



# Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor - Essex Branch SHARING AND CARING 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

Spring 2026

## President's Message

Gina Marcon

*Make new friends but keep the old.*



*One is silver and the other is gold.  
A circle is round, it has no end.*

*That's how long I'll be your friend.*

Diane Keaton

What an honour and a blessing it has been to

be your president for these 2 years.

I now pass the torch to Vicky Walker. She will be authentic and gifted in this role.

I am so proud of our local Executive Committee and Board Officers who create amazing subcommittees to meet the needs of our membership.

Read all about the April 9th Beacon of Light event, K.I.T., the 80+ Tea team, the Senior Striders, Lunch & Laugh group, Convention Delegates team, Goodwill team and the Crafty Affair working elves.

## Winter 2025 Luncheon

### Location: Ciociaro Club

Another fantastic event. Merci beaucoup to all the organizers and volunteers who helped.

What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Claire Renaud reaching an amazing milestone. Thanks to her friend and RWTO member Yvonne Lajoie for introducing her.

Mille Grazie to our volunteers who delivered the charity donations: Gail Raymond, Margaret Carlone, Rachelle Leonard and Pat Wales. Congrats to the Share The Wealth winners: Val Lafebvre, Vienna Marcon and Rachelle Leonard.

Congrats go out to our door prize winner Marg Campeau and the Free Luncheon DRAW winner Jo-Anne Duffy.

## 70th Anniversary Luncheon

### Location: Beach Grove



*"An Afternoon in Athens"* was the theme and a good time was the plan. We were so lucky to have received a generous donation from Chartwell that

allowed us to plan a grand party.

Also, together with a financial donation from Provincial RWTO/OERO and a financial contribution from RWTO/OERO Windsor-Essex, our afternoon was spent enjoying delicious Greek food and dessert, nostalgic music from singers Mike & Andrea Pannunzio, a large door prize basket and a party favour/magnet at each place setting. Our community connections with the Hellenic Initiative of Canada spoiled us with Greek candy. Our event was honoured to have the President of Provincial RWTO/OERO Linda Sargeant attend and bring greetings from the Board of Directors, and also Local ETFO 1st Vice-President Antonella Ciampa brought greetings from the local Federation.

We made sure to take the time to acknowledge all those ladies in the room who over the past 25 years have contributed to the local, the provincial BOD, Area 3 committee, won the Cora Bailey Award or served in some capacity to support our members. We certainly saw how active and energetic our members have been and continue to be.

A huge appreciation is extended to member Diane Picard who was tasked with writing the special Grace in both English and in French. I am sharing it here for all to enjoy.

*As we gather for this afternoon in Athens, we celebrate seventy years of wisdom shared, lessons taught, and lives quietly shaped.*

*Like the great thinkers who once walked beneath open skies, you have asked questions, sparked curiosity, and lit the way for generations to follow.*

*Today we pause to honor friendship, the courage to educate, and the legacy of women who believed in minds and futures.*

*May this meal be filled with laughter, stories, and the pride of work that truly mattered.*

*Cheers to seventy remarkable years.*

*Cet après-midi à Athènes, nous célébrons 70 ans de sagesse partagée, leçons enseignées et des vies discrètement transformées.*

*Tout comme les grands penseurs de l'antiquité, vous avez posé des questions, éveillé la curiosité et éclairé le chemin des générations futures.*

*Aujourd'hui, nous prenons un moment pour célébrer l'amitié, le courage d'éduquer et l'esprit des femmes qui croyaient en l'intelligence et en l'avenir.*

*Que ce repas soit empli de rires, d'histoires et de la fierté d'un travail qui a véritablement compté.*

*À la santé de ces 70 années exceptionnelles!*

### **Activities are the heart of RWTO/OERO**

Thanks to our Insurance Convenor Luana Zambito who has been organizing monthly Lunch & Laugh gatherings at various locations around the city and county. Thanks to our Technology/Social Media/Website Convenor Kathy Gallagher who has been organizing monthly walking meet-ups at Vollmer Centre. Both are awesome opportunities for our members to get out and get together.



**70<sup>th</sup>**



### **For the upcoming 2026 - 2027 year**

**Looking for members to step forward in the position of:**

**1st Vice President**

**2nd Vice President**

**Goodwill Convenor**

**Archivist**

**Newsletter Convenor**

**Treasurer for June 2027** with the opportunity to shadow Karen Clark-Lauzon for the upcoming year as Treasurer to learn and understand the job.

**Please submit your name to Pat Wales - [onefortune6@gmail.com](mailto:onefortune6@gmail.com)**

Or you can run and self-nominate or be nominated by a member at the Spring Luncheon.

Reach out to Gina Marcon or Vicky Walker for more details if needed.



## **Treasurer's Report**

Karen Clark-Lauzon

### **MEMBERS CAN BEGIN PAYING THEIR DUES FOR THE 2026-27 SEASON NOW!**

It is important that all members pay these dues by **JUNE 30, 2026**. This is earlier than in past years. But we don't want you to miss out on all the news and activities our sisterhood enjoys. We also don't want anyone to miss out on our insurance plan with Manulife. To maintain coverage, a member must be in good standing with her dues. And the number of members paying their dues determines the number of delegates we can send to represent us at the annual Convention. Pay early and you can enjoy all these benefits until April 2027.

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](mailto: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 to the address below. There is also a mailbox on the porch if you just wish to drop it off. It is secure and checked daily.

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

## **Goodwill Convenor**

Val Luscott

In the current RWTO/OERO Connections you will read the In Memoriam Report. There you will find the names of fourteen of our past members. Some had health related issues, others were unwelcome surprises. We thank them for the many years of membership in our branch. Several had served in different positions of responsibilities on our executive.

Within our Winsor-Essex Branch Guidelines, we have a section where we offer a memorial service to the families of departed members. We also present an inscribed candle to the families and a child's library book is placed in the public library of choice. Many families have expressed their appreciation. Our thanks go to those who respond to the call to conduct these services. Often this has been accomplished with a short notice. Presently we have nine Forget-me-not volunteers. This is also a service which is unique to our branch.

Sympathy cards have been sent.

## **KIT Committee**

Linda White

The K.I.T. committee contacted as many members as possible for a second/time-friendly reminders re:70th Jubilee, Spring luncheon, and Crafty Affair, membership dues and updated contact information. Common response from our members is "all is good," "thank you," "keeping busy."

## **70th Anniversary**

A special day has been planned at Devonshire Mall bringing awareness of our organization and an invitation to retired educators. A display to be attended by our executive members will be set up from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Windsor Mayor Dilkens will address us at 10:00 am with media coverage. Other dignitaries may be visiting. A strong representation of members would certainly be advantageous. Please consider joining us throughout the day and especially for our opening ceremonies at 10:00 am.

Our theme is "Beacons of Light" and we will have blue votive candles, and we ask that you wear blue tops. Our location is in front of the Saje Wellness shop. Use Entrance 3 between Indigo & Bank of Montreal & turn right heading toward Food Court.

Let's show our true-blue colours and join together in "Caring and Sharing" on April 9<sup>th</sup>.




# CELEBRATING OUR OFFICIAL 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



## Windsor-Essex Branch


### JUBILEE SPECIAL EVENT: A Day for Retired Educators

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>** 

 **DISPLAY & CELEBRATION**  
10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.


**DEVONSHIRE MALL** 

 **SPECIAL GUEST ADDRESS :**  
**MAYOR DREW DILKENS**  
10:00 a.m. with media coverage

**THEME:**  
**'BEACONS OF LIGHT'** 

 **PLEASE WEAR  
BLUE TOPS**  
Let's show our true blue colours!

**RWTO/OERO: 70 Years of 'Caring and Sharing'**

Retired Educators, please join us throughout the day  
and especially for our opening ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. 

## Membership Convenor

Carole Kuli

My position as Membership Convenor is often bitter/ sweet. It is so exciting to welcome more and more new members to our RWTO family.

Our current membership is 246, including 7 lifetime members and 2 associate members. Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed Jo-Anne Amyotte, Danielle Richer, Nancy Barnes, Margie Rathwell and Janet Janisse. We will be recognizing these ladies at our May luncheon.

The fall and winter months were devastating with regards to the passing of our dear members. Unfortunately, we must say goodbye to our fellow members, friends and colleagues. It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Mildred Dmowski, Agnes Oliver, Deirdre Palamides, Carmen Eaton, Joyce Dube, Louise Boyde and Sarah Whitehead.

We are asking that the payment of our 2026-27 membership dues be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Once again receipts and membership cards will be issued upon request.

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](mailto: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 to the address below. There is also a mailbox on the porch if you just wish to drop it off. It is secure and checked daily.

**Details for drop-off:** Karen Clark-Lauzon

Treasurer, Windsor/Essex Branch

266 Ramblewood

LaSalle, Ont.

N9J 3B3

(519)978-2834

It is crucial that any changes to your address, email or phone number be forwarded to me as soon as possible. We worry when we can't connect with you.

## Issues and Concerns

Janice Murphy

AI - Artificial Intelligence has been a major concept and topic introduced to us through almost every medium available. It appears that some people believe AI will arrive in the future while others believe it is already here. As with all new discoveries there are those that are thrilled and can't wait. There are also those that are sceptical and have concerns. In watching the news lately some of the creators of AI are even suggesting that caution may be used in some areas.

AI is designed to assist and improve many aspects of our lives in a positive way. It is a machine or a computer that is designed to learn and pattern the way that a human actually learns. This can assist them to find a solution to your question, to help you reach your goal. You can chat, AI can respond, even appear to be sympathetic.

One caution is to remember that AI is not human. It is suggested that people may draw on past experiences, laws, negative and positive outcomes. AI reaches its decisions based on the information it has obtained and collected. There may be times that AI may not have all of the available information at the point the question is put to it.

AI is a work in progress and is constantly collecting, learning, and evolving. There are many positive opportunities to improve as AI can be used at a higher level. We will continue this conversation in part two of the Newsletter.



ETFO  
Fall  
Dinner

## 2026 Convention News

Gina Marcon

RWTO/OERO Convention will be held in June in London ON. We will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary.

It looks to be quite interesting and will keep our local delegation busy for the 3 days. Along with the meetings, resolutions, and sightseeing excursions, it is a wonderful opportunity to make connections with members from other branches across Ontario.

For the first time, we will be hosted by Western University, staying at their new student residence Clare Hall. If interested in any information about the Convention or any other news at Provincial RWTO/OERO go to <https://rwto.org>

Your delegates this year are Gina Marcon, Vicky Walker, Lina Brunone, Brenda Popovich and Anna Campigotto. They will be sharing information about the resolutions at the luncheon in May. and will be available to answer any questions.

Karen Clark-Lauzon (local Treasurer) will also be attending the Convention as a Member of the Steering Committee. They will be assisting delegates with the wording of new motions and ensuring any new motions don't conflict with current wording in governing documents.

A huge thanks goes out to these ladies for giving up their time to represent Windsor-Essex.

## Insurance Convener

Luana Zambito



Happy Spring! Buona Primavera!

RWTO Insurance plans are available to our members in good standing. Members with existing coverage will continue to be covered provided they continue to pay their premiums and remain branch members by paying their membership dues.

It is essential that you inform your family and executor that you have insurance with RWTO and Manulife and that there is a monthly withdrawal.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

You can easily access all Manulife forms online. All forms can be found on the [rwto.org](http://rwto.org) website. Simply go to [rwto.org](http://rwto.org), and click on Membership in the ribbon on the top right. Click on Insurance plans in the drop-down menu. Each form is fillable online and can be sent directly to Manulife via an email attachment.

You can also print and mail the form if you choose to do so.

The address is as follows:

Manulife, PO Box 670,  
Stn Waterloo,  
Waterloo, On N2J4B8

If at any time you have questions, please contact me at: [lzambito68@gmail.com](mailto:lzambito68@gmail.com)

## **Our RWTO Manulife representative is:**

Terry Kennedy (519) 583-0098

[tkennedy34@bell.net](mailto:tkennedy34@bell.net)

## Social Convener

Anna Campignotto

“Spring will come and so will happiness, hold on, life will get warmer.” 🌸 🌷

**November 26, 2025** - “Shop Hop” in the lovely town of Amherstburg was a great success. We had 40 ladies shopping 🛒 laughing 😄 and enjoying a wonderful lunch at the Artisan Grill. Thank you to all the participating stores, cafes and Artisan Grill.

**February 20, 2026** - Our Paint Night with Julia Conlon was a small group of ladies. Julia shared her wonderful expertise with step-by-step instructions. They enjoyed snacks and painted a beautiful dandelion in a jar.





**March 10, 2026, St. Patrick’s Day Celebration**

The Thompson House was filled with RWTO ladies. Their laughter, smiles and songs took over the restaurant. All the Ladies were decked out in many different green accessories or outfits. “May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be always at your back.”



**Kingscoast Winery**



Keep May 19 open for an afternoon Wine Tour of Kingscoast Winery in Kingsville. More information will be shared soon.

**Shop Hop in Kingsville**

Spring styles to make you Smile!  
Come join us for our **Kingsville Shop Hop - late June**, date will be posted. A big Thank You to all the Social Committee.

**80+ Tea Party**

“Life is brew-tea-ful with a cup full of Tea”  
When: Monday June 8, 2026  
Where: Seasons Royal Oak LaSalle  
2400 Sandwich West Pkwy  
LaSalle, ON  
Time: 2:00 pm sharp – 4:00 pm  
Come and Enjoy the Fellowship, Food and Fun.

**Senior Striders**

Check our Facebook and Instagram page for dates and locations.



**Caring and Sharing**

Vicky Walker



In speaking with the charities we support, many of them have expressed how bare their shelves are due to the need during these difficult economic times. They

are **extremely** grateful for all the donations we provide. Please see the back Spring luncheon page for charity donation needs.

This spring we will be supporting Kids First Food Bank, Kingsville Food Bank, Leamington Salvation Army and our Share the Wealth recipient - St. Vincent de Paul- St. Alphonsus Conference (Sleepwalk).

## In Memoriam

“You were not just teachers but mentors, guiding us with patience and wisdom. Your legacies live on in each of the lives you touched.”



Sarah Della Whitehead  
1941 - February 20, 2026



Louise Boyde  
1941 - February 20, 2026



Joyce Dube  
1935 – January 2, 2026



Carmen Eaton  
1941 - December 7, 2025



Mildred Dmowski  
1927 - October 18, 2025



Deirdre Palamides  
1955 – October 24, 2025



Agnes Oliver  
1927 - Oct. 20th 2025

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

*It's Coming to the Spring Luncheon!*

*Use those long winter days  
to prepare your creations*

**NEW THIS YEAR:**



- ★ **ALL donations need to be given prior to the luncheon** so they can be organized for display. **Deadline MAY 1st**
- ★ We have created regional areas for your drop-off convenience.
- ★ Please contact one of the people below to donate your talents.

Windsor: Carole Kuli carolekuli3@gmail.com

Bridget Russo trussol7@cogeco.ca

LaSalle: Linda White lindaawhite@cogeco.ca

Amherstburg: Anna Campigotto campya23@me.com

Vicky Walker vzwalker1@gmail.com

Tecumseh: Patricia Wales onefortune6@gmail.com

MJ Asick maryjane.asick@gmail.com

Leamington/Kingsville: Val Luscott wluscott54@gmail.com

*Donations will be on display at the luncheon  
for your shopping pleasure!*

## Lunch and Laugh



Red Sail – Chinese Restaurant

# 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration





### **Tried & True Rice Pudding from Joan Burton (member since 1998)**

#### **Ingredients:**

1/2 cup raisins (*optional*)  
2 cups scalded milk (*2% or Homo your choice*)  
2 eggs, separated  
1/4 tsp salt  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 1/4 cups of cooked white rice  
1/8 tsp each nutmeg and cinnamon

#### **Directions:**

Once milk has been scalded, take off the stove, add raisins and let sit for 15 minutes.  
Beat yolks, sugar and salt until thickens to the consistency of thick pudding.  
In a heavy pot over low heat, put all ingredients together...  
milk mixture, yolk mixture, cooked rice and nutmeg/cinnamon. Cook until thick. (may take 10 minute)  
Constantly stirring to keep from sticking or scorching.  
Once thickened to your liking, remove from heat and beat the egg whites to stiff peaks.  
Fold in stiff whites while still warm.  
Will continue to thicken as it cools.

#### **Serving:**

Can serve pudding warm or cold.  
Serves 6  
Can top with whipped cream, slivered almonds, fresh strawberries, or blueberries.

**ENJOY**



## Spring Luncheon - Tuesday May 5th, 2026

**Venue: Windsor Yacht Club, 9000 Riverside Drive East, Windsor**

**Socializing: 10:45 to 11:30**

**Meeting Time: 11:30 to 12:15**

**Lunch Served: 12:15**

**Meeting continues after lunch.**

**Remember to wear your RWTO pin!**

**Menu: Served Buffet Style**

**Pasta with Tomato/Basil, Roast Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Chef's Choice of Vegetables, Salad, Rolls & Butter, Cheesecake, Coffee and Tea**

**Cash bar will be available.**

**\$40.00**

\*Please purchase tickets by: **Sunday April 26th 2026.** \* No refunds will be available after this date.

### Options for payment:

#### 1) e-Transfer

to: [rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com)

Please include your full name and "Spring Luncheon" in the transfer message

\*e-Transfers are auto deposit.

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

**RWTO Windsor-Essex  
c/o Karen Clark-Lauzon  
266 Ramblewood Dr.  
LaSalle, ON  
N9J 3B3**

### Support our Mission of Sharing and Caring

- Kids First Food Bank** – cereal, pancake mix, kid's snacks, Mr. Noodles, canned "cream of" soups, Kraft dinner
- Kingsville Food Bank** - peanut butter, rice, oatmeal
- Leamington Salvation Army** - baby formula, diapers, canned tuna, canned fruit & vegetables, men/women shaving supplies, dog & cat food
- Share the Wealth recipient - St. Vincent de Paul- St. Alphonsus Conference** This donation will be dedicated to Sleep Walk which purchases beds.

**A book exchange will be available.**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Luncheon? Y or N

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Luncheon? Y or N

Number of lunches @ \$40.00: \_\_\_\_\_

Newly Retired Member? Y or N