



# Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch

CARING & SHARING

Spring 2025

## President's Message

Gina Marcon



Happy Spring everyone. It seems like just yesterday I was extending Autumn greetings to all. What a winter it has been!

From the determination of our True North Strong and Free fellow Canadians to the resiliency of those in war torn countries across an ocean, we see history in the making.

We were all so pleased with the amazing turn out at our Winter Luncheon in December. How wonderful it was to enjoy each other's company and participate in the WIN-termint fun. Thanks to Linda White and team for organizing a great Winter tradition. Another wonderful RWTO tradition is our Sharing and Caring. Thanks to our volunteers: Marie Bailey, Marianne Angus, Pat Wales and our newest member Rachelle Leonard for delivering our generous collection to local charities.

Spending time with our ladies at Shop-Hop in Amherstburg, Paint night in Old Walkerville, and St. Patty's Day at the Thompson House is always the highlight of my week. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Yacht Club on May 7th. This Spring Luncheon will include our Board Elections. Please consider getting involved on the Executive and/or the Board. We will also remember and honour those members who have passed away.

### **Congratulations to our prize winners at the Winter Luncheon:**

Amica Prize Basket – Diana Forbes  
One Source Prize Basket – Janice Osley  
Share the Wealth -Viv Lacroix, Marie Bailey,  
Nancy Thomas  
Chartwell Prize Baskets – Elaine LeBlanc,  
Suzanne Defoy

## Treasurer's Report

Karen Clark Lauzon

Dues are now \$60/year.

Dues for 2025-26 can be paid any time after April 1, 2025. It is important that all members pay these dues by Oct. 30, 2025. Last year, our hard-working, volunteer Board members made numerous phone calls after this deadline to ask if members intended to continue their membership in RWTO/OERO. We understand that many important life events happen, and things are forgotten but we don't want you to miss out on all the 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.

Here is a fun way of remembering to pay. When we were working in education, the new year started in September. This also works for our organization as well.

## Goodwill Report

Val Luscott

This is an urgent plea to our members. The Goodwill Program is in need of help!

When surveyed, the Goodwill Program was found to be a valuable means of communication to the members of RTWO/OERO. Here in our local branch, we are asking for volunteers to assist carrying out some of the responsibilities of this committee. Please contact me for details at [vluscott54@gmail.com](mailto:vluscott54@gmail.com) or our president, Gina Marcon, at [rwto.oero.we@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.oero.we@gmail.com). If you can give even a few hours for one or two months we could use your help!

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”*

*Elizabeth Andrew*

## Sharing and Caring

Vicky Walker, First Vice President

You, our members, are always so generous in supporting our charities. This spring we are collecting for these charities.

**Leamington Salvation Army** is an international Christian organization that has grown to become one of the largest non-governmental direct providers of social services in the country. They offer practical assistance for children and families, often tending to the basic necessities of life, provide shelter for homeless people and rehabilitation for people who have lost control of their lives to an addiction.

**St. Vincent de Paul** - St. Alphonsus Conference support the poor in our area.

**Second Chance Ministry** is an outreach ministry to those in our community who are in immediate need of practical and/or spiritual assistance. Initiated by Mr. Michael J. Rovers, Second Chance Ministry aims to serve those who are poor, struggling or marginalized from society.

**Street Help Homeless Shelter** is a homeless drop-in centre operated by and for the homeless. The homeless are involved in planning and the operation of our centre. Through cooking, cleaning and offering support to their fellow homeless, our staff develop genuine skills and experience to apply to their resumes. Their programs prove self-help can lead to self-sufficiency.

## A Crafty Affair!



Coming to the spring luncheon! Last year we were blessed with many donations for our craft table. If you are crafty and a DIYer, we will be accepting donations of homemade items from you up until the day of the luncheon. Please contact Vicky Walker for donations or questions at 519-919-6384 or [vzwalker1@gmail.com](mailto:vzwalker1@gmail.com)

Unfortunately, we cannot accept any homemade food items such as jams, baked goods etc.

## Website Convenor

Kathy Gallagher



RWTO/OERO (Retired Teachers of Ontario) –

Please join us on Facebook!



## Insurance Convenor

Luana Zambito



**Manulife**

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)

RWTO Manulife representative is Terry Kennedy (519) 583-0098 [tkennedy34@bell.net](mailto:tkennedy34@bell.net)

## Membership Convenor

Carole Kuli



It is so exciting welcoming new women to our group. Having professionals

from various educational fields (EAs, CYWs, ECEs, Social Workers, Psychologists, Speech and Language Pathologists and Office Administrators) helps us broaden our perspectives and enrich our already fine team. We now have three non-teaching members in our organization. Please continue to reach out to the retired women in these areas as well as teachers and invite them to experience the fun and friendships we enjoy.

Our current enrollment with the Windsor/Essex Branch of RWTO is 10 Lifetime members, and 241 members. Giving us a total of 251 overall members. We also have 2 associate members. Among these numbers are our five new members: Hannelore Bostwick, Wendy Iatzko, Rachelle Leonard, Brenda Popovich and Lisa Tome. Welcome aboard ladies! Unfortunately, it is with sadness that we said a final farewell to four of our RWTO sisters.

In my last two years as Membership Convenor, I have noticed that many members do not request their receipt or membership card. Therefore, starting with the 2025-26 membership payment, receipts and membership cards will be available at our luncheons and upon request. If you do not attend the luncheons, you can email ([carole.kuli3@gmail.com](mailto:carole.kuli3@gmail.com)) or call (519-564-1479) me and I will send you your card and receipt by mail.

Letting me or another Board member know when your personal information has changed (phone number, address, email address etc.) would be greatly appreciated. This allows us to communicate much more effectively.

I always look forward to chatting with you at our various events.

## Social Convenor

Anna Campigotto

Our second annual Amherstburg **Shop Hop** was a fantastic event held on December 5, 2024. The day was spent with 24 lovely ladies visiting the many stores especially the great Christmas store. We finished the day with an enjoyable lunch at Artisan Grill. Goodies and prizes were donated by River Bookshop, Owls Nest, White Woods Home, Evelyn's Candy House and Richmond Popcorn Co. Hopefully you will join us again next year.

**Paint Night** with Julia Conlon was February 28 with 21 RWTO artists. Following Julia's step by step instructions these ladies made masterpieces of their Winter bird scenes. Snacks and a lovely tea were also served during our break. Thanks, Julia, for a wonderful night.

**“Sláinte” - Cheers in Irish.** On March 4, 48 RWTO ladies became Irish for the afternoon. The Luck of the Irish was with us as we listened to Irish music, ate great food, played games and shared a drink or 2 with friends. Thanks to Thompson House for the great hospitality and our committee members for caring and sharing.

### Upcoming Events

#### **80+ Tea**

When: Monday June 9, 2025

Where: Seasons Royal Oak LaSalle

Time: 2:00 pm -4:00 pm

Invitations coming soon, hope to see you there.

#### **ABBA Revisited**

Recreates the magic of the iconic Swedish Pop group with authentic costumes and spectacular harmonies, taking you on a musical journey back in time.

**When:** Friday September 27th, 2025

**Where:** Chrysler Theatre, Windsor ON.

**Price:** \$62.95 (20 tickets on hold0

**R.S.V.P** by **April 11** to Anna Campigotto 519-978-0652 or email [campya23@me.com](mailto:campya23@me.com)

## 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.



Dorothy Peacock  
1933 – December 29, 2024



Irma Ann Janzen  
1933 – January 1, 2025



Sheila Wright  
1939 – February 16, 2025



Dorothy Rapaich  
1941 - February 20, 2025

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 children's book will be placed in the local public library in the memory of each of these dedicated women.

## Issues and Concerns

Janice Murphy

Below is some current information to assist you on your journey to age well, engage in your community, and to socialize with your friends.

I recently read an article in the LaSalle Post written by Matt Wintergarden. I would like to acknowledge the LaSalle Post and Matt Wintergarden for their article to fight social isolation for seniors. LaSalle has been designated for a Senior Active Living Centre (SALC). LaSalle will be joining 99 other new Senior Active Living Centre programs opening in Ontario this year.

Some of the LaSalle SALC learning opportunities available to senior and older adults listed in Matt's article are financial management, elder abuse prevention, a variety of recreational and social activities, including life fitness, healthy lifestyle and wellness classes. The funding they will receive will assist in keeping most activities at little to no cost.

Currently there are two locations that offer programming - Town Hall and The Vollmer Complex. With the new Event Centre on Front Road, a third location to offer programming will also be available. Programs in LaSalle are expected to start in April.

While this article is specifically about the LaSalle opening you might want to give some thought about reaching out to the councillors in the area in which you reside to see if you have access to a Senior Active Living Centre.



## Recipe Corner

A recipe will be added to the newsletter if space permits.

### **Traditional Bean Salad** from Gina's Cucina



It is basically the traditional Italian salad that I made better with some changes.

#### **Here's what you'll need:**

- ~ two cans of Unico or Primo Italian medley of canned beans
- ~ small cubed red pepper (or yellow or orange, not green)
- ~ small chopped small green onions (use bulb and green stalk)
- ~ small cubed fennel (inside white part, not stalk)
- ~ small cubed radishes
- ~ chopped Italian parsley (broad leaf, not curly)

#### **Dressing:**

- ~ 4 tablespoons of good extra virgin olive oil
- ~ 2 tablespoons of good balsamic vinegar
- ~ 1 tablespoon of good Dijon mustard
- ~ 4 whole garlic cloves (from California not China). I like to keep them whole so as to get the flavour but not actually ingest the garlic.
- ~ lots of sea salt, pepper, little flakes of dried oregano
- ~ blend together with fork

#### **Preparation:**

- ~ start 3 days before
- ~ soak beans in cold, tap water in a glass container in the fridge for two days changing the water every 12 hours. This releases the gas enzymes that cause flatulence. No toots for you.
- ~ on the third day rinse in a colander under cold running tap water for a couple of minutes then drain in colander and let sit to dry
- ~ while beans sit for an hour drying, combine the dressing ingredients
- ~ combine beans and chopped veggies, parsley and now the dressing
- ~ sit in fridge until ready to serve
- ~ if you serve it 3 hours later it will be ready and good.
- ~ if you serve it 5 hours later it will be great

~ if you serve it the next day it is the best (see side notes)

#### **Side notes:**

- ~ for a larger amount of people add more cans of beans (of course then you have to add more of the other ingredients too)
- ~ try to chop and cube everything the same size
- ~ add more dressing as needed, salad should be wet with dressing. If adding, be sure to keep the ratio the same.
- ~ *when it sits in the fridge after being dressed, the oil will harden.*
- ~ *Take it out an hour before serving to let the oil return to liquid form again.*

## **Enjoy**



## **Convention News**

RWTO/OERO will be sending five delegates to the 2025 Convention. This year's convention will be held in Brantford.

Your delegates this year are Gina, Vicky, Carole, Karen and Mary Jane. They will be sharing information about the resolutions at the luncheon.



# Spring Luncheon – Wednesday May 7, 2025



Venue: Windsor Yacht Club, 9000 Riverside Drive East, Windsor, N8S 1C5

**Proudly wear Red and White!!**

**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 Family Style**

**Penne Pomodoro, Roast Chicken, Yukon Gold Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Mixed Greens, Rolls & Butter, Cheesecake, Coffee & Tea**

**Cost \$40.00**

\* Please purchase tickets by: **Monday, April 28, 2025** \* 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 “Fall Luncheon” in the transfer message area.

\*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

1. Leamington Salvation Army – Peanut Butter, Rice, Dry Pasta, Canned Fruit, Instant Coffee
2. St Vincent de Paul – Peanut Butter, Jam, Cereal, Canned Meat
3. Second Chance Ministry – Shampoo, Soap Bars, Toothpaste, Deodorant
4. Street Help Homeless Shelter – Share the Wealth Recipient

**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