magnificent and will bear the IODE badge on the cockpit in honour of the \$100,000 (almost \$2,000,000 in 2025 dollars) that IODE Canada raised in one month in 1942 to purchase the bomber. (pictured on page 11)

This is a fascinating museum, and the volunteers are happy to share their extensive knowledge with all visitors. If you are in the Hamilton area, the museum is well worth a visit.

The King’s Royal Hussars: At the end of May, the King’s Royal Hussars from Great Britain were recent visitors to Petrolia. Welcomed by the mayor, they learned about oil production at the Petrolia Discovery, which has buildings and displays of the early years of the oil industry, toured the Victoria Place Petrolia (VPP) Theatre and Town Hall. Following that there was a reception for them at the Town Hall attended by the mayor and the CAO. IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter provided butter tarts for the refreshment table. They are a sweet snack that they had never tasted before and as the saying goes,



‘It went down a treat’. A couple of these Royal Hussars enjoyed more than three tarts each! Because these young men are soccer players, they played against Sarnia and London teams. They stayed between London and Sarnia and visited Niagara Falls as well as other places. They are all army tank drivers.

IODE Ontario councillor, Sheila DeJaegher who is known as ‘the mother of the 1st Hussars’ met with them and the King’s Royal Hussars. Sheila will be travelling with the 1st Hussars to Italy this summer.



IODE Canada 125th Anniversary Celebrations: Members across the Province continue to count their acts of kindness. The acts of kindness will be recorded in the 2025 Annual Report along with volunteer hours.

Summer Safety: After an unusually chilly Spring everyone is grateful to be outside in the warmth and sunshine that is June, July and August. It was only a few years ago that Lyme disease was rare in Ontario. It is becoming more prevalent in part because of our warmer winters. With the increase in Lyme disease, it is important to know how to avoid ticks, properly remove ticks and know the symptoms of Lyme disease. Fortunately, physicians and hospital medical personnel are much more aware of this disease than they were in the past. This website from the Government of Canada has simple comprehensive information: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/lyme-disease.htm>

SERVICES

Gloria Saunders & Virginia Reade, Services Co-Officers

NEEDLES UP!!!!

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

To help celebrate IODE's 125th Anniversary, in a recent e-blast, Ontario chapter members were asked to knit/crochet Christmas stockings which will be collected at the October hybrid PEC meeting. They will then be distributed to the connecting chapters to send to the northern communities. If you are close to a connecting chapter and would like to give directly to them, that's great. Simply keep track of the number of stockings and send us an email.

A knit stocking pattern is attached (to help us maintain consistent sizing stockings should be approx. 10-11" long and 4-6 wide. Our search did not yield a crochet pattern of similar size. If anyone has such a pattern, please email it to Gloria Saunders (iodegloria30@gmail.com) so it can be distributed as well.

Don't knit or crochet but still want to contribute?

A list of suggested small gift items which would fit inside the stockings has been prepared and is shown below. These can also be brought to the Fall hybrid PEC meeting.

Our goal is to collect at least 125 stockings.

Christmas stocking stuffers:

- young children – colouring supplies, small stuffed animals, small soft-cover books, toy cars
- older girls – hairbrushes/accessories, nail items, lotions
- older boys – ski gloves, ball caps/toques, T-shirts, small flashlights
- treats – jerky, sugarless candy (due to high rates of diabetes)

CHRISTMAS STOCKING PATTERN

Worsted weight yarn

Needles – approx. 4.5 mm

Finished size: approx. 10-11" long, 4-6" wide

Using white yarn: Cast on 36 sts; Knit 12 rows

Using main colour yarn (approx. 2 oz):

Beginning with a knit row, work in stocking stitch (one row knit, one row purl) for 30 rows

Shape heel as follows:

Row 1: K20, turn	Row 10: P20, turn
Row 2: P4, turn	Row 11: K22, turn
Row 3: K6, turn	Row 12: P24, turn
Row 4: P8, turn	Row 13: K26, turn
Row 5: K10, turn	Row 14: P28, turn
Row 6: P12, turn	Row 15: K30, turn
Row 7: K14, turn	Row 16: P32, turn
Row 8: P16, turn	Row 17: k to end
Row 9: K18, turn	

Beginning with a purl row, work stocking stitch for 16 rows

Shape toe as follows: P2 tog across row; K2 tog across row

Break off yarn. Thread yarn through a needle and pull through remaining sts.

Pull tight and fasten off. Sew up side seam.



MEMBERSHIP

Pam Ainscough, IODE Ontario Membership Officer

Congratulations to IODE Ontario Primary chapters who welcomed 51 new members in 2024!

The IODE Ontario Membership Awards were presented at the Provincial Annual Meeting in April. Congratulations to the following primary chapters for their efforts in IODE membership growth during 2024:

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 three** new members in 2024 were:*

Four Members: IODE Errol Egremont Chapter, Sarnia; IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual

Three Members: IODE Val Griffith's Chapter, Dorchester

Two Members: IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia

One Member: IODE Festival Jubilee Chapter, Stratford

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.

It is important to remember that new members hear about your chapter through publicized events, community involvement and by asking. Are you talking about IODE? Ask a friend or neighbour today to join. Every Member Counts!

Life Memberships

Shirley Ann Elms, Life Membership Convenorship

Congratulations to Kathryn Weston, Provincial Life Member.



Kathryn Weston joined IODE Margaret Stokes Chapter in 2004 and a member of The Provincial Executive Committee as a councillor in 2018. 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. 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*.

Kathryn became the Provincial Standard Bearer Officer in 2019 and the Citizenship Officer in 2022. *Congratulations to Kathryn.*



Adopted Schools, Services and Education

A Friend of IODE

First Book Canada has been a Friend of IODE for several years. During the pandemic, we turned to them to purchase books with the funds donated to “Share a Story...Bring a Book” project. Not only did they have a tremendous supply of very reasonably priced books, but they ship for free! Last year, IODE Trillium 2023 Chapter, virtual, raised funds to purchase children’s books for Kattawapiskak Elementary School and, after selecting 125 books from the thousands available, First Book Canada shipped them free of charge to Attawapiskat, Ontario. We have also come to appreciate that First Book Canada is so much more than an online bookstore.

[First Book Canada](#) is a non-profit social enterprise that believes that education is the best way out of poverty for children in need. They address the needs of students by providing educators, program leaders and organizations serving low-income communities with access to free and low-cost books, resources and funding opportunities to help create educational equity.

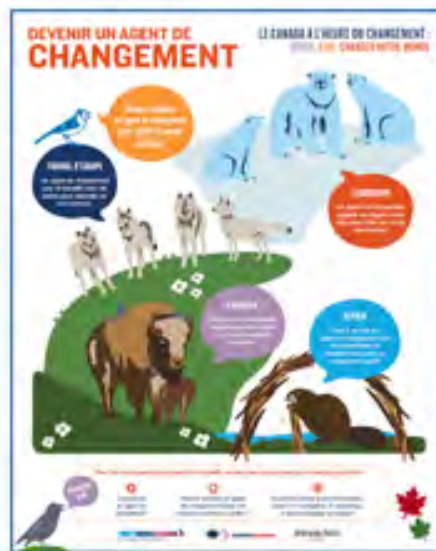
For example, on September 30, 2024 (the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation), First Book Canada and Ashoka Canada launched “Time for Change” with resources that responds to Call to Action #62, by building up a body of educational resources that tell the story of Indigenous innovators of today and support their flourishing tomorrow. These resources are available in English, French, Inuktitut, Plains Cree and Anishinaabemowin (Eastern Ojibwe). To further promote Time for Change, First Book is now offering free posters and online resources to students and teachers through their [Time for Change Canada](#) website.

Any IODE member can become a member of First Book Canada. Sign up is FREE at www.fbmpcanada.org/register and takes about 5 minutes. As a member you and your Chapter will have access to newsletters, promotional materials and special funding opportunities made available through their donors and partners.

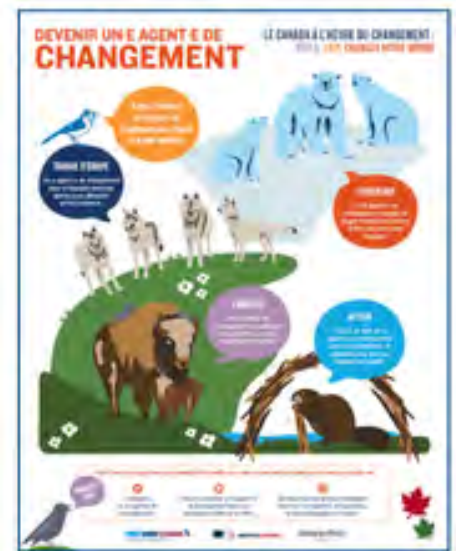
Click the links to download and print your own copy of the Time for Change poster in English or French. Want a free large, printed version? Contact [First Book Canada](#), while supplies last, they’ll ship one to you at no cost.



[Download in English](#)



[Download in French \(Masc.\)](#)



[Download in French \(Fem.\)](#)

IODE Chapters in Action



Members of IODE Kent Regiment Chapter, Chatham, are excited to welcome the Ontario Ancestors, Kent Branch as a Project Partner in the Gathering Our Heroes Project. Gathering Our Heroes is dedicated to documenting the stories and contributions of those from Chatham-Kent who served in both World Wars. The GOH website has over 10,100 CK names on our website: gatheringourheroes.ca. Welcoming the Ontario Ancestors Kent Branch into the partnership increases the strength of the project and ensures it remains a strong genealogical tool in our community for many years to come. Pictured are President Garna Argenti, Colleen L'Abbe (Ancestors), and member Sheila DeJaegher.

The Ontario Provincial IODE Chapter, "Found a home" at the Sheridan College Indigenous Engagement and Education office, for their Indigenous artifacts. This gift is significant as the "Vision of art and Indigenous artifacts being in an art school like Sheridan is eloquently unreal, something to experience." A special thank you goes to the Ontario Provincial IODE and the IODE Angela Bruce Chapter, Oakville for their assistance in arranging the donation through 'Ask Listen and Act.'



Left: Members of IODE Val Griffiths Chapter responded to a request for donations of underwear for those in need. The group purchased 125 pairs of underwear for men, women, and children.

Right: Members of the IODE Malcolm Cameron Chapter, Sarnia sold 'Proudly Canadian' signs to show their Canadian Pride. 318 signs were sold as their fundraiser.



IODE Bemersyde Chapter's Past-President Betsy Thompson and Citizenship Officer Andrea Conte obtained three portraits of King Charles III from the local MP's office. These portraits were free of charge from Heritage Canada. The chapter and a donor paid for the framing of the portraits at a local framing shop in Campbellford. The presentations were made to three elementary schools and the library. All were very pleased to be able to display a current portrait of the King of Canada.

Honouring our Members

Congratulations History Preservation Recipient, Marie Carter



Marie Carter, a dedicated member of IODE Catherine McVean Chapter in Dresden, was recently honoured with the Lieutenant Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award for History Preservation. This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding commitment to preserving local history, her many years of volunteer service, and her passionate efforts to keep the stories of the past alive for future generations.

Congratulations Ashley Bonnell, Another medal!

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers was presented by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada to Captain Ashley Bonnell for her commitment to the Canadian Armed Forces values and ethics, their championing of diversity and inclusion, and adaptive approach to ensure flexibility and relevance in planning training.

Ashley commented that she is proud to be recognized for her volunteer work with the Royal Canadian Legion, the IODE 48th Highlanders Chapter and IODE Ontario.



Congratulations, King Charles III Coronation Medal Recipient, Karen Dalton, IODE Eldon House Chapter, London and 1st Vice President of IODE Canada.



Congratulations to Ietje Kerkoff, IODE Eldon House, London, for her 50 years to IODE.

Honouring Members for Years of Service



Pictured are IODE Stirling Chapter, St. Thomas members, Brenda Hoover, Barb Eplett, Sue Mills, Kathy Ellis receiving their 30 years certificates. Right: Sherry Fergus and Diane Martin both from IODE Headwaters Chapter were privileged to volunteer at the Canadian Open Golf Tournament.

ARCHIVES

by Helen Danby, Provincial Archivist

The following article was submitted to a local senior's publication and is copied here for your use. This article was written with a focus on SW Ontario. If you would like your copy in WORD to personalize for your area and send to media or senior's magazine please contact Helen at helensiode20@gmail.com

What is IODE? Is it really 125 years old?

For many people, the name, IODE, has been associated with Christmas Home Tours, education awards, butter tarts, apple pies, flower and craft sales and donations to those less fortunate. This year, IODE is proud to celebrate its 125th Anniversary. At most anniversaries, people look back on their accomplishments. IODE is no exemption. Some highlights are mentioned here. For the historians, a more detailed version is available on the provincial and national websites.

IODE is the abbreviated name for a women's charitable organization that was formed in 1900 under the formal name of "Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire". It was started by Margaret Polson Murray as a way women could support the Canadian troops during the Boer War. The work of the organization continued into the early part of the century with chapters funding hospitals such as the one in Goderich (that was their sole purpose in 1901). In 1907, the Orangeville chapters provided funds for a hospital and nursing school. St. Thomas, Welland, Brantford, Haileybury, London, Ottawa and Windsor followed. The London chapters in 1919, funded the IODE War Memorial Children's Hospital of Western Ontario. You may remember that the Windsor Hospital was once known as the IODE Memorial Hospital. The Children's Centre at the North York Hospital is also a product of the Toronto IODE Chapters.

With the IODE focus on assisting veterans, their widows and promoting education, IODE chapters remembered the fallen during WWI and WWII. Cenotaphs sprang up throughout the country as members raised funds in a variety of ways such as teas, dances, rummage sales and raffles. Again, London was one of the first to erect a cenotaph in memory of those fallen. IODE chapters in Brantford, Carleton Place, Campbellford, Cannington, Chatham, Dresden, Guelph, Hanover, Hastings, Havelock, Hensall, Hanover, Norwood, Port Hope, Powassan, Kingston, Kitchener, Ridgetown, Strathroy, Tilbury, Wheatley, Windsor, and Woodstock all funded the cenotaphs in their towns or cities. Many other chapters contributed significant proceeds to assist with their local memorials.

The wartime history of IODE includes fundraising for a bomber and two spitfires during the Second World War. Members raised over \$12,000,000 in the two world wars to supply hospital ships, ambulances and aircraft. Relief to prisoners of war and refugee camps, libraries and canteens for service men and women, and thousands of volunteer hours were among the many contributions in both wars. Over 300 ships in the Royal Navy were adopted with chapters sending the crews chocolate, cigarettes, games, cards, musical instruments and books. IODE chapters in Sarnia had adopted the *H.M.C.S. Malone* in 1943. Contributions continued to war-torn areas and impoverished communities during the 1950's and 1960's. New citizens were welcomed; members volunteered at hospitals and clinics and goods were provided locally where needed. Thrift shops were a source of community assistance. Post-war membership was over 50,000 women nationally. In the 1990's to 2010 genetic research was supported and the focus turned to keeping children healthy.

Fast forward to the present. This year IODE celebrates 125 years! It has grown into an organization of volunteers who are IODE - "Inclusive, Organized, Dedicated and Enthusiastic" about its commitment to service through education, literacy, community welfare and citizenship initiatives. Southwestern Ontario IODE Chapters in Sarnia, Petrolia, Goderich, Chatham, Dorchester, Kitchener, Hamilton, London and Windsor continue to play pivotal roles in addressing local needs, building strong community ties and creating lasting positive changes as do all chapters across the country.

Through the IODE citizenship focus, chapters honour first responders, support mental health and the needs of veterans and deployed men and women, participate at Remembrance Day events and help maintain cenotaphs.

Literacy especially among the youth is also a primary IODE focus. To promote excellence in children's literature, Canadian authors are recognized for their work through the IODE Ontario's Jean Throop Book Award for children aged 3 to 7 years and IODE Canada's Violet Downey Book Award for older youth. Education bursaries and scholarships are available for post-secondary students through various local, Provincial and National programs; the most notably the War Memorial Scholarship for students in the PhD programs.

Recognizing the ever-continuing problem of food insecurities and homelessness, IODE members contribute to food banks and soup kitchens, donate to shelters, support hospices and hospitals and do community services in partnership with other like-minded organizations. Every year, the National IODE Snack Pack program ensures that the thousands of school children in the remote coastal communities of Labrador have ample nourishment.

From environmental projects to fundraising efforts for local causes, IODE has encouraged the youth of Sarnia-Lambton to take an active role in improving their community. IODE chapters have helped engage the youth at schools on environmental issues. Many have maintained public parks and gardens, donated benches at playgrounds and donated as well as planted trees at several schools and parks.

The National IODE's 100th Anniversary Grant Program was established to financially assist organizations that are dedicated to preventing child abuse and helping our youth, giving agencies across Canada the opportunity to apply for a grant of \$25,000. In 2021, the Sarnia Rebound was nominated and was the well-deserved recipient of the 100th Anniversary Grant.

During the year, IODE chapters participate in food drives, toy donations, and holiday gift programs for vulnerable families. These efforts ensure that those who are less fortunate feel supported and cared for, helping to build a more compassionate and resilient community.

The chapters contributed to numerous local organizations and support projects such as funding for necessary equipment at the local hospital or hospice. Members find that not only are they working to raise funds but the social aspect in making life-long friends is present. Social events and special projects give a sense of wellbeing, and it is noted that it is a good tool for a longer life. New members are always welcomed.

An exciting and recent addition to IODE's membership infrastructure was the launch of a virtual chapter called **IODE Trillium 2023** whereby anyone can become an IODE member regardless of location. You will be amazed at how a virtual chapter can do good works in support of IODE's mission!

With over 700 chapters that were across Ontario over the years, you are bound to see an IODE signature in a town as you pass through. Perhaps it will be on the welcome sign, at a water fountain (near Petrolia's VPP), near the old city gates by Canatara Park, Sarnia, on a bench, the cenotaph, or in a gazebo in Goderich. Look for IODE, you may be surprised.

A challenge: If you or a relative received IODE assistance, an education award, or just love their fundraiser, please let them know by emailing IODE Ontario. They would love to hear how IODE had impacted your life.



Spread the Word about IODE.
Tell your Chapter's Story during October,
IODE Awareness Month

2025 Provincial Annual Meeting Highlights

IODE Ontario was very pleased to have Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Edith Dumont attend our 105th Provincial Annual Meeting. When Her Honour Edith Dumont 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.



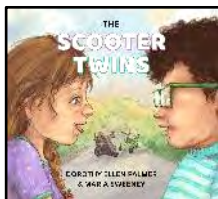
It was a huge surprise when Her Honour presented the King Charles III Coronation Medal for volunteerism in service to their country to seven IODE Ontario members. Helen Danby, Michelle Batty, Debbie Button, Jan Casbourn, Aileen Reid, Gloria Saunders and Betsy Thompson were honoured to receive this special award. As a thank you and parting gift, our Patron Edith Dumont was given a copy by Karen Barker of the IODE Jean Throop Award winning book *The Scooter Twins*.



National President Jane Cushing's message emphasized that 'Every Member Counts and IODE counts on every member'. Meeting electronically shows anyone can join a chapter and participate from any location and encouraged women to participate in meetings and workshops across Canada where ideas and solutions are shared.



Special guest Dr. Stephen Veldhuis received the War Memorial Scholarship in 1998 for his doctoral thesis in Mechanical Engineering 'World in Motion', which encouraged young students to pursue an interest in science and technology. He was thanked for his valuable time given to IODE in serving on the War Memorial Committee for over 24 years, reading 958 applications for the scholarship.



The criteria which the selection committee considered for the IODE Jean Throop Book Award of \$5,000 is that the author must reside in Ontario, the book should appeal to three to seven-year-olds, the excellence in the writing, the nature of the contribution to children's literacy, and the quality of illustrations. The winning book was *The Scooter Twins* written by Dorothy Allen Palmer. It is an enlightening story of a brother and sister with mobility challenges. Her book is based on her personal experiences growing up and as a mother and grandmother with similar abilities, which she shared with the audience via Zoom. At lunch time, the delegates flocked to purchase copies of this award-winning book after Karen Barker made the pitch, 'Will getting their own mobility scooters change how the world sees Melanie and Melvin?' Please contact IODE Ontario office if you would like a copy. There are 9 remaining.

The afternoon opened with a brief overview of changes to Provincial bylaws under voting, and the approval of the changes in a vote by the membership at large. This information was sent to all chapters prior to the Provincial Annual Meeting. The IODE Ontario Police Community Relations Award is detailed in the citizenship report. A fascinating history of IODE through the decades was presented by guest speaker National Archivist and HVP Bonnie Rees, assisted by her daughter Natalie Botzang, first time attendee as a member. Their presentation was highly informative, entertaining and made the audience swell with pride.

Provincial Annual Meeting



OPP Recipients at lunch



Presidents Michelle Batty and Jane Cushing



Wednesday's Dirty Dancing Group



1st place Maple Leaf Chapter



Her Honour LG Edith Dumont socializing prior to the meeting



Dessert with Sue Lake, Shirley Ann Elms and Sandra Smith



Provincial Officers



Provincial Officers, Betsy Thompson, Kathryn Weston and Gloria Saunders



Sandra Smith, War Memorial Convenor



Trillium Chapter 2023 at Provincial Annual Meeting. Below: Dessert and socializing.

Saturday's Tour at The Warplane Museum and IODE Bolingbroke plane



PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS 2025 - 2026

FIRST NAME	SURNAME	CHAPTER	CITY
Pam	Ainscough	IODE Headwaters	Tottenham
Jane	Anema	IODE Errol Egremont	Bright's Grove
Garna	Argenti	IODE Kent Regiment, Chatham	Burford
Karen	Barker	IODE 48 th Highlanders	Toronto
Chris	Bateman	IODE West Gwillimbury	Queensville
Michelle	Batty	IODE Errol Egremont	Lambton Shores
Ashley	Bonnell	IODE 48 th 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 th 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 th 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 Freulton	Hamilton
Virginia	Reade	IODE Freulton	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



Ontario Officers for 2025-2026

<p>President - Michelle Batty First Vice President - Betsy Thompson Second Vice President - Susan Sibbit Recording Secretary - Jan Casbourn Treasurer- Debbie Button Citizenship Officer- Kathryn Weston Communication Officer- Ashley Bonnell Education Officer- Lisa Cossar Assist. Education (Adopted Schools)- Aileen Reid Membership Officer – Pam Ainscough Co-Services Officer- Gloria Saunders Co-Services Officer- Virginia Reade Standard Bearer-Kathryn Weston</p>	<p>IODE Ontario Area Vice-Presidents:</p> <p>Southwestern Ontario - Jayne Little Mid-Central Ontario - Aileen Reid South Central Ontario - Mary Cunningham Toronto - Karen Barker North Central Ontario - Chris Bateman Eastern Ontario - Susan Sibbit Northern Ontario -Heather Stuart</p>
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National Executive for 2025-2026

President- Karen Dalton
First Vice-President- Renate Schuetz
Second Vice-President- Helen Danby
Secretary- Chris Bateman
Treasurer- Carol McCall
Citizenship – Catherine Moore

Constitution Officer- Carol McCall
Echoes Officer- Renate Schuetz
Membership- Diane Ellison
Communications & PR- Renate Schuetz
Education- Helen Danby
Services- Liz Hancock

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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*

