IODE

ECHOES

IODE ... women dedicated to a better Canada

Highlights of the 2026 National Annual Meeting

FALL ISSUE 2026

There are many ways to describe an IODE member: daughter, sister, mother, friend, neighbour, mentor and leader. But perhaps the best way is woman who cares.

IODE brings together women from every walk of life, each with her own experiences, talents and perspective. What unites us is a shared commitment to making our communities stronger through volunteerism—and to championing education, citizenship and community service. Together, we create opportunities, offer support and help build a brighter future for children and youth.

For more than a century, IODE has been there when communities needed us most.

Child welfare has always been at the heart of our work. From funding preventoriums for children at risk of tuberculosis in the early 1900s to supporting Fresh Air Camps, IODE has continually found ways to improve the health and well-being of children. Today, members support everything from medical research and programs for new mothers to initiatives that help prevent child abuse and neglect.

After the First World War, we established bursaries for the children of those killed or permanently disabled in service. That commitment to education continues today through IODE War Memorial Doctoral Scholarships, helping outstanding students pursue advanced studies and become tomorrow's leaders.

We believe every child deserves the chance to discover the joy and possibilities that come with reading. IODE literacy initiatives put books into children's hands across Canada, while awards celebrate excellence in Canadian children's literature. In New Brunswick, *Born to Read* provides newborns with books and resources to encourage early literacy.

We also know that something as simple as a nutritious snack can make a difference. The IODE Snack Pack Program now provides daily snacks to more than 2,000 schoolchildren in 14 coastal Labrador communities.

Our legacy isn't simply about what we have done. It's about how we continue to evolve. Since 1900, generations of women have responded to changing needs and found new ways to serve their communities and country.

Now, there is an opportunity for you to be part of that story.

Imagine being surrounded by women who care, sharing their talents, learning new things, building friendships and knowing that your time and energy are helping a child, a student or a community move forward.

Canada's next generation will shape what comes next. For more than 125 years, IODE members have helped give them the confidence, knowledge and opportunities to do just that.

Join us. Bring your ideas, your talents and your passion for making a difference. Together, we can do even more for children, youth and our communities.

We've accomplished so much together—and we've saved a spot for you. Contact us at www.iode.ca

We've Saved a Spot for You in IODE

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Visit us at www.IODE.ca

The 125th Celebration Fund – Almost at the Goal!

The 125th Celebration Fund was established in 2024 to help sustain IODE in the future. It was visionary to focus on the future while celebrating the 125th Anniversary of IODE, its good works and service to Canada during the past decades. The impressive momentum propelling the growth of the Fund reflects the continued commitment of IODE members and friends. By New Year's Eve 2024, the Fund with its investment income was $45,142. Members supported strong growth of the Fund during 2025 and by New Year's Eve 2025 the Fund had reached $97,882. Now for 2026 – growth of the Fund has continued and by the end of August, the Fund had reached $122,816 with the continued generous support of members and strong investment income. Congratulations to members! The Fund is almost at the preliminary target of $125,000. Now it's time to hit the goal. And potentially exceed it. Success is at hand.

Donations of $20 or more will receive charitable tax receipts and should be made to the National Office by mail or sent by e-Transfer to iodecanada@bellnet.ca.

IODE Canada Supports Labrador Youth

IODE Labrador Snack Pack Program

- Beginning in 1978 as a small pilot snack program in Davis Inlet and Northwest River that grew into the IODE Snack Pack Program in 1980.
- Early deliveries reached students in remote coastal communities—many accessible only by plane or barge.
- The program continues thanks to the generosity of IODE primary chapters and donors across Canada.
- Nutritious snacks are provided—including crackers, juice, milk, peanut butter, cheese and cereal
- Teachers and parents help prepare and distribute the food, ensuring children get the nourishment they need to thrive.

Labrador Bursary Fund

- Established in 1982, the IODE Labrador Bursary Fund supports high school graduates pursuing post secondary studies.
- More than 300 coastal Labrador students have received assistance, leading to careers in fields ranging from healthcare and engineering to trades and teaching.
- The Labrabook Program provides an additional textbook allowance to renewal bursary recipients.
- Each year, demand for bursary support exceeds available funding.

In 2026, the IODE Snack Pack Program cost $45,000 to provide nutritious snacks to 2,000 students in 14 Labrador schools in remote Labrador communities. With the rising cost of food and shipping, the goal to maintain the program in 2027 is $50,000 which equates to $25 per student.

Please consider donating to one of IODE's signature programs. Your generosity makes a meaningful difference and the students, families and school staff in Labrador sincerely thank you.

IODE President's Message

WHY DO WE STAY?

At 11 years of age, my mom, Marty Dalton, was invited to join IODE Eldon House. In my teenage years, our family had a conference to see if we were all in agreement about Mom getting involved in IODE Ontario. For me personally, it meant there were days when I would be responsible for getting dinner. It was a resounding "yes"!

So, when I was asked at 24 to join IODE Eldon House, it was a "no-brainer"! IODE was in my DNA!

The bigger question is: **Why have I stayed for 47 years?**

For me, the answer is three-fold. Most importantly, IODE has allowed me to give what I can, when I can, however I can.

In my 20s, that meant joining evening meetings for planning and camaraderie and giving my energy to initiatives outside of work hours. In my 30s and 40s, my time with IODE decreased. I was told, "Give what you can – when you can."

During those years, reason number two began to take root. I had been raised with a "give back" philosophy, but through IODE I experienced the satisfaction and joy of truly making a difference in the lives of individuals in my community. IODE women proved time and time again that, by working together, we could have a positive impact on others.

IODE Canada President
Karen Dalton

And all of that **FELT good!**

In my 50s, work responsibilities exploded, I was told, "We'll take you when we can get you!" In my 60s, I was invited to join the National Advisory Committee – and here I am today!

Through all the stages and phases of being an IODE member, reason number three wove itself intricately through the time I invested with a variety of very different, but like-minded, women.

The working together was FUN!

And friendships grew – friendships that became supportive and celebratory as life's challenges and successes ebbed and flowed throughout the years.

Every member has a story. Every story is unique.

What is your story?

How does investing your volunteer time, when you can, make you feel?

Who have you connected with through IODE, and how does that feel?

What have you done to make a difference in someone's life – and how did that feel?

With this issue of *Echoes* think about those feelings that make us stay and invite others to join us! Use this magazine as a tool for some self-reflection. Read its articles. Think about your own IODE story. Ask yourself:

"Why do I stay?"

Share this magazine with someone. Share what you believe IODE offers. Invite them to join in the fun and friendship that come from working together to enhance our communities.

And remember...

Tell us your IODE story.

Tell us how your group of women, volunteering their time, has made a difference in the lives of people in your corner of Canada.

Submit your photos and story summaries to echoes@IODE.ca.

Your story may be the very one that inspires someone else to ask:

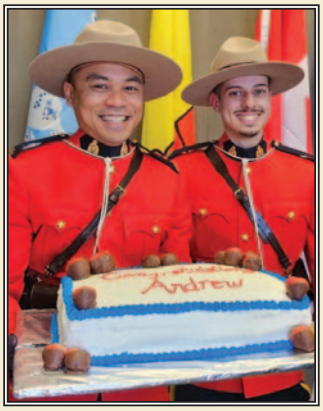
"Why don't I join?"

IODE Canada honours RCMP Constable Nunez

Members of the Fort Providence, NWT, RCMP detachment were excited to participate with Constable Andrew Nunez during the virtual presentation of his 2026 IODE RCMP Community Service Award during the National Annual Meeting. The celebration featured cake and a new internet hookup.

Throughout his posting in Fort Providence, NWT, Constable Andrew Nunez has shown exceptional commitment to volunteer service and community engagement, leaving a meaningful, lasting impact on the community. His approach to service is grounded in compassion, inclusivity and reconciliation, helping to strengthen trust in a community shaped by historical and intergenerational trauma, his attitudes shaped, in part, by the fact that he was born and raised in Nunavut

During December 2024, Constable Nunez voluntarily assumed responsibility for organizing and coordinating an unprecedented number of community initiatives, far exceeding the expectations of his role. His leadership resulted in the largest Christmas parade Fort Providence had ever seen, along with a full calendar of inclusive events including community meals, breakfasts, youth activities, and workshops. Nearly every day of the month featured a gathering designed to bring residents of all ages together in a positive and welcoming environment.



He also encouraged fellow RCMP members to participate in these initiatives, helping to strengthen a culture of community-based policing. Through his genuine altruism, leadership, and commitment to service, Constable Nunez has made a significant contribution to community well-being and reconciliation, bringing great credit to himself and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

National Annual Meeting

IODE Canada Welcomes New Board Member

IODE Canada welcomes Judy Graham to the Board as President, IODE New Brunswick. A true Nova Scotian, Judy moved to New Brunswick in 2004. In 2012, she was invited to attend a meeting of **IODE Sir Howard Douglas**, Fredericton, NB, by a neighbour, now a close friend and the rest is history. Since joining, she has held the office of Treasurer, Vice-President, Assistant Secretary and is currently President. As well as serving as Provincial Councillor for several years, she served as First Vice-President for one year. She has worked in Accounting and Administration for 50 years. For many years, she was an avid seamstress but has now turned the needle into piecing quilt tops and hand quilting. She enjoys reading and curling. Her greatest accomplishments – wife 60 years, Mom to three, Gramma to six and Great Gramma to three.

National Committee Chairs 2026 - 2027

IODE 100th Anniversary Grant Program	Carole Yorke
IODE Violet Downey Book Award	Liz Hancock
Liaison for Chapters under National Jurisdiction	Carole Yorke
Labrador Adopt-A-Class Co-ordinator	Aileen Reid
Labrador Bursary	Jane Cushing
National Life Membership	Catherine Moore
Archivist	Bonnie Rees
126th National Annual Meeting Committee	Renate Schuetz & Helen Danby

IODE Canada Board of Directors 2026 - 2027

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Second Vice-President	Helen Danby, ON
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Vice-President	Michelle Batty, ON
Vice-President	Judy Graham, NB
Vice-President	Anne Lawless, NS
Vice-President	Gail MacLean, PE

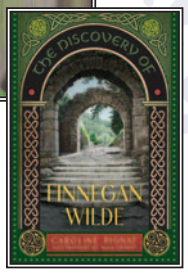
Advances in technology makes it possible to have Board members from anywhere in Canada.

IODE Violet Downey Book Award Shortlist

The IODE Violet Downey Book Award was presented to *Robot Island* by Cary Fagan. The remaining shortlisted books are shown here.

Please consider using any of the books from the short list in your chapters' education initiatives and for the 2026 *Share a Story ... Bring a Book – Go Local* initiative that is open through to the end of the year. Several of the publishers of this year's shortlisted books have mentioned the award on their websites.

A Promise to Protect
Written by
Nikki Bergstresser



The Discovery of Finnegan Wilde
Written by
Caroline Pignat

Touching Grass
Written by
Kristy Jackson

Benny on the Case
Written by
Wesley King

IODE War Memorial Scholarships

The three IODE Canada War Memorial Scholarship recipients joined the National Annual Meeting via Zoom on Friday, 29 May 2026 to introduce themselves and present a brief outline of their research. They were extremely thankful for their scholarships of $15,000 each from the IODE Canada War Memorial Fund established in 1920. Their bios are found below:

Monica Luo recommended by IODE British Columbia, is a fourth-year MD/PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia. She completed her undergraduate studies at UBC, earning a degree in honours Physics. During this time, Monica explored magnetic resonance imaging techniques including luminal water imaging for prostate cancer and inhomogeneous magnetization transfer (ihMT). Her honours thesis investigated the angular dependence of ihMT ratio in normal and injured rat spinal cords.

Monica currently conducts research in the Quantitative Radiomolecular Imaging and Therapy lab at the BC Cancer Research Centre. Her work focuses on physician-in-the-loop artificial intelligence for PET/CT imaging, with an emphasis on outcome prediction across various cancers including lymphoma, lung cancer, and melanoma.

Monica has contributed to multiple peer-reviewed publications and has presented her research at several institutional and international conferences. She plans to pursue a career as a clinician-scientist at an academic centre in Canada.

Tiffany Price recommended by IODE Alberta, completed her MSc in Epidemiology at the University of Calgary. Her graduate research focused on population-based cancer prevention, examining biological and metabolic factors associated with breast cancer risk. Tiffany is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of British Columbia.

Her doctoral research investigates the safety of medications used by people living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), using Canadian health data to understand how treatment decisions influence disease progression and survival. While methodologically rigorous, her work is grounded in a human-centered perspective: behind every dataset are individuals, families, and futures shaped by the quality of evidence that guides care.

Beyond her doctoral research, Tiffany played a key role in implementing province-wide newborn screening for spinal muscular atrophy in Alberta, supporting earlier diagnosis and access to life-saving treatment for affected infants.

Through her work, Tiffany seeks to make the impact of research visible not only in statistics, but in the lives and decisions shaped by the care it informs. She aims to generate decision-relevant evidence that informs treatment decisions and improves outcomes for people living with neurologic and rare diseases.

Adam Sunavsky recommended by IODE Ontario, is a fourth-year MD/PhD candidate in Neuroscience at the University of British Columbia. Born in Slovakia, and raised in Hamilton, Ontario, his parents instilled in him a sense of responsibility and perseverance. Currently he is based at the Non-Invasive Neurostimulation Therapies (NINET) laboratory and the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health.

Adam's research lies at the intersection of clinical neuroscience and computational modelling. Adam focuses on developing personalized approaches to treatment-resistant depression by integrating neuroimaging, machine learning, and whole-brain simulations using 'virtual' brains. He investigates how transcranial magnetic stimulation can modulate large-scale neural dynamics and potentially offset brain aging in those with depression.

As one applicant expressed in her opening statement, "My application to IODE comes from an already grateful heart. Growing up in rural Labrador, the IODE Ladies, whose quiet generosity sustained us: cartons of milk at recess in Lake Melville School, and handmade mittens, hats, and scarves that carried us through winter. Years later, as a young social worker in Natuashish, I opened boxes of quilts from IODE for newborns and instinctively ran my hand along the delicate stitching—each seam a sign of care, work, and hope for a new mother and baby. Those gifts taught me that support is both practical and deeply relational."

It truly tells the story of IODE! Thank you to everyone who contributes to make the War Memorial Scholarship happen.

National Education Awards

IODE members support National Education Awards through contributions to the National Education Fund. The purchase of yearly IODE Date Planners is an important source of revenue. 2027 Planners are available through the National Office.

IODE PERFORMANCE ARTS AWARDS

National Theatre School of Canada awards two IODE Bursaries ($1,500 each) to students in any stream of study to assist with living expenses. The individuals have demonstrated remarkable perseverance and outstanding leadership.

Yasmine Brown, Québec, Set and Costume Design, 2024, is a second-year student in the Set and Costume Design program. She approaches every project with professionalism and depth, constantly seeking to refine her creative ideas and craft. Her rigor, determination and artistic sensitivity make her both a valued collaborator and a promising emerging artist.

Noah Hammermeister, Acting, 2024, is a second-year student in the Acting program. Always striving to grow despite challenges, Noah invests fully in his work and artistic process. He embodies a quiet and unifying form of leadership: through his gentleness, attentiveness, and kindness, he inspires trust and helps foster a strong and harmonious team spirit.

National Youth Orchestra
Two IODE Canada National Youth Orchestra Scholarships of $1,500 each were awarded to student musicians.

Kendal Morrison | bassoon, London Ontario
Currently completing her Bachelor of Music at the University of Toronto, Kendal Morrison is a bassoonist from London, Ontario. While a student, she was a member of the London Youth Symphony and sang in the Amabile Choirs of London. In 2022, Kendal was chosen as a winner of the London Youth Symphony Concerto Competition and performed as a soloist with the orchestra in the following year. She performed soon after with the London Community Orchestra as a winner of their 2023 Young Soloists Competition. Kendal is grateful to the numerous opportunities through outreach programs at the Western University Don Wright Faculty of Music.

Romy Desrosiers | double bass, Sainte-Thérèse, Quebec
Romy is a nineteen-year-old bassist from Sainte-Thérèse. Growing up in the suburbs of Montreal, her parents often took her to concerts in the city,

which sparked her interest in music and especially in string instruments. In 2023, she began studying at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal. She now performs with several student ensembles, including the Grand Orchestre à Cordes du Conservatoire, the Orchestre symphonique des jeunes de Montréal, and the Orchestre symphonique du Conservatoire de musique de Montréal.

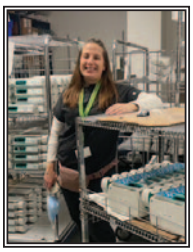
IODE Labrador Bursaries supported 22 new applicants and 6 renewal applicants at $500 each ($14,000). In addition, the 6 renewal students received $150 from the Labrabook Fund. ($900) Renewal applicant, **Luke Hudson** was also awarded the IODE Sally Douglas Labrador Bursary Award in the amount of $500; and first year student **Ashlee Griffith** and **Gwendolyn Lacey** were awarded the IODE Helen Dick Memorial Labrador Bursary Award in the amount of $250 each to support their post-secondary pursuits in the area of Health and Wellness. Awards were based on need and merit. In total, 28 Labrador students were awarded $15,900 to pursue post-secondary education.

ENDOWED NATIONAL AWARDS

IODE Silence to Sound Award
In 1986, the Provincial Chapter of Quebec established the Silence to Sound Fund and scholarships for audiology students in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. In 2002, this fund was assumed by IODE Canada upon the retirement of the provincial chapter.

The 2026 $1,000 scholarship was awarded to **Abigail McLellan**, who is a Speech Language Pathology-Student at McGill University. She wrote, “This award is particularly meaningful to me given my academic and clinical interests in hearing loss and my commitment to working with deaf and hard-of-hearing populations.”

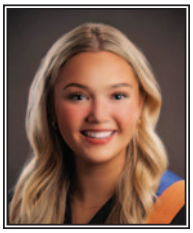
Montreal Children’s Hospital
Up to $1,000 was awarded to nurses with the Montreal Children’s Hospital, for participation in professional development experiences that will add to their qualifications and/or support of children, funds to be taken from the Quebec Funds.



This year, **Geraldine Schaack**, Nursing Professional Development Educator in Pediatric Vascular Access, is the recipient of the 2026 IODE Award.

Joan Butler Award
The recipients of the IODE Joan Butler Award in Perinatal Intensive Care at George Brown College ($500 each) were **Gemma Tompkins** and **Harsha Seesankar**, two nurses who are early in their careers and are establishing their neonatal nursing expertise. Both nurses clearly articulate that completing the Perinatal Intensive Care Nursing Program has provided them with an enhanced knowledge base to support their important work in caring for the sickest and most vulnerable infants and their families.

Gemma Tompkins practices in a large tertiary care NICU in Nova Scotia that supports the entire province and is also a referral centre for other eastern provinces, in delivering care to critically ill neonates.



Harsha Seesankar (left) practices in a large tertiary care NICU in Ontario that supports a broad region across the mid-western part of the province in delivering care to critically ill newborns and their families.

Enid Evans Nursing Scholarship was established by the former Provincial Chapter of Manitoba by a nursing friend of IODE through the University Bursary initiative. The Enid Evans Nursing Scholarship recipient for the 2025-2026 school year was **Sofiyyah Kelani** who received the $1,825 award.

IODE Violet Downey Book Award

Robot Island by Cary Fagan

Published by Penguin Random House Canada

Established in 1984 through the vision and generosity of the late Mrs. Violet Downey, a dedicated IODE member, the IODE Violet Downey Book Award is proudly administered by The National Chapter of IODE in Canada. Since its inaugural presentation in 1985, this prestigious annual honour has celebrated the very best in English-language children's literature by Canadian authors, spotlighting books for readers aged 13 and under. Eligible titles must include at least 500 words and ideally feature vibrant Canadian content.

This year, the winner of the IODE Violet Downey Book Award is Cary Fagan for his creative story *Robot Island*. Cary joined the IODE National Annual Meeting from Copenhagen to accept the award and read from the first chapter.

It isn't bad enough that Willis has to live with his cold uncle Tod in a dusty old house of used books. He can't even spend time with his friends Harrison and Galaxi because of the nasty after-school jobs his uncle makes him take on. But then his uncle asks him to visit an old widow lady in the mansion on the hill.

To his surprise, Willis likes Mrs. Shorthouse and even the books they read together (Little Women, Great Expectations). Meanwhile, taking a row-boat ride, Willis discovers an abandoned town from the 1950s populated by square-headed robots. What is the connection between Mrs. Shorthouse and Robot Island? What will happen after the police find out that Willis has been stealing rare books from the mansion? And when Willis turns on the electricity and the robots of Robot Island come to life, will they turn out to be friends or enemies?

IODE Canada is not in a position to sell this year's winning book, *Robot Island*. Purchasing copies from your local bookstore or through an online supplier is recommended. You may also contact the National Office to request Cary Fagan autographed bookplates, IODE Violet Downey gold foil seals for the front cover, silver foil book stickers for the inside the cover and bookmarks, all available free of charge (postage only applies).

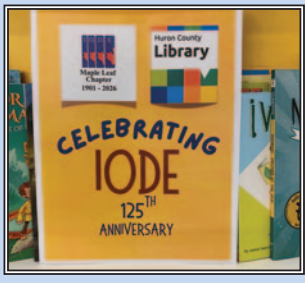
The Share a Story ... Bring a Book – Go Local initiative continues until 30 November 2026. Chapters submitting stories will be entered into a $100 draw to be used for the purchase of more books.

The initial draw took place at the National Annual Meeting in May. Ten chapters entered and the $100 was provided to **IODE Maple Leaf**, Goderich, ON, who took on a very ambitious project. Members combined their 125th anniversary with the IODE Canada *Share a Story ... Bring a Book – Go Local* initiative to donate125 books to the Goderich library.

ASK - They approached librarian, Danielle Bettridge, regarding this donation.

LISTEN - They listened to Danielle as she explained what books are needed and what kind of books would be the best suited for the library. Danielle explained that some books would be used to replenish their supply while other books would be used as prizes for the free, seasonal children's programs the library sponsors to encourage the love of reading and promote literacy. This is particularly important in a day and age where many children have more screen time than reading time.

ACT - Danielle was thrilled to be approached and put together a list of books that would be appropriate. Next, the new bookstore in Goderich, Bees Knees, was approached, asking if they could supply the listed books so members could purchase locally. Bees Knees was eager to participate by giving IODE Maple Leaf members a 15% discount with each purchase from the book list.



The members are very excited to contribute to the library with this anniversary project.

Chapters in the News

Share a Story … Bring a Book - Go Local

Over the past 14 remarkable years and again in 2026, the *Share a Story … Bring a Book* initiative was a highlight of National Annual Meetings - an expression of IODE's commitment to literacy and community. All chapters are encouraged to deepen their commitment to literacy through this program by increasing their annual donation of books in their community or expanding their support to a new recipient.

Your chapter can involve themselves in traditional and novel ways, alone or in partnership, with existing or new local contacts beginning now. It can be an easy, effective extension/refocusing of the kind of involvement your chapter may already have in the immediate community.

Being thoughtful, responsive and respectful is at the heart of what IODE does. The ASK – LISTEN – ACT principle offers a simple approach to ensuring your support reflects the real needs of recipients.

The *Share a Story … Bring a Book – Go Local* campaign continues until 30 November 2026. All chapters who have submitted stories are eligible for a chance to win $100 from IODE National for the purchase of additional books. Please send photos along with a brief description of your initiative, including details of the recipient, how the project was carried out and the impact it had in your community. Submissions can be emailed to echoes@iode.ca. Only donations made during 2026 are eligible.

Remember to include IODE bookmarks, stickers, bookplates and rack cards to identify clearly your chapter's book donations. These small touches help build awareness of IODE, connect your chapter to each donation and highlight the meaningful local impact you are making.

IODE Jon Sigurdsson, Winnipeg, MB, decided to create 125 book bags, one for every year of IODE's 125-year history. Chapter members filled these bags with a book or two for inner city children partnering with Day Nursery Centre, multi-site inner-city child-care centre. One member mobilized her quilting circle friends to help with the huge task of sewing 125 unique, colourful bookbags the children could carry proudly filled with new and gently used children's books for ages three months to six years

IODE Trillium 2023 (e-chapter), ON, utilized Jean Throop Award submitted books in support of two Northumberland Community Agencies. The book chosen for the award was *T is for Terry: An ABC of Courage*. IODE Trillium 2023 member, Kathy Byles (left) met with Alexandra Gallant, Client Services Coordinator with Rebound Child & Youth Services. Seven books were selected that were most relevant for their Mental Health and Youth Justice Services and Youth Homelessness Prevention Programs. Rebound Child & Youth Services is a charitable organization, providing high-quality, community-based programs and services to children, youth and families in Northumberland County to ensure they have the opportunity to develop a positive social and emotional foundation through accessible mental health, youth justice and prosocial programs and services. Most of the remaining books were provided to Alderville First Nation Child & Family Wellbeing Services. Staff reviewed all the books and chose those that would be most appreciated by their community for their daycare youth services.

IODE Katie Hazen Mackay, Saint John, NB, partnered with NB Social Pediatrics to provide books to the Community NB Social Pediatrics Clinic. The team of professionals focus on the social determinants of pediatric care providing support to children and their families. Pictured receiving the books are Deanna Merrazm, Acting Executive Director Jersey Saunders, Special Events Coordinator and standing is Grace Maloney, Communications Coordinator. Missing is Dr. Sarah Gander who co-founded the organization in 2017.

IODE Lady Slipper, Charlottetown, PEI, recently donated children's books to the PEI Literacy Alliance who will distribute the books to early learning centres throughout the province. Pictured are chapter members with their donations.

It's always a privilege when a chapter can meet a real need in the community, especially when it means making school days brighter for children who need a little extra support.

IODE Lady Holland, Charlottetown, PE, recently heard about the need that some children with special needs face within the Island school system. Children with developmental or learning support needs may, at times, work outside the main classroom in designated learning centres, where they receive supervised, individualized instruction tailored to their needs.

The chapter recently made a monetary donation to a school in rural PEI that supports many children with diverse needs. The funds were used to purchase items such as a spinning chair that students use at break times and for self-regulation and a tuff tray and stand which is used to put out sensory materials for various activities.

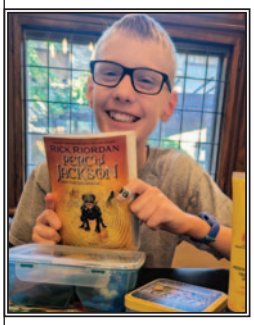
The school says the donation is already making a difference, allowing the children to access learning in ways that best meet their individual needs.

In June 2026, **IODE City of Lakes**, Sudbury, ON, donated copies of IODE Ontario's Jean Throop Book Award winner *T is for Terry An ABC of Courage* by Denise Dias to elementary school libraries in the Rainbow District School Board. It shares the inspiring story of Canadian hero Terry Fox, focusing on hope, determination and courage. Education Officer Debbie Bonhomme presented copies to Alexander Public School alongside Grade 2 students Lennon McConnell-Schurm (left) and Cameron McDonald.

IODE Lord Lascelles, Lacombe, AB, are collecting books as part of the *Share a Story ... Bring a Book – Go Local* campaign. These books were donated to the Public Library in Lacombe since they offer access to all educational institutions as well as day cares and the general public. (l-r) IODE Lord Lascelles Education Officer Annette Allen and librarian Christina Petrasor.

As part of the *Share a Story ... Bring a Book – Go Local* campaign this year, **IODE Evolve**, (e-chapter), AB, donated more than 700 books to Reclaim Literacy, an organization in Montreal, Quebec.

A book giveaway was held this summer at Riverview Elementary School and their Summer Camp in a Knapsack initiative. Through this program, children receive a backpack filled with books, school supplies, sunscreen and treats, along with a link to a website with fun activities to enjoy throughout the summer. The knapsacks have been an ongoing project over several years and are quite a hit with the families, especially as the cost of summer camps increase.



IODE Margaret Stokes, Petrolia, ON, since 1974, has annually honoured a student from each of the four elementary schools in the area for community involvement, school leadership, and academic excellence. The Stokes Award created by Margaret Stokes' son, Samuel is given in memory of Margaret and Samuel's wife Louise. (l-r) William Edgar (St. Phillip's School), Xavier St. Pierre (Hillcrest School), Melanie Henderson (Lambton Centennial School), Leah Ferguston (Queen Elizabeth II School), IODE Margaret Stokes Education Officer Karen Douglas.

On 03 June, **IODE Richmond**, Richmond, BC, hosted a "Grab and Go Brunch" for the women and children who live at Harbour House. Harbour House is a 25-unit, second stage transitional housing program designed to support women and their children. Pictured above are IODE Richmond Services Officer and event organizer Karen van der Hoop with the wide selection of food for the brunch.

IODE Dardanelles, Carstairs, AB, President Colleen Faryna presented a donation to the Carstairs Pickleball Club. The funds will be used to assist with the application of an acrylic coating for the courts as well as fencing between the courts. These updates will benefit the club and help keep the community active. IODE Dardanelles will receive recognition by signage at the courts.

CELEBRATING 125
Throughout 2025, chapters celebrated IODE's Anniversary with history projects, anniversary teas, donations in multiples of 125, veterans' contributions and community kindness initiatives.
COMMUNICATION VALUE
$287,549
Education Initiatives supported scholarships, literacy, classroom resources, nutrition, arts, music, field trips, sensory supports and inclusive schools.
EDUCATION
$524,070
The 100th Anniversary Grant provided Souls Harbour with Rescue Mission's Family Stability Through Housing and Support Program in Halifax with a $50,000 grant
More than 160 books and monetary donations to the Vanier Children's Mental Wellness Centre through Share a Story Bring a Book.
IODE Snack Pack provided nutritious snacks to children attending 14 schools in remote communities in Newfoundland and Labrador
SERVICES
$1,471,319
War Memorial awards one at $25,000 and two at $15,000 awards for PhD students.
Service work supported hospitals, shelters, long-term care homes, refugees, food security, clothing, bedding, layettes, medical care, emergency aid and northern communities.
CITIZENSHIP
$128,703
Embracing Our Future
125
Celebrating Our Past
Members contributed more than 252,000 volunteer hours, with friends adding nearly 7,000 more hours of community support.

Honouring Life Membership Award Recipients

Provincial

MICHELLE BATTY
IODE Ontario

ROBERTA BELL
IODE Nova Scotia

Primary

JOANNE BRAND
Margaret Stokes, ON

ELANOR BRODIE
Laurentian, ON

KATHRYN ESCHER
Baron Tweedsmuir, AB

SHARON GREENOUGH
Mary Lawson, NS

JOANNE LEE
Frontenac, AB

DONNA MCFADYEN
Baron Tweedsmuir, AB

SHARRON MCMILLAN
Val Griffiths, ON

BARBARA RAE
Lorraine, ON

CATHY REAUME
Captain Garnet Brackin, ON

SANDRA REED
Doris E. Sullivan, NB

SUSAN SIBBIT
Laurentian, ON

It's been a busy year welcoming new members, for **IODE Maple Leaf**, Goderich, ON, and the members are excited to introduce three wonderful women to the IODE family. Kathleen Hudson, Elizabeth McManus and Marion Goodman.

Elizabeth has a rather unique IODE heritage. She is a fourth-generation member as her great-grandmother, Alma MacEwan, was a member of the Ahmeek Chapter, her grandmother, (Alma's daughter), Helen McManus, was a Maple Leaf Chapter member, and her mother, Patti McManus is also a Maple Leaf Chapter member... a tradition of women supporting community, carried forward in the most meaningful way.

Welcome, ladies - so glad you're here.

National Membership Awards

IODE Canada is made up of members organized into primary and provincial chapters across the country. Chapters attracting new members are acknowledged by the IODE Canada Membership Awards.

Primary Chapter Awards

The winners of the Membership Crystal Challenge Cup Award, for welcoming the most new members in 2025 are **IODE Frontenac**, Stettler, AB, and **IODE Maple Leaf**, Goderich, ON.

Honourable Mention

IODE Angela Bruce, Oakville, ON
IODE Honourable Malcolm Cameron, Sarnia, ON

Bringing more women into IODE enables chapters to maintain their current projects and to explore new initiatives to help others.

Congratulations to all chapters who have welcomed members to IODE. The ability of chapters to meet using email, video and meeting apps such as Zoom, MS Teams and Google provides members an environment to easily connect and to plan activities and projects in a variety of ways. In addition to these electronic communications, in-person meetings and activities create opportunity for women to learn about the organization and become IODE members. Every member counts!

IODE Baron Tweedsmuir, Olds, AB, Treasurer Linda Reade was honoured with the Olds 2026 Senior Citizen Volunteer of the Year Award at an appreciation luncheon in May. The citation included the following note.

"Linda Reade's decades of service reflect an unwavering commitment to her community. Whether organizing events, managing finances across multiple organizations, or supporting programs like the Newborn Baby Bag initiative at the hospital, Linda brings both skill and heart to everything she does. Known as a trusted and knowledgeable leader, Linda is someone others rely on and always willing to step in, offer guidance and ensure things run smoothly."

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IODE 100th Anniversary Grant Program for 2027

Call for Applications

Value $40,000

This grant supports programs designed to prevent, treat and alleviate abuse and neglect among children and youth. The IODE 100th Anniversary Grant Program is a signature initiative administered by IODE Canada on behalf of its members. IODE members and chapters can support the program by identifying eligible organizations in their communities and encouraging them to apply for the grant.

This Grant will support programs that develop innovative ideas, test new approaches or replicate, adapt and scale existing evidence-based models that address social issues affecting children and youth (ages 0–25).

The 2027 Application Brochure, containing all information necessary for a successful application, is available on the IODE Canada website at IODE.ca. Applications will be accepted between 01 September and 30 November 2026 and must be submitted by email to IODEinfo@bellnet.ca.

Applicants should begin by visiting the IODE Canada website at IODE.ca and following the links to the IODE 100th Anniversary Grant Program.

Before applying, interested organizations are encouraged to review stories of previous grant recipients and carefully examine the Terms of Reference.

The first step is to complete the Letter of Intent to Apply and submit it by email to IODEinfo@bellnet.ca.

Applicants should then download and complete the fillable application form and gather the required supporting documents, including letters of reference, a detailed budget and a program description of no more than 1,200 words.

The completed application package must be submitted by email to IODEinfo@bellnet.ca no later than 30 November 2026.

The grant recipient will be announced on IODE Founder's Day, 13 February 2027.

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