

Retired Women
Teachers of Ontario



Organisation des
enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario

President's Message:

Welcome Back!

I hope that you had a great summer re-connecting with family and friends. My family went to my sister's cottage in Bobcaygeon. Our young granddaughters created mini videos to capture the memories of our time together. Of course, we were not aware that they were filming us! I'm looking forward to this year's General Meetings. The Executive has invited a variety of Guest Speakers who will be speaking on various topics. To kickoff this exciting year, please join us for our Coffee Break September General Meeting. It will give you an opportunity to reconnect and catch-up with your fellow members. You are encouraged to bring a friend who is a retired woman teacher, Educational Assistant, or Child & Youth Worker. This meeting will also give you an opportunity to introduce your friend to our wonderful and caring Branch. Make sure you pick up a copy of our At-A-Glance Calendar at the registration desk. Looking forward to seeing you in September!

Rita Demcheson

From our Treasurer, Millie:

Membership Renewals cost \$45 and are needed before Aug. 31st. Our September Meeting fee is \$10. You can pay this in 2 ways:

1. E-transfer to
rwto.ste@gmail.com

No password required; the money is deposited directly to our branch account and you will receive instant confirmation of your transfer.

OR

2. Mail a cheque payable to RWTO St Thomas -Elgin to 12 Mary Bucke St., St. Thomas ON N5R 5J6



**Coming to our
September 21st
Meeting...please
welcome our
musical
entertainer**

Guy Charette!



Your 2023-24 Executive:

President: Rita Demcheson

Past Pres: Cathy Gardiner

1st VP: Shelly Sturk

2nd VP: open

Caller Convenor: Mary Lynch

Treasurer: Millie Gremontprez

Secretary: Susan Grieve

Communications: Karen Auckland

Insurance Convenor: open

Archivist: Sue Bandeen

Goodwill Convenors:

Central- Lynn Christie

East- Linda Laforge

West- Ginny Barfett



Remember to save and bring in your Pop Tabs for Wheelchairs! Aurilla Ripley and her team are working on their 58th Wheelchair! (See poster)



(Left to Right)

St. Thomas-Elgin Branch RWTO 2023-24 Executive

Cathy Gardiner (Past Pres.), Rita Demcheson (Pres.), Shelly Sturke (1st VP), Susan Grieve (Sec.), Millie Gremont (Treas.), Judy Drummond Past Pres. Provincial RWTO, Karen Auckland (Communications), Mary Lynch (Head Caller), Sue Bandeen (Archivist)

Our Membership is Growing!

Exciting New Changes For RWTO-OERO Retired Women Teachers

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario- (RWTO-OERO) <https://rwto.org/> delegates at the 67th AGM Convention in Kingston passed resolutions to extend membership to retired women educational professionals who provided valuable classroom services. This includes educational assistants, early childhood educators, and child & youth workers/counsellors. Provincial President Sandra Salerno states: "We are very pleased with this membership extension of our organization which makes us inclusive and welcoming to other women educators while maintaining the historical significance of RWTO-OERO. "Our organization's 46 Branches <https://rwto.org/about-branches/> care for the interests and well-being of retired women educational professionals who come together for social interaction, stimulating programs, emotional support and most of all, friendship.

Looking ahead..... please mark your calendars for the 2023-2024 meetings!

Sept.21-St. Thomas Sr. Centre- Coffee Meeting at 10 a.m. \$10

Bring your coins for our Toonie Draw- you could win \$100 in Sept/ October/April!

Oct. 19- Lawrence Station- Roast Beef Lunch at 11:30 \$35

Nov. 16- Masonic Centre- Christmas Lunch at 11:30 \$35

Apr.18- St. Thomas Sr. Centre-Lunch at 11:30 \$35

May 16- Kettle Creek G/C Club-Memorial Service and Lunch at 11:00 \$35

June 20- Stoneridge Inn- Fashion Show and Lunch at 11:30 \$35



In 2023, our Branch sponsored Olivia to attend one week at Pearce Williams Camp. She had a great week and was seizure free!

A Card of Thanks to St. Thomas
Elgin Branch RWTO:

"We dropped Olivia off at Pearce Williams tonight at 7:00pm. It was a long day of impatiently waiting! She is so excited and I know she will have an amazing time! We are so appreciative of this generous gift. She took a digital camera with her and said she will take lots of pictures of her adventures this week."

From her mom, Kelli ♥



Thank you to RWTO/OERO. Olivia wants to share 5 favourite things at Pearce Williams Summer Camp.



painting
rocks



meeting new



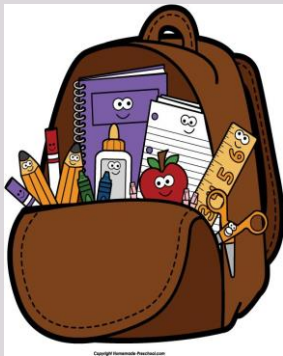
friends

going on a hike





Thank you to everyone who donated towards our Back Pack Project (now 22 years old). This signature project is part of our St. Thomas-Elgin's legacy. Your generosity raised over \$ 1200.00! We especially appreciate the added donation from the Golden K Kiwanis Club, of \$500 which enabled our thrifty shoppers to fill every back pack. This community partnership is greatly appreciated!

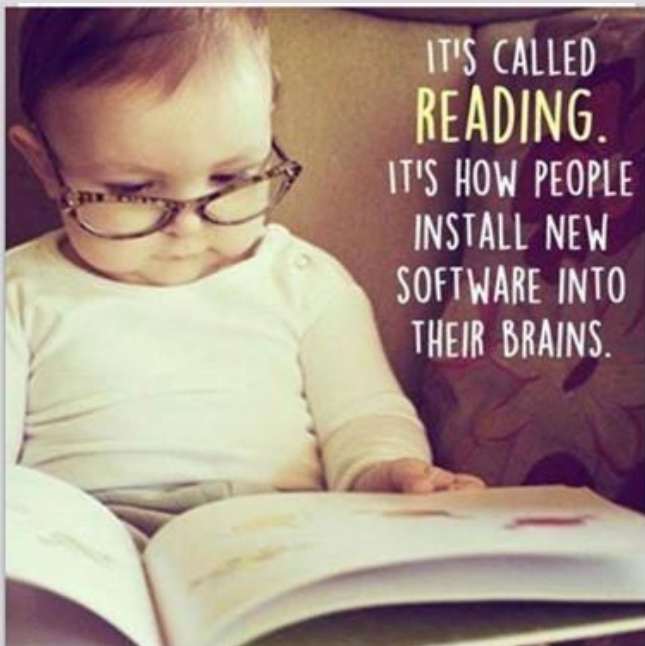
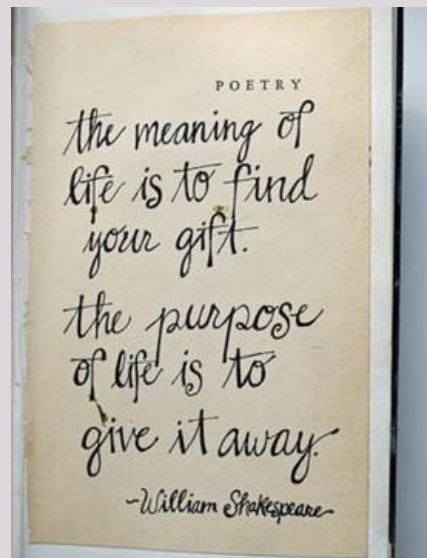


Violence Against Women,
Services Elgin County

This ensures that any child that moves into safe housing with their mom, will be able to start school the next day with a fully equipped backpack of school supplies.

Special thank you to Gianna Filipovic and Monique Wood for organizing our *Back Pack Project* for our annual gift to the Women's Shelter at Violence Against Women Services, Elgin County.

Just for fun!



Remember our motto: "*Caring and Sharing*"! If you know of a member that needs a cheerful connection, please notify our Caller Convenor,

Mary Lynch at StElginRWTOMeetings@gmail.com

REMEMBER TO.....

Save Your Pop Tabs



McKenna-Graham-Laskey is a two and a half year old little girl who lives in London. McKenna has Cerebral Palsy. She has an older sister, Scarlett, who is three and a half, and a younger sister, Myla, who is only one.



She has a very healthy appetite and loves to watch cartoons. Another of her favourite things to do is to be read to with her pet puppy named Storm.

Known by her nickname "SMILEY", McKenna requires a special new wheelchair, which will enable her to get to her appointments.

So please save your pop tabs to help McKenna achieve her goal.

After exploring other options, we are trying a new meeting reminder system this year. Instead of using our monthly caller system, Our Caller Convenor, Mary Lynch will be sending an email to every member, with meeting information. Please watch for her email, from StTElginRWTOMeetings@gmail.com about 2 weeks before our Meetings and respond to her with a Yes or NO. *Please carefully respond by using REPLY* and please do NOT hit replay all.

Once you commit to attending, you will be responsible for payment. We will be asking our former callers if they would like to volunteer as *Meeting Greeters*, to help by adding a friendly and face and familiar voice to our meetings. Fran Wren will be our greeter in September. Thank you Fran!

PHOTOS FROM OUR JUNE 2023 MEETING: (to the right) The lovely quilt was made by our RWTO members for the Elgin Hospice (shovels to go in the ground Fall 2023)

Below: Outgoing President Cathy Gardiner addresses our members. Thank you for your leadership and service Cathy!



(Above): Our Branch's Incoming President Rita Demcheson is welcomed by Outgoing Provincial President, Judy Drummond.

(To the left): Guest Speaker Steve Peters enjoyed seeing and chatting with his former teachers, relating a positive message about the impact teachers have on children's lives.

Did you know?

RWTO became a provincial organization April 3, 1956

Nov. 20/ 1964: St. Thomas Elgin Branch of RWTO decided to organize and meet at Ruth Ramey's home

In 2011-12 our meetings became luncheon meetings where business and program followed.

We will hold our Toonie Draws in Sept., Oct. and April. Funds raised will go towards general Branch expenses.

In 2021 our branch had 138 members. Today we have 124 members.

Our Branch will be featured in Hometown's Boomer magazine in September. Watch for that!

We need a 2nd VP. This person will attend executive meetings (6-8 per year) and observe this year, while preparing to lead our team over the next 2 years. This is a wonderful team and a well-oiled machine. We get things done and have a laugh while we do it! Please nominate someone (or yourself) who would like to join us!

We also need an Insurance Convenor. This is an info/liaison role with Provincial RWTO and our Branch. It is a key role, but not an onerous one. Please consider filling this spot!

Our October 19th Meeting Speaker will be *Andrea Ferret* who will share her adventures from land to sea and give us an inside look at working and entertaining as a lead singer on board cruise ships for many years. A great inside look at a life few could ever imagine!