



NEWSLETTER

LONDON & WESTERN ONTARIO BRANCH
AUGUST 2011



1. Mr. Cox, Barbara Laws, Ausma Ausins, Sinead Cox

2. Betty Fletcher.

3. Ann Hurley

4. Frances Taylor

5. Marian Murray

6. Alice Linden, Nancy Poole, Sylvia Ausins, Barbara McNabb

7. Alma Lines, Lois Greaves

8. Stella Woodhouse, Carolina Hernandez

9. Wilma Gummow

10. John Opper



With the 2011 membership having declined from 35 to 27, and with 3 positions of responsibility requiring replacement in 2012, I felt it necessary to have a discussion among members prior to the September meeting. As Nomination chair and chair of the executive committee I spoke by phone to all members of the London and Western Ontario Branch. They were asked to attend a meeting at my home to discuss the future of the Branch.

Eight members met and a lively discussion ensued. It was unanimously agreed that at the September Branch meeting the following motion will be proposed: "Unless volunteers for the positions of president, treasurer, and education chair for the London and Western Ontario Branch of the English Speaking Union come forth by December 31, 2011 the books will be closed for the Branch at the annual meeting on January 12, 2012. The Certificate of Authority will be surrendered to the English Speaking Union of Canada." It is still most urgent for those three persons to come forth to serve on the executive. If they do not, the January meeting will be one of celebration of 45 years of ESU in

Western Ontario; for having touched the lives of some 100 University of Western Ontario students whose essays have received awards, new comers beyond number in ESL programmes from early elementary to adults as old as 55, and others through the London Council for Adult Education and Fanshawe College. Over the years almost \$30,000 has been contributed by our Branch in fostering the mandate **"to create global understanding through the English Language"**. We extend gratitude to the early members of the Branch who chose to recognize efforts within the area of the present Thames Valley District School Board, and to all who have supported the Branch through their membership.

EDUCATION

Education Chair Ann Hurley

Some cash and book awards for fourteen individuals as well as \$200.00 to assist with the funding of the Thames Valley summer school programme for recently arrived children preparing for English as a Second Language classes in September have been provided. In all, the value for 2011 is \$1,556.10.

It was a great pleasure to have Sinead Cox attend the June meeting . As a UWO honours English student in her final year she won the ESU award for her essay "**It really does exist**": **Benedict Arnold's Imagined Communities and Canadian Nationalism in the Novels of L.M. Montgomery**. A \$200.00 gift certificate for the UWO book store was presented to her.

We were happy to welcome Sinead's father who attended the meeting with his daughter.

(Copies of the three award winning essays are available).

Also in attendance at the June meeting was the award winner from Fanshawe College, Carolina Hernandez, a native of Columbia. She was presented with a cheque for \$100.00 to assist with expenses for the continuation of her studies in the field of marketing, a career that she had followed in her native country.

Both young women spoke eloquently in expressing their gratitude for the awards that they had received. Appreciation for the interest taken by the local branch of ESU was evident in their remarks.

Appreciation: To **Betty Fletcher** and **Lynne Warren** who are lining up interesting programmes for the autumn meetings

To **Marion Murray** and the telephoners for keeping members up to date on news of the Branch.

To **Sylvia Ausins** for making the arrangements at Restaurant "ONE".

To **Ausma Ausins** for the fine pictures she takes at meetings and shares with members. Her albums provide an excellent history of the Branch.

To **Barnes Electric** and to **Katharine Barnes** who for many years have done the photocopying for the London Branch.

The death of long time member **Margaret Leonard** was announced on August 18.

Sympathy also is extended to **Ann Hurley** whose sister **Pat Longwell** died in Dunnville following a long illness, on August 15.

New address for Jean Power; 215-81 Grand Ave. London N6C 1M2 Phone: (519) 904-3022.

Josefina

It was disappointing that the 17 year old essay winner from Chile decided rather at the 11th hour, to forego her visit to London so that she could spend time in Toronto. Plans had been made to attend a matinee at Stratford to see CAMELOT, and for a Bayfield cottage afternoon for swimming in Lake Huron followed by a barbeque with a group of young Canadians, and a camp fire. Some Spanish-speaking newcomers to London had hoped to show her our city.... Perhaps, next time!

News from National

National President John Wright is suffering from an attack of shingles. We send best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery. John and his wife Joyce plan to attend the meeting of the International Council to be held in Philadelphia in October. We wish them safe travels and interesting meetings with ESU friends from around the world.

This year John and Joyce have represented Canada at the launches of ESU Malta, Turkey and Iceland.

John Also keeps the web site **WWW.ESU.CA** up to date with news of international, national and Branch events as well as access to Dartmouth House and other sites from worldwide ESU branches.

Mark your calendar:

Thursday, September 15

Speaker- Mr Jeff Robinson, Learning Coordinator, ESL, Thames Valley District Board of Education.

Thursday, October 20

Thursday November 17

Annual meeting: N.B. change of date

Thursday January 12, 2012.

(Speakers to be announced later).

Wilma Gummow, Chair, London Branch, ESU
August 15, 2011.