



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch

CARING & SHARING

Winter 2025

President's Message

Gina Marcon

A Swedish proverb states: *"Friendship doubles your joy and divides your sorrow."*

Many Thanks!



As retired women, we know how the friendships we made on staff at our schools guided us and supported us through good times and frustrating times. Our friends got us through high school and

University. Our friends may dwindle with age and one's core group may get smaller and smaller, but our connections in RWTO are there for us. From the luncheons to the social events to the Senior Striders to Forget Me Nots, and to KIT... we got you. *Life moves fast, but friendship holds us steady.*

What an amazing Autumn it has been. So many events. So many thank-you messages to send. Our Fall Luncheon at St. Mary's Hall was another great afternoon. Many thanks to the team that assists 1st VP Vicky Walker at the donation table: Wanda L., Sandi S., Luciana M., Nancy V., and Bridget R. Mille Grazie to Rita P. who assists our treasurer Karen Clark-Lauzon. Merci Beaucoup to Wendy H. who assists Membership Convenor Carole Kuli. Always grateful to our Share the Wealth ticket sellers: Maureen J. and Laura B-G. They are the ones who first grab your attention as you walk in the door.

RWTO charity donations would not be so successful without the incredible generous spirit of our members who bring so many needed supplies and to the generosity of our delivery people: Lowanna C., Marianne A., and Luana Z.

Congratulations to our prize winners. We are so lucky to have fantastic corporate sponsors like ONE SOURCE and AMICA to support our members.

AMICA basket – Diane Milner

ONE SOURCE planter – Val Luscot

Kathy Gallagher donated basket – Katherine Worotny

Free Membership Raffle – Margaret Armstrong

Share the Wealth – Arlene Veitch, Audrey Stanley, Carol Petryshyn

Free Winter Luncheon ticket – Audrey Stanley

Early Bird Dues (\$25 gift card) – Barbara Harrick

A big thanks goes to Area 3 Director Mary Maxwell for making a special trip to our Branch to join us at our luncheon. The following day, Luana Z. (Insurance Convenor) and I made the trip up to London to attend the AREA 3 meeting along with the: London, Sarnia, Chatham, and St. Thomas Branches. It is a wonderful opportunity to hear about the great events happening in other branches and to share our ideas too.

Finally, thanks to the many participants who came out to the **1ST ANNUAL SENIOR EXPO** at Signature Events Centre. Hearing from the vendors and the organizations there; they were very impressed with our ladies, their curiosity, their enthusiasm and their energy. The door prizes were incredible, and a lovely snack area was provided. Hope to see you all next year.

"Friends are like stars, you don't always see them, but you know they're always there."

Treasurer's Report

Karen Clark-Lauzon

Thanks to everyone who renewed their membership! An organization is only as strong as its members, and you have all shown how important membership in RWTO/OERO means to you. Your dues help our Branch to plan activities and support our members for the upcoming year. Belonging to an organization of professionals keeps our sisterhood connected. Paying dues on time also determines the number of delegates we can send to the annual AGM (in London this year), so that your voices are heard within the Provincial organization.

The deadline to pay dues was October 31st. However, if you still wish to pay, there is a small window of time to do so. Please call me to arrange for this -- (519) 978-2834.

As I mentioned at previous luncheons, I will be "retiring" from the Treasurer position effective June 2027. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Local and Provincial Boards. The opportunities I have experienced have been unique and awe-inspiring. Lessons learned for life. I will be especially grateful to three of our members who encouraged and supported me along the way – Karen Smith, Linda White and Diane Rice. It is amazing how we, as women, support each other in our endeavors. However, after 15 years, it is time for me to give back and offer my support and encouragement to others.

We all have skills that can be beneficial to others. I encourage you to share those skills on our committees. There is always room for more team members. I will be speaking with some of you personally to tap into your computer and financial skills. I would like to mentor someone to make the transition easier for your new treasurer.



Goodwill Convenor

Val Luscott



I have continued sending sympathy, get well, and thinking of you cards. Mail strikes are frustrating so at times I have either phoned or sent emails.

We now have nine volunteers in our Forget-me not group. Each volunteer looks after a member with a visit, phone call or whatever is needed. This program is appreciated and often results in a friendship. At present we have nine Life members. One of the criteria for a member is she is no longer able to look after her own financial affairs. This year we have celebrated four of our members who have had their ninetieth birthday. We in our Windsor Essex branch have a tradition that we honour these members at our lunches. If the member is unable to attend we visit them with gifts.

Caring and Sharing

Vicky Walker, First Vice President

This Christmas luncheon we will be supporting these 4 charities. Please see the luncheon info page for specific charity needs. Thank you for all your help!

Essex Food Bank - supports the work of its members to provide and distribute emergency food. The aim is to achieve an immediate response to hunger by securing and distributing nutritional food and supporting long term solutions to food security.

Hiatus House - provides crisis telephone support and emergency shelter for women and their families in the Windsor area who are fleeing violence and abuse.

House of Sophrosyne - provides programs and services to women and their families who are battling substance misuse.

IRIS House - provides safe and secure supportive housing and services for persons with persistent serious mental illness.

Membership Convenor

Carole Kuli

It never ceases to amaze me how giving and active our membership is. From attending the luncheons with their overwhelming generosity, to attending Abba and the Senior Expo, to giving their time to call to sending cards or being a supportive friend to the ladies of our sisterhood. Bravo Ladies!

What is also beautiful to see and experience, is our membership expanding. Welcome to our new members, Monique Aversa, Lina Brunone, Deb Crep, Kathleen Fioret, Manuela Lucchese, and Kelly Riley. We are thrilled to have you aboard! Our membership sits at 256 members, 10 of which are Lifetime members. Sadly, we said goodbye to two of our members Judith Van Wijngaarden and Brenda Irving who were both very involved and supportive of RWTO/OERO.

Congratulations to Margaret Armstrong who won a free membership at our Fall Luncheon and to Barbara Harrick who won the Early Bird Draw gift certificate.

Ladies, we still have several outstanding membership dues owing. If you have not yet paid, please e-transfer Karen as soon as possible. If you have not paid and if you normally write a cheque, please contact me and I will arrange to have it picked up. (Carole Kuli, 519-564-1479)

Looking forward to chatting with you at the Christmas luncheon.



Insurance Convenor

Luana Zambito



Our President, Gina Marcon and I had the pleasure of attending the Area 3 President's meeting recently. We were pleased to have an informative presentation by our Provincial Insurance Convenor Terry Kennedy. She highlighted many important details, stressing that she is always readily available for our members. She addressed many questions asked by our members, but the question asked the most was how to coordinate benefits. It is important to note that if you are coordinating benefits under another plan, the Prior Authorization Form is not required, as the other insurer pays first before the Hospital and Home Care Plan. Manulife assumes that the other insurer (be that RTO through Johnson's, OTIP, or a spousal plan) has approved your nursing care and has adjudicated your claim accordingly. You simply submit a copy of your claim summary page (which shows the amount submitted and paid by the other insurer) along with your claim to the RWTO Hospital and Home Care Plan.

DID YOU KNOW...

Members can easily access all insurance matters on the RWTO/OERO website. Here you can browse brochures, claim forms, Prior Authorization Forms and view an interesting PowerPoint presentation. <https://rwto.org/membership/insurance-plan>

Please check our Facebook page as well as our next luncheon for a step-by-step process to submit a claim to Manulife On-Line. If at any time you have questions, please contact me at: lzambito68@gmail.com

Our RWTO/OERO Manulife representative is:
Terry Kennedy (519) 583-0098
tkennedy34@bell.net



Issues and Concerns

Janice Murphy

WE SERVE SENIORS invited our RWTO/OERO members to their Free Seniors Expo earlier this week. I hope many of you attended, as it was a wonderful and informative experience. The representatives were welcoming, and shared information about what we were interested in talking about. Some areas covered were for support available to people staying in their homes or in retirement living. There were prepared handouts and pamphlets to take home. These resources provided contact numbers and names in case you'd like to discuss or meet for more information. Some of the topics represented were Health and Wellness, Retirement Living, Financial Wellness, and Safety. There were a few topics that seemed to be more relevant to me recently. They were - ONE SOURCE Moving Solutions designed for Seniors, Porch Light (home assessments and services), and Delivered Prepared Meals. I left the activities that morning with my own personal view that the WE SERVE SENIORS representatives were there to inform and assist in making life's transitions, concerning aging well, a priority. My time at this function reaffirmed life lessons learned, and that preparing ahead of time might ease those changes that will present themselves. Each organization had draws for door prizes. There were refreshments and goodies available throughout the morning activities.



In Memory

A good teacher is like a candle – it consumes itself to light the way for others.



Judith Van Wijngaarden
1944 – September 7, 2025



Brenda Irving
April 1944 – October 12, 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.



WIN-termint

Luanna Zambito



Join us at our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Ciociaro Club for a fun, festive shopping spree.

At our 3rd. annual “WIN-termint” you can browse through the wide array of items,

make your selections and drop your numbered “chips” in the attached gift bags. Chips can be purchased at the entrance when you arrive for the luncheon.

Enjoy some early shopping for yourself and those special people in your life. For more information please reach out to Luana Zambito at

lzambito68@gmail.com.

Your chips also offer you a chance to win a Bonus draw gift.

6 Chips for \$5.00 *CASH ONLY*****

Social Committee Convenor

Anna Campigotto



“Dancing Queens” of RWTO had an amazing, fun filled night at the Chrysler Theatre Saturday, September 27. The evening started with some

having a great dinner at The Loose Goose and then on to the fabulous ABBA Revisited. An energetic and entertaining group performed to name a few, “Mamma Mia”, “Super Trouper”, and the best was saved for last “Dancing Queen”. So exciting for the fans that were invited on stage to dance and sing along with the band. “Thank You for the Music” ABBA!



70th Anniversary Pin - We will have 70th Pins (with magnetic backing) available for sale at the Dec. 2nd luncheon for \$5.00 each for our members.

Upcoming Events November

Wednesday, Nov. 5 - 12:00 Gather for a wonderful fall lunch at Swiss Chalet - 500 Manning Rd.

Tecumseh, For more information contact: **Luana Zambito** lzambito68@gmail.com

Senior Striders- Thanks to Kathy Gallagher for organizing. Next month’s meeting is November 12, weather permitting. Change of venue for the winter possibly the Volmer Centre in December.

Wednesday, Nov. 26 - Shop Hop - Come Shop until you drop and join us for our 3rd annual **Shop Hop**. Visit the lovely shops in the quaint town of Amherstburg and join us for lunch at the fabulous Artisan Grill.

Meet at 9:30 at Caffeine and CO. 238 Dalhousie St. Amherstburg.

February

Paint Night with Julia Conlon – date and theme to be announced

March

St. Patrick’s Day Lunch - date and place to be announced

Donations- Tea cups for 80+ Tea would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in any of these events please contact – Anna Campigotto - campya23@me.com 519-978-0652

Save the Date –

RWTO/OERO 70th Anniversary



“AN AFTERNOON IN ATHENS!”

\$40.00 – cash bar available.

Come celebrate with us:
Wednesday, March 4, 2026

BEACH GROVE GOLF CLUB 11:00 TO 3:30
Tickets will be sold beginning in January 2026.

Delectable food, dapper friends, delightful décor, dazzling music and dancing - OPA!



Ciociaro Club –

3745 N Talbot Rd, Oldcastle, ON N0R 1L0

Family Style Service – Rolls and butter, penne with meat sauce, salad, golden roasted rosemary chicken, green beans and baby carrots. Ice cream with berry sauce, coffee & tea.

Cost \$40.00

Social Hour: 10:45 am to 11:45 AM. Lunch served at 12:15

Please purchase tickets by: Saturday November 22. * No refunds will be available after this date.

Options for payment:

1) e-Transfer to: rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com

- Please include your full name and “Winter 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. **Essex Food Bank** - jam, canned meals, pudding & fruit cups, juice boxes, salad dressing, cereal, instant rice/noodles, peanut butter
2. **Hiatus House** - size 4 diapers, hairbrushes, water bottles, loofahs
3. **House of Sophrosyne** - WHITE, Standard size pillowcases & pillow covers, hats, gloves, underwear, magazines- new & gently used
4. **IRIS House** - Share the Wealth

A book exchange will be available.

Member Name: _____ First Luncheon? Y or N

Guest Name: _____ First Luncheon? Y or N

Newly Retired Teacher? Y or N

Number of lunches @ \$40.00: _____