



Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch

CARING & SHARING

SPRING 2023

President's Message



**Patricia Wales
President**

Possibilities begin in the Spring. Looking out the window, we can see bits of green pushing out of the dirt with promises of daffodils, heralding the coming of Spring.

Gathering possibilities have been arranged by your hard-working Board so that we can continue to connect and enjoy our sisterhood. New possibilities for connection among our sisterhood are covered in this Newsletter. Your suggestions are always welcome!

Possibilities exist for you to help serve in our Branch. There are small and somewhat larger positions requiring your help. Many of us juggle family and personal responsibilities. What I know is that many of you love to attend our activities. I have had such fun

conversations as we have participated in Legends of Motown, St. Patrick's lunch, Book Chats and Board meetings.

My membership has put me in your path and you are a recognized RWTO friend. Please consider giving us a hand. Many on your Board are doing double duty and welcome your contributions. A job shared is a job halved. At this time, we would value your service as **Second Vice-President or Membership Convenor or Newsletter Convenor.**

These positions have defined duties in the Branch Guidelines. I'd love to talk with you about your interest in one of these. Computer skills are an asset.

Possibilities are growing as RWTO Provincial looks to expand our membership to other female education workers. This will be discussed and voted on during the AGM in Kingston, June 6-8 th where you will be represented by five delegates. Our delegates are Karen Clark-Lauzon, Gina Marcon, Janice Murphy, Diane Fotopoulos and myself. Please make your thoughts known to us.

Read over the 20 resolutions posted on rwto.org. Resolutions were printed in the March issue of *Connections*. (The website includes Resolution 15 which was omitted in *Connections*). This is a historic change to our organization.

Details of our Spring Luncheon (at a new location) appear in this Newsletter. Our Area Director, Lynn Sulman, plans to be in attendance. Attendees will be able to speak with Lynn to express their opinions on the expansion of RWTO membership. Take time to also voice your opinion to your Delegates at the luncheon.

Over the years, many of you raved about the turkey dinner and homemade pies served at our Fall Luncheon at St. John the Evangelist Hall, Woodslee. Sadly, Edna Chevalier, the hall manager for over 45 years, passed away in March. Condolences to her family have been sent on your behalf.

We are showered with so many possibilities as we enter this new season and so many opportunities to help each other.



"Where flowers
bloom so does
hope..."
Lady Bird Johnson

Let's Do Coffee



Celebrate the return of "Let's Do Coffee," a once monthly Zoom meeting connecting **RWTO members across the province.**

Share ideas and socialize from the comfort of your own home. Hosted from 10 - 11 a.m. the last Thursday of every month from Sept. through June.

To register for the Zoom link

contact: Hope Leon at

hopesleon01@gmail.com

Type "Let's Do Coffee" & your Branch name in the "subject" area of your email

RWTO Paint Night



An evening of watercolour painting with local artist **Julia Conlon.**

Friday, April 28, 2023

6-9 p.m.

\$40 a person

Limited spots are available.

Location: Julia's Walkerville Studio,
423 Kildare Rd, Windsor, ON N8Y 3G5
No painting experience is required.

Contact: Anna Campigotto for details:

campya23@me.com

(519) 978-0652

Spring Featured Member

Shirley Dicker



Shirley was a mother of two, a grandmother to two and a great-grandmother to two.

She was a long-time Goodwill Coordinator

and supporter of women for the Essex County Women Teachers' Association where she fought for the rights of women teachers through her involvement with the FWTAO and the ECWTA.

Her goodwill and support of women continued when she became a member of R.W.T.O. once she retired. Since 1995, she exhibited "*Caring and Sharing*" to our members by sending out an average of 450 cards annually. When first taking on this position she did gift deliveries and visited members regularly.

Shirley came by her position as Goodwill Convenor naturally as she helped care for her brothers and often accompanied her father on visits to the elderly, shut-in friends, family and church members. Her compassion and support of others began early in her life.

She was also known for her incredible memory and could share her knowledge of so many people, places and things.

As a Branch, we were proud that Shirley was featured as our first winner of the Cora Bailey Award. She will be missed and her legacy of goodwill will be remembered.

Spring Luncheon Donations

Donations at our Spring Luncheon will benefit the charities below.



Drouillard Place will receive a cash donation from our Share the Wealth.

Divine Mercy will receive donations of toiletries, specifically looking for toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, tampons, bars of soap, and individual Kleenex packages.

Welcome Center will receive food donations for their family support packages. Looking specifically for canned Tuna/Chicken, side dishes (Side Kicks/Uncle Bens, etc), pasta noodles, pasta sauce, kid's snacks, peanut butter, jam, condiments, and cooking oil.

Windsor Youth Centre will receive food donations, specifically in need of canned foods (fruit, apple sauce, baby food, pudding), cookies, Kraft dinner, and granola bars. Also requesting donations of diapers larger than size 4 as they offer parenting support to those in need with small children.

Connections have been made with all our charities. All information (phone numbers, contact people, times, delivery instructions) has been updated and will be prepared for those who volunteer at the Luncheon to deliver.

Our charities are very appreciative and happy to be on our list.

Gina Marcon, First Vice President

Long-Term Care

During the Covid Pandemic throughout our country and the world, one thing that became very evident to families was the inadequate care of our elders situated in Long Term Care Homes. We, as members of the Retired Women Teachers Organization (RWTO/OERO) have been involved personally or know someone who has suffered through this unfortunate time in these facilities.

“Central Algoma Branch has expressed their concern that the Provincial Board support and lobby the Provincial Government “that long-term care homes be removed from profit-driven private

ownership and be administered by non-profit bodies whose mission is to maximize the physical and mental health as well as safety of their clients.” At our Board of Directors Meeting in January this was discussed at length. We feel strongly about this situation but as this Resolution is political in nature, we cannot take a stand Provincially. Our Parliamentarian ruled that the Board cannot move forward with the Resolution, but the Board of Directors is prepared to take the following actions on the Long-Term Care concern.

1) The 2023 Convention Committee will have a workshop on Long Term Care at the Kingston Convention in June.

2) Going forward we are considering a Provincial Ad Hoc Committee in 2023-2024 to examine the political lobbying issue, to explore legalities for the organization and to obtain adequate information. Consider the term “social justice” rather than “political.”

3) Individual members in their respective communities are invited to send messages of concern to their local MP, MPP and the Ministry of Health.

4) When I visited the Wiarton Branch they had a guest speaker from HCSS- Home and Community Support Services.

It was excellent and they had great strategies to help and support seniors continuing to live in their own homes. I would recommend contacting them for support in your respective communities. We strongly agree that many of our

members have been affected significantly whether as individuals or family members. It has an impact on the physical, emotional, mental, financial and safety aspects of our members. As we look to the future, may we each take the time to reach out and express our concerns.

Judy Drummond, Provincial President
RWTO/OERO 2022-2023



Spring: a lovely reminder of
how beautiful change
can truly be

Membership Matters

Presently, we have 244 Members, 13 Life Members and 8 Associate Members in our Branch.

Belonging to the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch has enabled many of our members to make lifelong friends. Please consider inviting one of your friends, from your teaching days to one of our luncheons. Making new friendships and fostering previous friendships are an important part of an

enjoyable retirement. RWTO has provided its members with many interesting activities to participate in. Luncheons are not our only gatherings. Many members have enjoyed day trips and overnight trips, organized by our Social Committee. There are often impromptu activities, for example, gatherings for St. Patrick's Day, breakfasts, walks, etc. Take a moment to read over the activities featured in our newsletters and group emails.

Please let us know if there are any changes to your information, for example, address, phone number, emails, etc. You can contact Karen Clark-Lauzon at clarklauzon@gmail.com and let us know about any changes so our records will be accurate.

Keeping in touch with our members is very important to all of us.

Arlene Veitch, Membership Convenor

Provincial Member Survey

All Members who joined R.W.T.O. between 2016-2022 will receive a short survey from Provincial R.W.T.O. by email.

Your information will help the Marketing Committee determine some key facts about our newest Members.

Please help out Provincial when you receive your survey.

Goodwill Report

Your Goodwill committee continues to live our motto of “Caring & Sharing. Phone calls are made, cards are sent and visits abound.

We offer a special Memorial Service made available to the families of deceased members.

Members representing our sisterhood participate in a prepared program.

Would you be interested in being a called-upon member to participate?



We have a “Forget- Me- Nots” team of ladies who visit some of our members. We do our best to arrange partners by proximity (same postal code).

The visits are arranged entirely by the individuals – your choice of day, time and regularity. Would you consider volunteering for this “mutual benefit” program?

Our committee is certainly in need of more volunteers – please consider being a part of our team - donating cards, writing and sending cards, visiting a member, connecting with a member by phone or email, and/or participating in a Memorial service.

New volunteers and ideas are most welcome.

Val Luscott, Goodwill Convenor

Insurance Benefits



To the new members still in your first year, I remind you that your acceptance in The Manulife Home and Health Care Plan is guaranteed during the first year of your retirement, from the date of your retirement.

That time will soon be here so please consider the many benefits of enrolling in this popular plan.

If you have been retired for a while but are enjoying good health, you'll likely be approved. Why wait until your health suffers? Take advantage of this special coverage now.

Marilyn Harvey, Insurance Convenor

Pop Tabs For Easter Seals



Windsor-Essex member Gail Raymond will be at the Spring Luncheon on May 2nd and is willing to collect

any pop tabs members would like to donate to Easter Seals.

Social Events

We have been busy planning new activities as well as enjoying previous activities. On February 25, 27 ladies enjoyed the entertaining **Legends of Motown**. See photos on page 9.

We have a number of events you should consider attending in the next few months, which are guaranteed to interest our members.

Save The Dates

- April 28 - Paint Night with Julia Conlon - *see the yellow box on page 2*
- June 12 - Annual 80+ Tea - Seasons Royal Oak Village - LaSalle
- July date to be announced - Little Shop of Horrors KordaZone Theatre, Windsor
- Date to be announced: Meet-Alma Hogan - author of a new children's book "*Be the Best Bee You Can Be*" co-written with her husband John Hogan and it is illustrated by their grandchildren.
- August Detroit River Boat Cruise If interested. Contact: Anna Campigotto, Email - campya23@me.com
Phone- 519-978-0652

Anna Campigotto, Social Convenor

Music in Our Lives



March was Music Therapy Month.

Plato wrote, "Music to the mind is as air to the body." Music is a universal language that helps us to feel, remember, share, relax and physically move. We carry music with us in our hearts, heads and our bodies. We can hum to ourselves, sing out loud, dance, play an instrument or just relax listening to our favourite tunes. Music is readily available and often plays in the background of our shopping excursions and activities.

Many studies suggest that music therapy may assist in lowering stress and anxiety levels and provide sleep quality. Music can soothe the mind, boost mood and provide essential stimulation for the body thus improving your health and well-being. You may find the following website of interest for topics concerning healthy aging:
mcmasteroptimalaging.org

Janice Murphy
Issues and Concerns Convenor

In Memoriam

“Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre, and future of an individual. If people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honour for me. A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.”
Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam



Ruth Hicks
1936 - December 3, 2022



Shirley Dicker
1936 - December 26, 2022



Donna Roemmele
1931 – January 13, 2023



Claire Stepp
1949 – March 12, 2023

Our members have donated a children's book to a local public library
in honour of each of these women.



Legends of Motown

February 25,
2023



St. Patrick's Day
Lunch - March 2023





SPRING LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

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

Lunch Served: 12:00 p.m.

Location: St. Nicholas Macedonian
Orthodox Church

5225 Howard Ave,
LaSalle, ON N9H 0J2

Cost: \$35.00

Buffet Style Menu

Chicken, Potato, Pasta, Vegetable and Salad,
Dessert and Coffee Station

*Cash Bar will be available.
**Remember to wear your RWTO
membership Pin!**

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET BY ***Tuesday, April 25, 2023.*** Sorry, no refunds after the deadline.

Options for Payment:

1. **e-Transfer to:** rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com - auto deposit
Include your full name and "Spring Luncheon" in the transfer message area.

2. **Mail or porch drop your cheque**, along with the form below, **made payable to:**
RWTO Windsor-Essex, (please no posted dated cheques)
RWTO c/o Karen Clark-Lauzon
266 Ramblewood Dr.
LaSalle, ON N9J 3B3

Support Our Mission of *Caring and Sharing*

1. **Welcome Center** - food donations
2. **Divine Mercy** - donations of toiletries
3. **Drouillard Place** - cash donation from our Share the Wealth Draw
4. **Windsor Youth Center** - food donations

We collect used eyeglasses. 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

of lunches @\$35.00 = _____