

President's Message

Here we are starting a new year with RWTO and its wonderful members. This is my second year as your president and I welcome returning members and new members joining us for the 2025-2026 year.

Our executive has been streamlined to address the needs of our membership, including retention of current members, recruitment of new members and ensuring we offer a range of social activities and interesting guest speakers at our lunches. There are 3 Membership chairs now (Sharon Lunau, Sandy O'Brien and Karen Tierney). We continue to enjoy hosting 6 lunches at RiverBend Golf Community clubhouse in September, October, November, March, April and May.

Members-at-Large (Maureen Tipping, Helen Bobyk, Michele Specht and Christine Sangster) greet our members as they enter the venue. We have designated a "New Members" table where women can sit and chat with other members and feel more included.

We continue to offer an interesting list of speakers for 4 of our lunches. The lunches in November and May will feature our choir performance and awards given. There is always a gift bag draw and a Share the Wealth draw at each luncheon. Outreach is listed next to our speakers in this Program. The membership fee remains the same (\$55); the lunches for **September & October will be \$35 and \$40 for the festive lunch in November.**

PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF THE DEADLINE DATES FOR LUNCHESES AND MEMBERSHIP DUES.

I usually send out 2 to 3 emails a month to remind members of upcoming events & friendship breakfasts along with the deadlines for money to be sent to our treasurer, Lynda Faulkner. Joan Taylor's committee ensures that everyone without email receives the information by a phone call.

London-Middlesex RWTO is a thriving branch and I encourage you to reach out to retired teachers (we welcome early childhood educators, educational assistants and child/youth counselors as well). Through "Each One, Reach One", we grow our organization with your help.

Although our Branch is not responsible for organizing the 70th Jubilee Convention in June 2026, it is being held at Western University. Sharon Lunau and I will assist the organizing committee with trips to local interest places, table decorations, etc.

Finally, thank you, to all the members of the executive and committees for their valuable contributions in ensuring success for our Branch in the past year and the coming year. Thank you members, for your continued involvement and support - you are the heart of RWTO. Let's keep it growing!

Linda Freeman, President

Friendship Activities

This is an open invitation for all members to attend, whether you participate in one or all of the events; enjoy meeting new friends and have fun. If you have an idea for an activity and wish to organize for a small group, please let us know. In the past we have had movie afternoons, theatre trips and additional lunches in interesting local restaurants.

MINI-GOLF - RAIN OR SHINE

On Friday, Sept. 12 meet at 10 am to play mini-golf at the **Tin Cup on Windermere Rd** by Adelaide St, followed by lunch at the Waltzing Weasel. If you are interested in joining, call Joan Taylor 519-438-3330 or email towhee27@yahoo.ca

BREAKFAST SOCIALS

Shelley's Restaurant, The Lamplighter Inn,
591 Wellington Rd. S. 9:30 am
2024 Mon. Sep 8, Tues. Oct 7, Wed. Nov 12, Mon. Dec 8,
2025: Tues. Jan 13, Wed. Feb 11,

RWTO London-Middlesex Choir

The Fall Choir rehearsals start September 30 and the Spring rehearsals start April 7, 2026. Each session is for 8 weeks.

Our Choir will sing at the Provincial Convention, early June, 2026 at Western University. Johanna would like **a minimum of 25 voices**, please. Extra Thursday rehearsals will be added for those unable to attend on Tuesdays. Dates to be determined later.

Contact Johanna Hurd, johannahurd@rogers.com, 519-473-2650

BOOK CLUBS

Thursday Book Club

Our Book Club meets once a month on the 1st Thursday of the month at 1 pm all year. It is always interesting to hear what each member gets from our books. The topics are varied and each person's perception unique.

New members are welcome.

Contact: Cathy Harrison grandmac@hotmail.ca

Wednesday Book Club

This Book Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 10 am. We love to talk and talk and of course discuss the books we have read. Many that we have most admired are by award-winning female authors such as Mandy Robotham, Kristin Hannah and Kate Quinn - interesting! **New members are welcome** to join our adventures in reading.

Contact: Debby Albin albindeborah64@gmail.com