



# Retired Women Teachers of Mississauga



**SPRING 2023**

## President's Message:

Hello Fellow Members,

The six months since our last newsletter have passed by quickly. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, we held our branch's Annual General Meeting. As well as the executive, we had several other members in attendance. It was a productive session complete with good questions, suggestions, and discussion.

Filling the empty spaces on our executive is always a priority and we are happy to have filled a couple of spots. We welcome Mary Jane Vowles as Co-convenor of Trips and Tours, and welcome back Linda Kenny as Vice President and Standing Delegate. Linda will also continue in her role as Archivist. The executive will be inducted at the May luncheon.

If you look at the list of Executive members, you will see that many of us are doing more than one job. We could still use your help. Other branches across the province have disbanded or amalgamated because they could not get enough volunteers to run their executive. Please don't let that happen in Mississauga!

At our luncheon in September, we held a beautiful 'In Memoriam Celebration' for the eighteen members who had passed away during the period of June 2019 to August 2023. Patricia O'Connor led the celebration with thoughtful music, lovely poems, and sentiments of remembrance. At our May luncheon, we will remember the 6 members who have passed away since then. I do encourage you to attend.

The May luncheon is also a happy one where we celebrate the Golden Girls in our branch. They are the lovely ladies who are at least 80 years young. If you are a member who has achieved that milestone, or if you know of one, please inform Anne Dowling. Each Golden Girl in attendance will receive a special token of our respect and best wishes.

We are busy planning events for the 2023-24 year. Along with ideas for interest groups, trips and tours, we are always looking for affordable and appropriate locales for our lunch meetings. If you have any good ideas, please share. When we have dates and events confirmed, the website will be updated.

Yours in Caring and Sharing,

Marie Solarski

President





## RWTO Mississauga: **The Lighter Side**

On Wednesday, December 14th, 2022, many of our members gathered at Oasis Convention Centre for our Christmas luncheon. Guests brought new toys and food donations for the Salvation Army, as well as used eyeglasses and pop can tabs. They were able to vie for 39 gift baskets, take their chance with a 50-50 draw and were delighted by The Notables Streetsville Choir. The event was magical and memorable, thanks to our very hardworking committee.





**Do you belong to a RWTO group? Would you like to let the newsletter know what your members have been doing? Do you have some photos to contribute?**

**Send all this and more to [The Lighter Side](#).**

**Email: [c.riddell@rogers.com](mailto:c.riddell@rogers.com)**

#### **Book Club #11:**

This club convenes the first Tuesday of the month, all year long. Joanne J. tells us that they had met primarily on Zoom by using two 30-minute sessions. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, the members met in person for the first time in two years. It was so nice to not have to speak to friends through the use of a computer! Two recently read books have been loved by most of the nine members: **Five Little Indians** and **Looking For Jane**. These elicited much discussion. Going forward, the group's leader will choose a meeting's location.

#### **Letter Writing Campaign:**

According to Margaret G., the Letter Writing Campaign hit a bit of a snag. Both local school boards did not respond to participation requests. Further, teachers in the Peel District School Board were expressly prevented from engaging in any Valentine's Day activities due to its links to Christianity and diversity. Hopefully, the letter writing campaign can be more successful in future.



#### **Euchre Group #6:**

Linda M. tells **The Lighter Side** that her Euchre group has been very active. They've occasionally played online using Trickster, but mainly they've gathered at members' homes. They've played all iterations of the game including 6, 5, 4 and 3-person. During the winter with poor weather, they played online, and included a Zoom social session prior to playing, when Trickster didn't offer a visual component for the larger groups. The ladies gather first to socialize and enjoy the tantalizing sharables offered by the host, and then play ensues. They eagerly look forward to their bi-monthly gatherings!



#### **Knitting Group 2:**

Tuesday afternoons, bags of yarn, knitting needles, patterns, pots of tea and platters of treats; that's how the women of the RWTO Knitting Interest Group enjoy our monthly meetings. By taking turns hosting each other in our homes, they have bonded over challenging patterns, group projects and a shared interest in a beloved craft. Although their skill levels are varied, they still help and inspire each other with new ideas and fresh designs.

Julie M. tells us that they have enjoyed group trips to Mary Maxim and Len's Mill Store to source new yarns and needles, and afterwards, follow it up with a restaurant lunch. Their shared interest has led to close friendships and treasured sources of support; every month they look forward to enriching these relationships while enjoying a pleasant afternoon. How lucky are they!

### Book Club #2:

Shelley D. tells us that her book club meets monthly at a member's home, or at a restaurant. Currently, they are reading **Pretty Little Wife** by Darby Kane. It is a twisty domestic suspense novel and is the author's debut work. The group tells us that the best novel they've likely read since last Fall was, **All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr.

New members will enjoy this delightful and welcoming club!

Contact Patti Lawrence.

### Membership Update:

**306 Members**



### Calling all Book Lovers!

RWTO has several book clubs. They usually meet once a month at someone's home, or on Zoom. It's a great way to meet other members, laugh, connect and enjoy books. There is room for more members! If interested, contact Patti Lawrence: [pattijlawrence@gmail.com](mailto:pattijlawrence@gmail.com)

### Gardening Group #1:

This gardening group is planning a tulip tour, a visit to a lilac farm, and can't wait to see the 80 Japanese cherry blossom trees in Kariya Park. The pink pops of colour mark the beginning of spring. The cherry blossoms trees need a minimum of 15° Celsius for 7-10 days to fully bloom and can last for up to two weeks. This park has a lovely, serene setting. Very soon, the group members will also be shopping for perennials at a nursery.

It's about that time of year when our **RWTO Membership fees** will be due. We are continuing with in-person activities and are hoping to have some exciting entertainment for you to enjoy. Given the uncertainty of hospitality costs, we have decided to maintain our fees at \$60.00. Please send your payment before:

**August 1st**

You may pay your fees by E-transfer to:  
[rwtotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rwtotreasurer@gmail.com)

or by cheque, payable to:  
RWTO – Mississauga Branch  
and mailed to Margo Bennett,  
3159 Patrick Crescent,  
Mississauga, ON  
L5N 3G4



*Just a friendly reminder...*

### Craft Club #3:

Shelley D. tells **The Lighter Side** that her craft club has met monthly since September. The host decides upon the craft, collects the materials, and prepares some snacks and beverages. The host is also reimbursed for the cost of the materials. In December, the group met at Linda M.'s house. They painted books all white, enscribed festive wordings and tied them with decorative ribbons.

In January, members met at Shelley D.'s house to create winter snowmen made from socks filled with rice. A great time was had by Barb, Jeanette, Jenny, Marilyn, and Vicki. By the looks on the members' faces, they were having an enjoyable time!

In March, the group painted magnets. Leader Jeanette F. shared a great photo of their creative works depicting the seasons! Anyone interested in joining should contact Patti Lawrence.



### Garden Group #2:

Shirley D. tells **The Lighter Side** that their group's gardening enthusiasts enjoy a variety of May to October events. They are busy getting ready to examine their gardens following the cold winter and are planning for the upcoming growing season. We look forward to seeing and hearing about their horticultural endeavours!

### Euchre Group #2:

Bev S. tells **The Lighter Side** that her group is continuing to meet each month at The Sunset Grill where the staff makes them feel very welcome! Following breakfast, there is much fun, laughter and of course, cards.

Additionally, one member creates a "lone hand" prize wrapped up in a gift bag. Every time a player gets a lone hand, they assume ownership of the gift bag. Once all games have ended, the person in possession of the bag can keep it. Players enjoy the added fun and are eager to view its contents.

This group would like to establish a list of euchre players who could sub in for an absent player. If interested, contact Patti Lawrence.



### The Walking Group:

Carole A. tells us that they have remained very active walkers. They meet weekly and even extra sessions are scheduled to scout out potential new sites, such as when she and Bibi checked out Colonel Sam Smith Park. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, they walked east from RK McMillan Park to Lakefront Promenade and then west into Port Credit. They had a beautiful day with no wind! The walkers treasure their conversation time and dream of warm vacations and cement trucks(!?). They continued to walk during the afternoons in March, starting from McMillan Park. Sophie M. captured a wonderful photo of a migrating Common Loon.

From May 4<sup>th</sup> – June 22, the group switched to a start time of 10:30 am, will break for the summer, and convene walking in the Fall.



### The Movie Group:

The movie group is relatively new. There are about 24 members. Each month 4-5 choices of movies are sent to members, and they vote for the one they want to see; the most popular choice is selected. Theatre location and time to meet up are communicated.

They didn't see any movies in November or December because there just weren't that many viable choices. However, in February, the group went to see **A Man Called Otto**. They loved the movie and felt it followed the book well! In April, they saw **Champions**, about a former minor-league basketball coach who, after a series of missteps, was ordered by the court to manage a team of players with intellectual disabilities. The group loved the movie!

### The Craft Group #4:

Cheryl H. has about 6 members in her craft group. They take turns hosting and choosing which craft to make. The hostess buys the materials and is reimbursed when they meet. They try to keep costs reasonable and do not have a set schedule. They started out thinking they would meet once a month, but with COVID, their meetings became interrupted for a long time.

Recently, they've started meeting again and chose to meet once someone has found a craft they think would be good for the group. We look forward to hearing about their creations.

## The Lunch Group #2

On a snowy Friday, January the 13<sup>th</sup>, the lunch group met in Port Credit at Colossus Greek Taverna. They marveled at the restaurant's robust activity; so many patrons and students clamouring for a taste of their delicious Grecian delectables. The ladies discussed their 2022 holiday experiences, visits with friends and family, and talked about their past and future trips. Two ladies marveled that it had almost been three years since they'd seen each other in person! Overall, it was quite the enjoyable meal and thanks go to Cecile and Shirley for organizing it.

In February, Marilyn and Marg H. had the group dining at Solstice in Port Credit. Two new members attended, as well as long-time member, Betty S. The food was delicious, and everyone had a wonderful time!

In April, fourteen members lunched at The Apricot Tree. Organized by Arlene D. and Karen S.; it was so nice to see members who hadn't been out in a while. The weather was warm and sunny that day and the food, as always, was perfect!

In May, Linda M. and Caroline R. organized lunch at WIND in north Streetsville. The cuisine has a nice mix of Japanese and Thai foods. It has a lovely ambience, unique décor and robots who deliver food to the tables. The ladies couldn't keep their eyes off the robot servers!

## Book Club #7

Patti L. tells us that there are 6 active members who meet monthly on Zoom. They recently read **The Paris Apartment** and liked the different premise and surprise ending. They would happily welcome new members!

## A call for new members:

The **Bowling** and **Photography** groups disbanded during the pandemic. If anyone is interested in resurrecting these groups, please contact:

Patti Lawrence at:

## RWTO CONVENTION 2023

**KINGSTON JUNE 6-8**

**Six of our members will be attending the convention. We hope to hear more about any issues, or resolutions being passed in the next newsletter.**





## AGM 2023

The Mississauga RWTO AGM took place on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Port Credit Seniors Residence on Hurontario Street from 10am to 3pm.

The core executive members were appointed and information about our branch was delivered.

Following the meeting, a complimentary light lunch was served by the residence and a fraud prevention seminar, geared towards seniors, was presented by Peel Police officer Michael Wood.

For those of you who are not familiar with the responsibilities of the positions, you need to know that we work as a team.

At our five Executive Meetings, everyone's voice is heard when coming to a consensus about how our gatherings are going to be organized, and who will be volunteering to assist.

Everyone on the executive welcomes individuals who are interested in the position of co-officer or co-convenor to train for a year, or two, beside an experienced executive convenor.

We do hope that you consider **volunteering**. Please contact Margaret Geare, Nominations Convenor, [margaret.mgeare.geare@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.mgeare.geare@gmail.com)



## The Core Executive:

President - Marie SolarSKI

Past President/Nominations - Margaret Geare

Vice-President - Linda Kenney

Treasurer - Margo Bennett/Deborah Hart

Secretary - Cheryl Henry

Insurance - Marie SolarSKI

Membership - Cheryl Henry



## Appointed Convenor

Programme - Margaret Geare

Social - Anne Dowling/Caroline Riddell

Communications - Margo Bennett

Friendship & Goodwill - Deborah Hart

Issues and Concerns - Sheila Williams

Trips & Tours - Margaret Geare/Mary Jane Vowles

Interest Groups - Patricia Lawrence

Archives - Linda Kenney

Newsletter - Caroline Riddell

Standing Delegate - Linda Kenney



For More Information

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre  
**CAFC**  
Centre antifraude du Canada

GETCYBERSAFE

OSC ONTARIO SECURITIES COMMISSION

Get Smarter About Money.ca

- CAFC website
- getcybersafe.gc.ca
- getsmarteraboutmoney.ca

(905)453-2121 or (905)453-3311 (non-emergency)  
Fraud Bureau ext. 3055  
Crime Prevention Services ext. 4021



**On March 28, 2023**, members gathered for an Oasis Convention Centre lunch covered by our speaker, Richard Infantino, who is a Senior Investment Advisor with **RBC Dominion Securities**, specializing in retired professionals. He spoke about Estate Planning, Taxation Strategies, and Investments. His insightful comments led to much discussion among the members at all the tables!





### Knitting Group #1:

Convener Margo B. tells us that her knitting group began the year with 15 members, however that number can vary.

Although they gather infrequently, it was decided as a group to have their first knitting/crochet table at the Christmas 2022 luncheon. Even though some Mississauga Branch members are knitters or crocheters, and choose not to join the knitting group, Christmas was still a great success. We hope to make a sizeable contribution to future Christmas and/or charitable luncheons. Keep those needles clicking ladies!



### RBC Dominion Securities Seminar

March 28, 2023

Richard Infantino – speaker



### Scrabble Club:

Nine regular members gather with leader, Linda M., to play Scrabble on the third Friday of the month from September to June. The members take turns hosting.

Pre-Covid, the group went somewhere in June for a special lunch and played Scrabble while there. Often, it was the lunch area at City Hall. During the pandemic, they often met at Jack Darling or Richard's Memorial Park. There, they gathered with a nice snack and beverage, and shared joyous moments of friendship in the fresh air.

Recently they recorded a high score of 37 points with the word, Query and good scores for "Rivers, Loofah and Rejoin". Way to go!





### Golf Group:

Nancy S. tells us that there are almost 30 ladies who keep their names on the list and await the weekly sign-up emails to play nine holes at Oakville Executive, starting the first week of May and going through until at least Thanksgiving.

RWTO Mississauga holds two reserved tee times (spots for 8 golfers) on Thursday mornings and there are a few “regulars”, as well as several who golf from time-to-time, whenever it is convenient.

At least half of the list, do not play very often; perhaps only a couple of times a year. Nancy S. is often at the cottage, but still finds the time to make the arrangements for the club. She feels that the group is very welcoming and the highlight of a day of golf is staying for lunch and socializing after the round!

Sounds perfect!

### Art Gallery Group:

In June, the AGO will have an exhibit on **Women Impressionists** which members had previously indicated an interest in attending.

Margaret G. will investigate a tour; however, she also believes that there are regular tours where the group could just join the line.

Could members please let her know by email if interested by Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, and indicate the best day during the week of June 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

Looking down the road, a suggestion has been proposed. They are looking for individuals who would like to share their home Art Collection, either Classical or Original, to share with a small group.

The idea is to organize a carpool tour of several homes located in a geographic area with interesting art collections. Those who might like to share their special collection of Art with others, please **contact Margaret G. by Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>** so that a Zoom or in person meeting could be set-up for September where everyone could meet and plan how this unique idea can come to fruition.

### Bridge Group #8:

Anne D. tells The Lighter Side that the nine members of this group have shared a myriad of events and discussions in their years together; all while playing a lively hand or two of bridge. The many topics include treats from the oven, a new home, travel stories, illnesses, care-giver pressures, surgeries, recipes, deaths of loved ones, grandchildren stories, birthdays, politics, Covid and the pros and cons of Trickster. Many joined the group when Judy Djelaj and Theresa Mackenzie shared their knowledge of the game's essential elements.

When gathering on alternate Thursday mornings, each member takes their hosting turn. They care, share and have great fun!



## SPECIAL FEATURE FOCUS ON A MEMBER: Margo Bennett

### ITALY HOSTS 3 GENERATIONS of the BENNETT WOMEN

This past March, our Treasurer and Grandmother, Margo Bennett, followed up on a pact made with her granddaughter back when the youngster was in the lower elementary grades. As long as she kept up her good grades (to the best of her ability), Margo would take her on a trip to a place of her choosing, within budget.

Margo "would have preferred to make it at the end of her high school grad, but life being what it is at our age, decided to change it to grade 8 instead."

So, with a knee & two hip replacements behind her, away they went along with Margo's daughter this past March for two glorious weeks to the beautiful country of Italy... Venice, Florence, Siena, Pisa, Sorrento, Isle of Capri, Amalfi coast (Positano), and Rome (which included a pizza cooking class).

There were no crowds and the weather co-operated beautifully at 15°-20° every day; only in Venice was it misty one day. It was truly a memorable trip!



Overlooking Positano 3/20/23

