RWTO BurlOak Newsletter September 2023

RWTO BurlOak Branch E-Transfer: rwtoburloak20@gmail.com Cheques to: RWTO BurlOak Branch



President's Message

Well, the sun is shining today and I'm sitting in front of my laptop typing one handed, I'm looking forward to the wonderful program of events and variety of topics we have for our 23-24 luncheons. Many thanks to the Program team for lining things up and getting the brochure out to members well in advance so we have the information early in the late summer! Appreciation to Cecile Leach for her dedication to getting things organized for the first newsletter of the year too! Anyone interested in helping and learning more about newsletters? We all like them so much and hate to think about this element of our membership not coming out regularly but it is a LOT of work, so please consider helping out in this way. Cecile is a treasure trove of experience and guidance but it isn't her only interest.

Are you wondering why I am only able to type with one hand? Let me tell you about my summer vacation. As a little girl I remember my parents and grandparents reading Heidi to me and I always thought I'd like to see Switzerland one day. All my friends have already done this little journey so I decided to go on a river cruise with me, myself and I. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and got to see most of my must-sees in Amsterdam as well as the lovely castles along the Rhine on the journey to Switzerland. So I fell part way through the adventure and flew home before I got to see much of the Alpine land. I am staying with my Rock Star sister who has been helping me recover. I'm relearning how to pull up my big girl pants by myself but cutting my toast is still a challenge.

Maureen Downey has arranged for, *Denise Davy* our first guest speaker in September. Thank you all for continuing to support our Purses initiative! Don't forget to bring your gently used purses to our Sept. meeting. Plus if you don't have a purse, don't be shy about asking your friends and family members if they have any they no longer use use — the young women seem to be using slings or waist bags now so may well be a treasure trove of resources for handbags. Remember they must be in tip top condition to express our care for women experiencing tough times. It is a gift to inspire and give hope! If you have exhausted your purse supply, please consider a donation of gift cards or some of the items required to fill up the purses to make them ready for donation to the women. We all feel better when we can help others.

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President's message continued

Mary (and Hugh) McCully had a magnificent adventure through South America, earlier this spring, to share with us so we can vicariously enjoy the sightseeing in places some of us can only imagine going (especially me!)

Maybe some of you also have interests or adventures you would be able to share, please let us know if you would consider doing that.

Finally, I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to Diane Sinden for agreeing to fulfil the duties of Area Director for Area 12 beginning in 2024-25. She will be able to shadow Margaret Geare for the remainder of this year and take this important role next spring. Her experience as president of the Oakville branch has made her an outstanding choice for this role. She has shown her dedication and commitment to the BurlOak branch in taking on the role of delegate at the AGM as well as sending out all member emails. Thank you so much Diane!



Membership Matters Moira Plexman, Membership

Thank you to the many members who have already sent in their membership fees. You are eligible to participate in our BurlOak interest groups.

Congratulations to Donna McNaught whose name was drawn as the winner of the September lunch. Members who had paid up their membership by the AGM had their names entered into the Early Bird Draw for a free September lunch.

All members who have paid their membership by July 31 will have their names in the draw to win their membership.

At the executive meeting held at The Haber Hub on August 28, and using Siri for a random number selector, Beth Chadwick's name was chosen as the winner of \$50 for paying her membership by the end of July.

Special reminder for RWTO/OERO Insurance holders. You must be a paid up member with your branch to maintain your RWTO health benefits.

May Luncheon & Annual General Meeting - by Cecile Leach

The Annual Meeting and luncheon was held on May 8, 2023 at Tyandaga Golf Club. Outgoing President, Mary McCully, welcomed us to the first AGM of the new BurlOak Branch. This is the 50th year for Burlington Branch and the 35th year for Oakville Branch.

Mary discussed the Amalgamation which culminated in a wonderful celebration and how we're all making new friends. She thanked the Executive of both groups for their support and enthusiasm. Mary recognized the work of Susan Edwards who has resigned from her position on the Communication Committee and also thanked Marilyn Park who has also resigned for all that she has contributed as Convenor of the Program Committee. She also thanked the convenors of the interest groups and the people who quietly work behind the scenes.

Mary also talked about the various ways we've displayed caring and sharing this year (eg. The Purse Project, Able Sail, the Food bank, Food for Kids, and socks, hats and mittens for schools).

The minutes were read and accepted and the proposed budget was introduced and accepted as well.

Claudia Stewart, Diane Sinden and Moira Plexman will serve as our delegates to the 2023 Convention in Kingston. The 19 Provincial Resolutions were reviewed and how our delegates will be voting was approved by the members at the AGM.

Bonnie Folkard, Past-President read the proposed slate of officers for next year and opened the floor for nominations.

The following nominees for the Executive 2023-2024 were duly appointed and installed. Moira-Jane Plexman, former Area Director, performed the installation.

Elected Positions:

| | Appointed Positions: |
|---|--|
| President: Claudia Stewart Past President: Mary McCully First Vice President: VACANT Second Vice President : Norma Brown Secretary: Lynn Haniuk Treasurer: Carolynn Blake Program: Mary McCully | Archivist: Peggy Blair Communications: Diane Sinden Goodwill: Virginia McKee Visiting: Pam MacDonald Membership: Moira Jane Plexman Member-at-large: Nancy Parkhill |

Mary McCully passed the gavel to Claudia Stewart, our new president. Bonnie Folkard honoured our departed colleagues during our In Memoriam Ceremony. Thank you again, Bonnie, for doing such a lovely ceremony. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 and was followed by a delicious barbecue.

After lunch, Club and Activity leaders talked about their groups and invited members to join. New proposed groups were introduced, and everyone was given time to sign ups for fall activities. The Book Exchange went well. No books remained on the table. Thank you, Helen Elmer for leading this "NEW" activity.

Unfortunately no photos were taken at the event.

RWTO 2023 Annual Provincial Convention, Kingston Ontario

Report from Claudia Stewart



I am in Kingston for 2023 RWTO Convention" said Moira and Diane



Diane Sinden, Moira Plexman and I cruised along the highway to reach Kingston, Ontario for the 67th Annual convention, "Cruising Down the Waters, Sailing into Kingston" on June 6 -8th 2023. The Market Square Hotel was located in downtown Kingston. very close to the pier as well as many restaurants and boutiques. It is a lovely setting for a convention. The boat cruise along the shore of Lake Ontario was a lovely adventure and made the beginning of the event quite spectacular.

Resolutions

Area 12- (BurlOak, Lydia Snow North Halton, Mississauga, and Peel North), Area 7 (Bellville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton and District), and Hamilton-Wentworth, Wiarton and South Bruce, submitted 2 resolutions to expand membership to RWTO-OERO.

Our submissions were successfully passed! Retired Educational Assistants, retired Early Childhood Educators and retired women Child and Youth Workers/Counsellors may now join RWTO-OERO as Regular Members. The potential for increasing our membership is a step forward to maintain the organization to enable colleagues to join us in our branch. Please feel free to invite any retired colleagues who may wish to attend our meetings and join our interest groups. Let us know if you know anyone who might be interested in joining.

Unfortunately the resolution to offer membership to retired women Social workers and retired women Speech and Language Pathologists did not pass. We can collect more information and submit a resolution for admission for these retired employee groups again next year. The success of the expansion of membership was achieved through tenacity and persistence which we can further demonstrate if we know that these women are interested in joining us as retired women educational professionals. This is an opportunity for everyone who worked in education and developed friendships in classrooms to continue those relationships into retirement. Caring, Sharing and Having Fun is our motto. It joins us in preserving connections with one another to assist in alleviating social isolation, a severe issue for senior women.





The name **"Retired Women Teachers of Ontario/Organisations des enseignantes retraitées de L'Ontario, RWTO/OERO"** will not change. Everyone who worked in schools and classrooms was committed to education and "taught" children. We were a team and now we can continue those relationships started in the classrooms. The word teacher has meaning and significance to the public. Why wouldn't everybody want to join and participate ? We do much more than just have fun! It is, however, the fun that keeps us going!

A resolution about branch equity was deferred to the 2024 Annual Meeting so that more research can be done about the impact of having just 2 delegates for each branch, no matter how many members the branches have.

The wording about branches wishing to disband was changed to "Branches considering disbanding or amalgamating must inform the Provincial President in writing with a six-month notice." If you have remarks about this issue please let me know!

The resolution about developing a Marketing Committee was passed. Many members of the Board spoke about the need to develop analytical strategies and innovative ideas to attract more and new members. One way we could help with this is to ask friends about their perception of RWTO and what would motivate them to join? Do you have any other suggestions about ways we can attract more members? Please let us know!



Claudia Stewart, accepts the "Feather in Your Hat Award "for our Purse Project Initiative.

Maureen Downey, Convenor of the Purse Project wrote an article which was submitted to the provincial committee this year. At the Kingston Convention, BurlOak Branch received the award for our region.

Claudia was proud to accept and wear the Feather in Your Hat at the Wednesday Night Dinner and Awards Presentation.

Over 90 and Mother-Daughter Luncheon at Convention





Verna Lavergne, BurlOak Branch, travelled with her daughter Debbie to Kingston where she was honoured at the "**Over 90's**" and "**Mother and Daughter**" luncheon on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at the Provincial Convention.

Verna is seen in the right photograph with her daughter Debbie Rauch, Past President of Lydia Snow Branch and Associate Member of BurOak Branch. Debbie has longed to take her Mother to Convention for quite sometime, but illness and Covid prevented her from doing that. Luckily, Verna was able to attend this year and be honoured in both categories ! **Well done, ladies!**

The Escarpment Tea House



On Thursday May 25, 2023, a group of nine ladies went to the Escarpment Tea House. It was all arranged by Mary McCully (Past President). She has arranged all the tea house outings enjoyed by all. It was a great time to socialize, sample the various sandwiches and desserts and enjoy the tea of your choice.

There was a delightful plate of sandwiches. The traditional cucumber and cream cheese, egg salad, salmon pinwheel sandwiches were there along with an apple, asparagus, and spinach wrap, a quiche tart, a scone topped with cherry jam and brie and a ham and chutney sandwich.

The dessert tray was just as impressive with its scones,

chocolate covered strawberries and cookies. Most of the ladies had Buckingham Palace Tea.



The Golden Teapot- June 22, 2023

The Golden Teapot is located in Glenhyrst Gardens on the banks of the Grand River in Brantford Ontario.

Seven ladies met to enjoy high tea in this lovely setting.



Tea on the Grand in Paris Ontario July 21, 2023

In mid July, 12 ladies gathered at a Victorian house that is the location for *Tea on the Grand* in Paris, Ontario. We were expecting to be seated in their sunroom – a response to damage caused after their re-opening post COVID. And we were expecting a very reduced menu and price in a very small space. Imagine our surprise and delight as we 12 were all seated around their large table in the dining room and served the full menu of Afternoon Tea.



Tea on the Grand in Paris Ontario (continued)

Every tea is different and this was no exception. We were greeted with plenteous hot scones as soon as we walked in. We had far more food than we could ever eat...sandwiches of all sorts, pickles, fruit and crudités then finished off with large servings of delicious spice cake. The tea was Paris Black – a delicious blend served to us all. Our hostess gave us an aperçu of her ancestors who had lived in the grand home. It really was a fine time.



Tea at the Watering Can in Beamsville Ontario July 21, 2023

Eight ladies met for a lovely drive to Beamsville on a hot and humid day in July. to enjoy tea at the Watering Can We sat outside under the huge canopies as the many fans attempted to cool the setting.

The food was delicious and the company was lively.

Some ladies did some shopping in the greenhouse while others stopped on the way home to purchase peaches and plums.

Even the Skyway Bridge construction held off until we arrived safely home.

Before we left, we were each given a lovely pot of flowers to take home and enjoy.!

Caring and Sharing

FOOD4KIDS

Food4Kids Halton provides packages of healthy food for elementary age kids with limited or no access to food each weekend. The food packages are assembled by volunteers and delivered to schools each Friday to ensure children have nourishment over the weekend. There are over 1,000 children in Halton struggling through each weekend without food.

In 2017 the Oakville RWTO Branch began sending volunteers to assemble these bags, and the BurlOak RWTO Branch is continuing this service. Several members have participated on April 5th, May 3rd and June 14th. We will be doing this again next year, hopefully starting in the fall. Participating this year were Diane S., Bev T., Bev H., Barb L., Gloria M., Betty D., Helen E., Leslie W., and Ruth

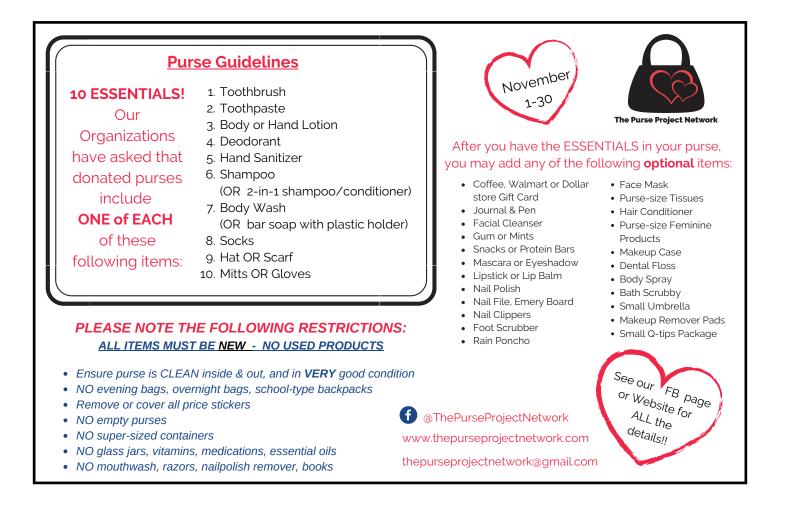


The Purse Project Donations

As you noticed, Burloak Branch was awarded the "Feather in Your Hat" Award at Provincial Convention for our efforts last year! Many women (758) in the Hamilton/Halton area received our donations.

We hope that those members who wish to participate in The Purse Project have been busy collecting women's personal items over the summer (please see guidelines below). Table space will be available at the front entry where you may place your purse or your collected items. These will be delivered to The Purse Project donation centre. If you have any questions, please email Maureen Downey at mgdowney@live.com.

We look forward to connecting with our members at our September luncheon, and hope to see you there!





Activity Groups



A Stitch in Time - Knitting and Crochet Group -

The Knitting and Crocheting group try to meet monthly at members' homes. We discuss projects and methods that we are working on. We would enjoy having new members join us. All levels of experience of guests are welcome. For further info and dates, contact **Norma Brown at 905-632-4774 or** <<<u>normabrown2000@yahoo.ca</u>>>.

Book Club #1 and #2 - Meet Monthly- 2nd Wednesday



We have two groups of avid readers. Both meet monthly at 1:00 in each other's homes. One meets on the second Wednesday and the other on the last Tuesday. New members are welcome. Over the pandemic both groups met on Zoom except in warmer months, when we met outside.

If you would like to join: contact **Heather White at 905-639-2922 or dheatherwhite@gmail.com.**



Paper Crafting Group- Meet randomly

A group of ladies get together - 5-6 times a year to make cards for their personal use. They learn new techniques, develop creative skills and have a social time. We may have found a venue to house our activity and have chosen the dates for the coming year.

Anyone wishing to join the group, please Contact Bonnie at <u>bonnie2@sympatico.ca</u>



Tea Room Tours - Meets randomly at a different tea house. This activity is open to any RWTO member who wants to go.

Convenor: Mary McCully 905-632-7859 mmccully888@gmail.com



Euchre Group: Meet Twice monthly - 1st and 3rd Tuesday September meeting Dates are: Sept 5, and Sept.19

If you wish to join the group please contact: Convenor: Pam MacDonald- 905-689 3493

We meet at : Port Nelson United Church 3132 South Drive, Burlington Start time 12:30 pm.

Cost: \$10.00 initial fee to cover rental costs \$5.00 to play each time you come which is distributed in prizes

Please call Pam to let her know when you are unable to attend !



Travel Club - Welcome back travellers. I know many have adventures and tips they are wanting to share. Next meeting is Friday, October 20@1:00. Meeting place to be confirmed.
We meet monthly on Monday afternoons in members' homes.
If you are interested in joining please contact:

Convenor: Bev Balch 905-335-7046

Food4KidsHalton-

Food4Kids Halton provides packages of healthy food for elementary age kids with limited or no access to food each weekend. The food packages are assembled by volunteers and delivered to schools each Friday to ensure children have nourishment over the weekend. There are over 1,000 children in Halton struggling through each weekend without food. BurlOak will be participating again in the coming year, hopefully starting in the fall. Nine ladies helped with this activity in the past year. **The dates for this year are**

The dates for this year are Nov. 1st, April 3rd, May 8th, June 12th, all Wednesdays at 11 am.

Please contact Diane Sinden if you wish to participate at: diane.sinden@bell.net



RWTO BurlOak LUNCH BUNCH 23/24

Friday, October 13/23 1 pm Lowville Bistro 6179 Guelph Line, Burlington (Optional walk afterwards in Lowville Park)

Friday, November 17/23. 1 pm The Olive Press 2322 Dundas Street W., Oakville

Friday, December 15/23. 1 pm Turtle jacks at Mapleview Mall, Burlington (Enjoy Christmas shopping before or after lunch)

Friday, January 12/24. 1 pm Barra Fion Tapas Restaurant 1505 Guelph Line, Burlington

Friday, February 23/24. 1 pm Cynthia's 2460 Neyagawa Blvd, Oakville (Ring in the Chinese New Year of the Dragon)

Friday, March 22/24. 1 pm Pipe and Taps Scottish Pub 231 Oak Park Blvd, Oakville

Sunday, April 28/24. 1 pm Hibachi Teppanyaki Restaurant 1940 Appleby Line, Burlington

Friday, June 7/2024. 1 pm Brontë Boathouse Restaurant 2340 Ontario Street, Oakville

Tentative dates and times subject to change Diners to email Maureen Downey- <u>mgdowney@live.com</u> to reserve a spot one week before

Limited spaces in some venues Diners to do their own due diligence re: dietary restrictions



RWTO September Luncheon MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Tyandaga Municipal Golf Course 1265 Tyandaga Park Drive Burlington, Ontario L7P 1N1

Due date: September 8

Cost :\$45.00

Times:

11:00–Doors open, come for coffee11:30 am—Announcements and business12:00– Luncheon1:00– Presentation

Menu:

Garlic Bread Caesar Salad Chicken Parmesan Penne Pasta Rainbow sorbet Coffee, tea **Please indicate dietary restrictions, if any, on payment method.**

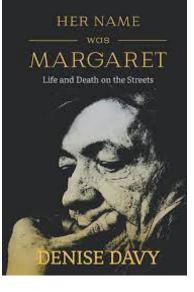
Guest Speaker: Denise Davy

Denise is a nationally recognized award-winning journalist who specializes in writing about mental health, homelessness, and gender issues.



She is the author of the book, HER NAME WAS MARGARET: LIFE AND DEATH ON THE STREETS. She is the founder of "Purses for Margaret", which provides toiletries to homeless women. Denise lives in Burlington.

Afterwards, Denise will be available to sell and sign copies of her book (\$25.00, by credit card or cash (preferred).



RWTO BurlOak Branch Luncheons are held at Tyandaga Golf Course 1265 Tyandaga Park Dr. Burlington, Ontario L7P 1N1

Luncheons can be paid by E-Transfer and by cheque E-Transfer to rwtoburloak20@gmail.com

Cheques:

All luncheon cheques payable to RWTO BurlOak Branch

send to: Carolynn Blake 406-5070 Fairview Street, Burlington ON, L7L 0B8

Please include name, address, phone number.

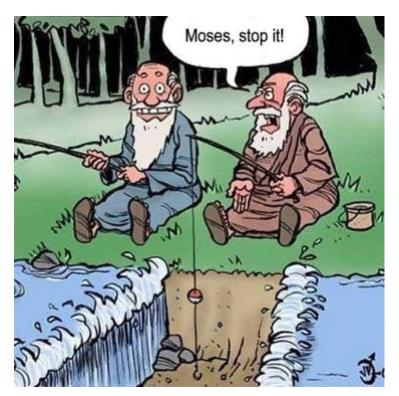
Carolynn will contact you when she receives your cheque/or e-transfer. Please indicate if choosing the vegetarian option or dietary restrictions .

Payments cannot be accepted after the due date.

CASH WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED FOR LUNCHEON OR MEMBERSHIP TRANSACTION !

Some days I amaze myself.

Other days, I put my keys in the fridge.



Parking A Problem at Tyandaga ?



We know that parking at the Tyandaga Golf Club can be a problem during the golf season. This year we have a plan so that you don't have to walk from the bottom parking lot to the club house. Tony has arranged for us to use the club's golf carts.

So, we are looking for 2-4 volunteers to drive those golf carts up and down the hill to provide that extra bit of service to our members who may be happy not climbing that hill.

Volunteers please email Mary McCully at <u>mmccully888@gmail.com</u> or call 905-632-7589.



Volunteers Needed for Penny Auction

We plan to have a Penny Auction event at the Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 4. We are looking for **2-3 volunteers** to organize, set up and run this activity.

BurlOak Branch is looking for helpers !







We are looking for helpers in many areas:

* Goodwill & Visiting - Make phone calls to shut-ins, visit someone at home or in the hospital, send cards.

Virginia and Pam are looking for 1 or 2 people to help them. contact: Virginia at 905-335-8723

*Newsletter - looking for someone to help write / coordinate stories about events.

Photographer - We need someone to take photos at our events and send them to our newsletter person and our archivist.

* Also looking for someone to learn how to put a newsletter together. **contact: Cecile - <u>cecile.leach@sympatico.ca</u>**

- Looking for helpers to assist with some branch activities like:
- the Purse project,
- Collection of hats and mittens at christmas
- Food collection (a few times a year)
- etc.....

contact: Mary McCully- mmccully888@gmail.com

• Executive positions

Looking for ladies interested in shadowing an Executive member in order to be familiar with the roles they play and the jobs they do. Some ladies have been on the Board forever and would like a little break !

Contact: Mary McCully- mmccully888@gmail.com Claudia Stewart- <u>stewartcj@me.com</u>

Retired Teachers Make Historic Changes

In recognition of continuing changes in classroom practices, RWTO/OERO at their 67th AGM Convention "Cruising Down the Waters" in Kingston, passed three resolutions to extend membership to Retired Women Educational Professionals who provide valuable classroom services to the education of the 21stcentury student.

Resolution 1:

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III Membership and Fees,

- 1. Regular Members: any retired woman teacher is eligible to be a member of RWTO/OERO whether or not she is receiving a teacher's pension, be amended to read:
- 2. 1. Regular Members
- a. Regular Members include Retired Women Educational Professionals who have worked in schools as listed:
- i. Retired Women Teachers
- ii. Retired Women Educational Assistants
- b. Retired Women Educational Professionals may become Regular Members
- whether or not they are receiving a job-related pension

Resolution #2

Submitted by Area 12 (Lydia Snow North Halton, Mississauga, BurlOak, Peel North), Area 7 (Belleville, Durham North, Northumberland-South Durham, Peterborough, Trenton & District), Hamilton-Wentworth, Wiarton, and South Bruce

Be it resolved that Constitution, Article III Membership and Fees, 1. Regular Members, be amended with the addition of:

Retired Women Early Childhood Educators

Claudia Stewart, President, BurlOak Branch and Moira Plexman, Membership Convenor, BurlOak Branch moved and seconded Resolution #2 that Regular Members in our constitution include Retired Women Early Childhood Educators.

The second secret ballot was voted YES by the majority of the delegates.

There was a great deal of debate at the microphones of the Pros and Cons of opening our membership beyond teachers.

During the Kingston AGM Convention, the constitution was changed to include Retired Women Educational Assistants, Retired Women Early Childhood Educators and Retired Women Child and Youth Workers/Counsellors.

In the end, the delegates using a secret ballot, voted overwhelmingly to change the constitutional wording from teachers to Professional Women Educational Professionals and include the category of Retired Women Educational Assistants.

Therefore, creating a historical moment at the 67th AGM Convention for our organization of Retired Teachers.

MORNING CHUCKLE.....They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen.

Then, I made the most difficult call of all to my husband: "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen."

There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!"

Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me."

He retorted, "I will; just as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your damn car!" Welcome to the GOLDEN YEARS

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