



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch

CARING & SHARING

Spring 2024

President's Message

Patricia Wales



The blooms of Spring call us outside to be among the greenery and flowers and the newness. Hopefully you are starting to plan projects for this warmer season.

As I complete two years as your President I want to thank our Members. Your emails,

cards, visits and calls have encouraged me. Often we talked of many things, not just the purpose of a call or email. We have a large Branch of talented women. Engaging with you has been a joy. Thank you also for your uplifting words and help.

Spring brings with it elections for Board positions. At this time the following positions are open: **Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Insurance Convenor and Archivist.** Please consider taking on an involved role on the Executive or Board for the upcoming year. Your help assists the Members of Windsor-Essex Branch. Your offer to fill one of these positions for the next year will be most appreciated.

The new year brought us the sad news of the illness and then loss of our friend and Archivist, Trep Marentette. We got to view her display boards at luncheons and enjoyed Trep's dancer energy for over 10 years at Windsor-Essex Branch. We will miss her.

The Annual Provincial AGM will be virtual in June 2024. You will be represented by six Delegates: Gina Marcon, Vicky Walker, Karen Clark-Lauzon, Carole Kuli, Roberta Di Lallo, and Pat Wales. Each of us would love to hear your opinions and suggestions regarding the 2024 resolutions in order to vote on your behalf.

We are an active Branch trying to offer a variety of activities for your many interests. Please continue to contact Board members with any ideas. You have a very conscientious Board working on your behalf to make Windsor-Essex Branch the welcoming Branch it is. I thank them sincerely for their dedication.

Serving as your President has been a learning adventure. I have seen many endearing examples of Caring and Sharing among our Members. You care about each other, love to socialize with each other and show up for each other. Let it continue.

A Crafty Affair

Vicky Walker, Second Vice President

Crafts were made by our members.



A Crafty Affair

Join us at the Spring Luncheon for some craft shopping. Browse the craft table of donated items and drop your purchased "Bloom Tickets" for a chance to win your selected item(s).

*** Cash Only***

Crafty donations are still welcome!!

Goodwill Convener's Report

Val Luscott



Some twenty-nine Christmas gift cards were sent. Once again a big thank you goes to Marie Bailey for her help. Marie received several Christmas cards expressing appreciation for the gift cards.

Cards were also sent to our Associate members. Sympathy and get well cards were sent to members as were needed. Thank you cards were also sent to our volunteers, the Forget-Me Nots .

Insurance Convenor

Marilyn Harvey



This will be my last submission to the newsletter as I am retiring from my

position as Insurance Convenor. I have enjoyed being part of the executive for almost ten years. I have also enjoyed promoting this fine plan and working with members who have needed assistance. We are looking for someone to take my place so please consider it. I will be happy to help you get started.

As always, I want to leave a few thoughts with you to encourage those of you who do not have the Manulife Home and Hospital Care Plan to join. Our Insurance costs less than \$.50 a day! A hairline fracture pays \$125.00, regardless of the limb involved! There is no age limit-as long as a member is living independently (including a Retirement Home that is not using nursing care) they can be covered and make claims!

Stay well and safe.



Treasurer's Report

Karen Clark-Lauzon

The last newsletter explained that an increase in dues is necessary. There has not been an increase since 2008. There was also a detailed report on our expenses as a Branch. **So the dues are now \$60/year.**

Our financial year begins in April so technically members can begin paying dues for the 24-25 year then. However, most members pay during the summer months and into September. This is totally acceptable. **Please ensure that your dues of \$60 are paid by September 30.**

There are 2 ways to pay your **\$60 membership**:

- 1) By e-transfer – Please use this email address to send it: RWTO.Treasurer6@gmail.com There is no security question/answer needed: it is a direct deposit.
- 2) By cheque – Make this out to **RWTO Windsor/Essex** and send it to the address below. There is also a mailbox on the porch if you just wish to drop it off.

Please remember, dues are now \$60.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Karen Clark-Lauzon
Treasurer, Windsor/Essex Branch
266 Ramblewood
LaSalle, Ont.
N9J 3B3
519-978-2834



School Supplies Donation

Michelle White, Member



I wanted to thank everyone who donated the school supplies that I took with me to Ghana. It was a real eye opener on how little the teachers in the villages have for resources and how extremely low their

salaries are. They get paid between 80 and 100 US dollars a month. In the several schools I visited, there was no indoor plumbing, no technology accessible to students, no library or gym but yet these incredible teachers still managed to educate the youth. It made me realize how fortunate we have all been to have had a great teaching career here in Canada. The one picture I have provided is a classroom that was dedicated to RWTO because of our generous donations. The other pictures show one of the new schools that was built with funds raised here in Windsor and a typical classroom. Thank you.



Membership Convenor

Carole Kuli

As of March 2024, we have 253 Members, 8 Life Members and 6 Associate Members in our Branch. We have had a very positive membership growth this year.

Belonging to the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario, Windsor-Essex Branch allows us to spend enjoyable and quality time with our friends from our teaching families, to rekindle old friendships and of course, to make new long-lasting friendships.

Please consider inviting one of your friends, from your teaching days to one of our luncheons. Remember that RWTO/OERO also includes Educational Assistants, Early Childhood Educators and Child/Youth Workers as part of our membership. Let them know of the many fun activities we participate in as well as the good deeds and services we provide to the community. Making new friendships and fostering previous friendships are what makes our retirement richer, more meaningful, and much more enjoyable.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could let me (carole.kuli3@gmail.com) or another Board member know when your personal information has changed (such as your phone number, address, and email address etc.) This allows us to communicate much more effectively. Let's keep in touch.

Sharing and Caring

Gina Marcon, First Vice President

Once again we ask our members to support our charities by bringing donations with them on May 10th. See below for the needs of each charity.

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Second Chance Ministry - Toiletries, especially women's items: shampoo, deodorant, mouth wash, toothpaste, tooth brushes, toilet paper, soap bars, body wash, or disposable razors.

Street Help Homeless Shelter - Breakfast foods: oatmeal, cereal, coffee, sugar, powdered instant creamer, granola bars, individual bottled water or individual bottled juice.

Welcome Centre Shelter - Peanut butter, jam, school snacks, rice or other side dishes, pasta sauce, pasta noodles, soup, fruit cocktail, canned chicken or tuna or other protein.

Cora Bailey Award



A Cora Bailey Award was presented at our Christmas Luncheon to Rose Ann (Trep) Marentette. This provincial award is given to a Branch Member demonstrating outstanding service to the Branch. Trep has been our Archivist storing and collecting our Branch history for over 10 years.

She had a way of relating with seniors. Trep was surprised to be awarded this honour and her speech was touching. Our cheers turned to tears with the news of Trep's death on February 23, 2024. Trep showed us that kindness connects us.

Issues and Concerns Convenor

Janice Murphy

Spring is here whether you are gardening, gathering, or opening the windows letting the outside in, you can enjoy the outside again! Just a few suggestions to remind us to use caution when enjoying the outdoors. There will always be opportunists who may try to take away our feelings of safety but some of these suggestions may help us to lower their level of success. These are not guarantees but the safer our level of Spring/Summer deterrents, may be the reason someone just keeps walking on by.

Keep your front door locked when alone inside or entertaining outside. A door viewer, safety chain, locking your front door when in the backyard, window locks on accessible windows, installing sensor lights, inside lights on timers and having a camera with sound at your front door which can be monitored by you while in the backyard are just a few ideas. No keys under the flower pot. When landscaping, keep bigger obstacles like bushes away from windows which may create visual obstacles.

So, enjoy your gardens, family and friends, and relax.

Social Committee Convenor

Anna Campigotto

Our first Amherstburg Shop & Hop was November 18. What a great success with 18 ladies shopping, laughing and enjoying lunch together. A big thank you to Kathy Gallagher and Michele Bodde for organizing this day with four wonderful door prizes courtesy of four local vendors.

Forty eight ladies travelled to Parks Blueberries for shopping and lunch then onto Victoria Playhouse, Petrolia. They were entertained by the wonderful cast of Starbright, A Christmas Variety show filled with lots of glitz, glamour, laughter, song and dance. We finished off the night with a great dinner at Chuck's Road House in Chatham.

We had a fun filled night of painting and laughter at Julia Conlon's Studio on February 2. It's amazing how many talented ladies we have in our RWTO Branch.

"Slainte " cheers to the IRISH on March 12 at the Thompson House. Green hats, ties, tops and beer were abundant as we ate our cornbeef and cabbage or chicken pot pies. "May our troubles be less and your blessings be more."

Upcoming Events - Save the Date!

80+ Tea

When: June 10, 2024

Where: Seasons Retirement Community, LaSalle

Jersey Boys

Where: Huron County Playhouse, Grand Bend

When: July 23, 2024

Contact :Anna Campigotto campya23@me.com
519-978-0652

Relive the Music: 50s & 60s Show

When: October 16, 2024

Where: Capital Theatre Time: 7:30 pm

Cost: \$69.00 +tax

Contact: Anna Campigotto campya23@me.com
519-978-0652

In Memoriam

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day... unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.



Catherine Bickerton
1921- November 17, 2023



Irene Di Domenico
1941-December 20, 2023



Sharron Minto
1944-December 22, 2023



Joanne Anderson
1933 - January 9, 2024



Rose Ann (Trep) Marentette
1950 - February 23, 2024

We have reached out to the families of these beloved Branch members who recently passed away. Our condolences were extended to their families on your behalf with the assurance that a book for children will be placed in a local public library in the memory of each of these dedicated women.





Spring Luncheon



Friday May 10, 2024

Social Hour:

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Lunch Served: 12:00 pm

Menu: Cost \$35.00

Buffet Style Menu

Chicken, Potato, Pasta,
Vegetable, Salad
Dessert & Coffee Station
****Cash Bar available**

Venue:

**St. Nicholas Macedonian
Banquet Centre**

5225 Howard Ave.,

LaSalle ON

****Remember to wear your RWTO membership pin.**

Options for payment:

* e-Transfer to:

rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com

Please include your full name and
"Spring Luncheon" in the transfer message area.
*e-Transfers are auto deposit.

Mail or porch drop your cheque, (please, no post-dated cheques) along with the form below, **made payable to:**

RWTO Windsor-Essex

Send to: Karen Clark-Lauzon
266 Ramblewood Dr.
LaSalle, ON N9J 3B3

Purchase your tickets by: Friday May 3, 2024

Sorry, no refunds after this date.

Support our mission of *Caring and Sharing*

****Please see article "Sharing and Caring" for specific items required.****

1. Second Chance Ministry - Toiletries for women
2. Street Help Homeless Shelter - Non-perishable breakfast food items
3. Welcome Centre Shelter - Non-perishable food items
4. Windsor Youth Centre - Share the Wealth

A book exchange will be available.



Member Name: _____

First Luncheon? Y or N

Guest Name: _____

First Luncheon? Y or N

Number of lunches @ \$35.00 : _____

Newly Retired Teacher? Y or N