



# Retired Women Teachers of Mississauga



Hello Fellow Members,

**November 2023**

This is a "good news, bad news", kind of letter.

First the good news. Thanks to our busy executive, the RWTO Mississauga year is off to a very good start.

We have 35 Interest Groups up and running. They are active and keep our members as busy as they choose to be. Some members belong to five or more groups!

We had a wonderful luncheon in October at The Credit Valley Golf Course and all the feedback was glowingly positive. We will be going back there in May for our Spring event.

The trip to Oktoberfest was memorable and our next trip to Niagara on December 14<sup>th</sup> is eagerly anticipated. Many are excited to attend the Famous People Players luncheon and show on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Your executive is also busy finalizing plans for our Christmas Luncheon and Fundraiser on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Renaissance Convention Centre.

Future plans include two Spring luncheons, the Annual General Meeting, a few day trips and maybe even an overnight trip! This is exciting news, right?

Well, now for the bad news.

Our branch can only continue to plan these types of exciting events if we have members who'll step up to help organize and contribute their time. We have been steadily losing executive members and many are not being replaced. Currently, our executive consists of ten people.

It is time to consider your place in our organization. Do you value the time you spend on RWTO activities? Do you value the friendships you have made as a member? Are you ready to devote some time to help maintain our vibrant Mississauga Branch?

Remember the old adage, "Many hands make light work". The more hands we have on our executive, the easier all our jobs will be. Most positions can be shared between two people and all existing positions could use an assistant!

Please consider joining our executive so all our future news will be good news!

Yours in Caring and Sharing,

Marie Solarski

President



# Trip: St. Jacobs & Oktoberfest

On Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, members travelled to Oktoberfest in Kitchener-Waterloo with Mary Morton Tours. Prior to this, they stopped at the Village of St. Jacobs. Time was spent browsing the stores, enjoying delicious treats and making unique purchases. There were several large packages that arrived on the bus when we gathered again. Rumour has it that one of our members single-handedly turned the St. Jacobs economy around by making numerous early Christmas purchases!

The group then headed to Bingemans in Kitchener to participate in the Oktoberfest celebration. Onkel Hans (the Oktoberfest mascot) greeted participants and posed for pictures. There was a delicious buffet, followed by entertainment. A wonderful band played a variety of polkas and waltzes and some members joined in on the dance floor. The group was also challenged to learn to yodel. Finally, one delightful performer played a combination of cowbells and goat bells. By the end of the day, there were many happy faces seen on the bus on the way home.





# RWTO Mississauga: **The Lighter Side**

## The Lunch Group #2

Our lunch group of twenty (20) join each other once a month on the second Friday. Two members sign up to organize a lunch date. They consult on a lunch venue, inform the group of the location, date and time, make a reservation and host the lunch. This creates an interesting variety of food selections which extend our palate experiences. Of course, the conversations and friendships make us want to return each month.

In September, Margaret G. organized lunch at **Peter's on Eglinton** for a Greek-Canadian cuisine experience. What is most interesting about Peter's is the size of the portions; just about everyone left with a box of leftovers!

In October, Cecile D. & Sheila W. took us to **The Open Cork Restaurant**. This time the enjoyable venue offered a variety of seafood dishes, sandwiches, salads and pasta. Here, very little food was left on the plates.

Our November lunch, set up by Patti L., was at **Cynthia's Chinese Restaurant** in Oakville. When we first visited this restaurant last year, it was a big hit. Once again, Cynthia's didn't disappoint, and we enjoyed tasty dishes and wonderful conversations! It was also wonderful to have long time member, Betty Schultz, join us.





## The Walking Group

The RW Walking group has just completed its 8-week Fall season. Walks took place in many beautiful locations and were led by various group members. Locations included: Rattray Marsh, Etobicoke Creek (Dixie/Midway), Erindale Park and the Riverwood Conservancy. A small group ventured north to Orangeville to walk at Island Lake Conservation area and enjoyed a wonderful lunch following their 7k walk! Conversations are always lively! As we walk and talk, and thus, can't write things down, we've started a "Books and Shows We Love" online chat group to share our favourite reads and shows.

In November 2020, the group added weekly winter walks to support each other during the pandemic. The outdoor walks were one of the few activities where folks could see each other in person and this group supported many of our members who lived alone. Winter walks take place weekly on Thursday afternoons beginning in early November. Trails are chosen for their flatness, winter maintenance, and of course the presence of open and warm washrooms!! Keep moving, everyone!!



**LATE FALL/WINTER WALKS - FOUR WEEKS at Erindale Park**

**Dates:** Thursday, November 9, 16, 23, 30

**Time:** Meet at 12:50pm; Walk at 1pm

**Location:** Erindale Park, 1695 Dundas St. W.



## BOOK CLUB #11

Joanne J. tells us that Book Club #11 is a dynamic group of avid readers who love to get together at our monthly meetings to discuss novels. Books are selected and then each month one member leads the lively discussion. Our discussions are based on the book's content and how they relate to our lives. Coffee and snacks round out our meetings. Our next read is **The Lincoln Highway** by Amor Towles. Should be good!



### Craft Club #3

Barb R. tells us Jeanette F. hosted their Fall's first session and her culinary prowess was on full display with the delicious carrot muffins and plum cake that she served. After catching up on Sheila's travel adventures, plans for Jeanette's son's wedding and Vicki's neighbourhood events, the crafting began. Using a balloon as a base, artificial leaves and Mod Podge, members crafted a **colourful autumnal bowl**. Later in October, the group made Halloween-themed **edible art**. Just look at the photo below to see how amazing they are! Complete with the costumes, their dedication was on full display!



### Knitting Group #2

Julie M. tells us that with Winter on the horizon, the RWTO knitting group has been busy making projects for the season: holiday gifts, bazaar items and woolly accessories in preparation for the chilly weather. The group meets monthly to enjoy delicious treats and lively conversation and has rotating hosts.



### Euchre Group #2

Beverley S. tells **The Lighter Side** that her Euchre group continues to get together monthly for breakfast, conversation, cards and tons of laughs. Hats off to Sunset Grill at 507 Lakeshore Rd in Mississauga! They treat us very well and our Bid Euchre bunch meets there as well. So, if your group is looking for a place to meet, we recommend them highly.

Lone-hand prizes are always fun and recently they have included wine, zucchini loaf, Bailey's, teas, homemade cookies, books and cooking oils.

Beverley tells the truth when she states:

**"We love our consumables! Lol"**



## Resolutions and Policy and Procedure Changes for Area 12:

On Monday, October 30, all four branches (BurlOak, Lydia Snow, Mississauga, Peel North) approved the proposed **five changes** to the RWTO/OERO Constitution for membership extension, and the Policy and Procedures change to the Area 12 Directors term to three years.

The suggested Constitutional changes will be sent to Jan Murdock, Constitution and Resolutions Chair by November 14th to be presented to the Executive and Board of Directors at the January meeting. If approved, they will be published in the March Connections then voted on at the 2024 Virtual AGM Meeting in June 2024.

The suggested Policy and Procedures change will be presented to the Executive and Board of Directors at the January 2024 meeting for approval.



# Bridge Group #3

Dolores W. tells us that every two weeks from September to May, Bridge Group #3 gets together to enjoy each other's company. The afternoon begins at 12:30 with dessert and a time to catch up, share personal interests, cherished family, joys, and sorrows.

When it is time to play cards, Leslie B., our member who knows all the conventions, keeps us informed. Last year we asked her to give us lessons on the "No Trump" rule. Jeannine D. helped by preparing practice hands to support the lessons. Each week, we try to put those learnings into practice. Thankfully, this is a tolerant group for those who forget, and really, the aim is to just have fun.

According to Dolores, many in the group have been long-standing loyal members. These include Betty W. who joined in 1994 and became convenor in 1996, Betty S. and Dolores W., both joined in 1996, Leslie B., 1998, Margaret L. 2012, Laurie E. 2017, Margaret C. 2022, and Marjorie S. 2023. Jeannine Dykstra, who joined in 1994 retired from the group this year to live in Alberta. The group also happily welcomes Stephanie G., who often has been subbing in regularly for the past 2 years.

We delight in celebrating milestone birthdays. This year we celebrated Betty S.' 98<sup>th</sup> birthday in January, Betty W.'s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in February, and Laurie E.'s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in April.



# Cookie Dough Fundraiser: Terra Cotta Cookies

- This fundraiser aims to address the need in our schools for mitts and hats for children who might arrive at school without these items
- A Cookie Dough Drop is pre-portioned and packed to go straight from your freezer to your oven. Bake as many as you like at one time.
- They have a large variety of flavours to choose from so there is something for everyone!
- **Go to this website to order. Locate the RWTO Mississauga page on the website**
- **<https://fundraising.terracottacookies.com/current-fundraisers/>**
- **Last Day to order is November 20<sup>th</sup>**
- Pick up orders at: 3345 Silverado Drive, # 67, on Monday, December 4th from 5 - 9 pm or on Tuesday, December 5th from 1 - 5 pm.

## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL TRIP - Arrive feeling 'Bah humbug' and leave full of warm, fuzzy Christmas spirit."**

**December 14, 2023**

10:00 a.m. Depart from Mississauga Centrium Centre – See email for other locations.

11:30 a.m. Arrive in Niagara on the Lake – Lunch on your own.

12:45 p.m. Enter Royal George Theatre

1:00 p.m. It's showtime for **A Christmas Carol**. "Ebenezer Scrooge is back! Nestled in the heart of the ultimate Christmas village, the charming holiday favourite *A Christmas Carol* returns to the Shaw Festival's Royal George Theatre. It's the perfect annual reminder of what Christmas is all about.

**4:30 p.m. An early dinner** is included at the Skylon.

**6:30 p.m. After dinner**, enjoy a drive by the magnificent Niagara Festival of Lights

**RATE: \$180.00 (\$159.29 + \$20.71 HST) per person**

**Final Date to register:** Email Margaret Geare. [margaret.mgeare.geare@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.mgeare.geare@gmail.com)

You can send payment by e-transfer to [rwtotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:rwtotreasurer@gmail.com).

Another way is to make your cheque payable to RWTO – Mississauga Branch and mail to Margo Bennett, [3159 Patrick Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5N 3G4](#)



## Garden Group #2

Shirley D. tells us that the members enjoyed lots of lovely blooms this season. In May there was a tour of the **Brueckner Rhododendron Gardens**. In June they visited Janet M's beautiful **irises** and sipped tea with delicious sweets. Later in June, Jeanette F. hosted a hugely successful **Potluck Plant Exchange**.

In July, Mary T. organized a road trip to **Northland Nursery** complete with lunch. In September, they toured the **Centennial Conservatory** gardens led by Shelley D. and enjoyed a picnic in the park. In October, they admired lots of lovely late blooms on a **Riverwood** Garden Stroll. In November, Marie S. will host a **Winter Greenery Workshop**, so that members will be "all decked out" for the holidays.

**My goodness, this group loves their gardens!**





### Beading Group #1

Cynthia V. tells us that her beading group meets every first Thursday of the month. We have a wonderful group of ladies who have been together for many years. We share our ideas, inspirations and talents with each other. We are committed to fellowship, as well as to beading.

This beading group met in early November. They had the opportunity to admire work done by their guest, Alexandra, a wonderfully talented beader, who shared and inspired the members with her projects.



### BOOK CLUB 7

Patti L. tells The LighterSide that her group has been together for nearly 14 years. "We like to think of ourselves as a social group that reads really good books." Currently, they meet on Zoom, but hope to meet in person in the new year. They are looking for new members to join and they convene on the third Thursday of the month in the afternoon.

**The last 3 books they read and would recommend are:**

~~The~~ Nature of Fragile Things by Susan Meissner

The Pull of Stars by Emma Donoghue

The Christie Affair by Nina deGramont

Hope you enjoy these books just as we have. Come and Join us!





# **The Credit Valley Golf Club lunch:**

## **What an event it was!**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, ninety members attended a fantastic lunch! The current Executive, past presidents and our newest members were also introduced. Members enjoyed a wonderfully prepared meal, marvelled at the stunning scenery, and shopped at member-created craft tables. We truly have talented artisans in our midst! Our book and puzzle sale netted \$350 for charity. Knitters, Margo B. & Carol M. donated \$135 to Sick Kids, and \$75 by Vicky M. to Ukraine. Thanks to golf member, Cecile D., for letting us be her guests!





## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



### Golf Group

Nancy S.H. tells us that Golf is winding up, not only for the season, but for good.

The very few golfers that enjoyed the reserved tee times are on their own for next year unless one of them changes her mind and decides to convene the group. Cross your fingers!

### Bid Euchre Group

According to Mary Y., the Bid Euchre group meets on the first Monday of the month.

They gather at a breakfast restaurant at 9:30am and enjoy a lovely breakfast, followed by cards.

At times it can be exhausting, not so much by the card play but by the laughing. The owner is very happy to accommodate us. The service and food are excellent. We are seated at the rear of the restaurant, close to the washroom. Except when someone has an exceptional hand or a bout of laughter sets us off, we are out of earshot from other patrons.

**They have a delightful group of ladies and always look forward to getting together.**



## Knitting Group #1

- At the first meeting of Margo B.'s 2023-24 knitting group, members included Sue T., Gerrie K., Marilyn M., Jacquie Y., and Gio P.
- They are looking forward to chatting and knitting in the coming months.



## Euchre Group #6:

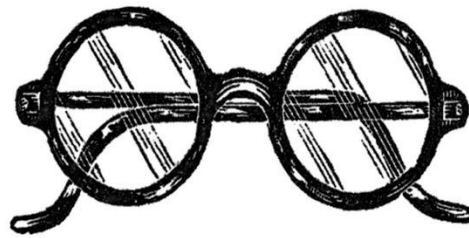
What Linda M. loves about her by-monthly euchre group is that it doesn't matter how many people show up each time, as they know how to play euchre with 3-8 players! It's nice to play a variety of games, especially the five-player version that involves an unknown partner! 😊

Members enjoy the new recipe ideas and often recreate them for their friends and families!

The lovely conversations and new connections make this one special group!



From Sheila W. on the Executive: **“If you are able, please bring the following to our next luncheon.”**



**Non Perishable Foods**



\*\*\*\*\*

**From Executive member Deborah H., concerning Friendship & Goodwill:**

**Please remember to keep her informed of any member:**

- ❖ Approaching a milestone birthday (80 years +)
- ❖ Who may be ill
- ❖ Who may be hospitalized
- ❖ Who has suffered a bereavement in their immediate family.
- ❖ Contact Deborah at: [debthefroghearted@gmail.com](mailto:debthefroghearted@gmail.com)

**Membership Update:**

**274 Members**



# Just Fantastic!



On Wednesday, November 15, 2023, our

members went on a trip to South Etobicoke. There we had the experience of a lifetime! We had a fantastic lunch, immaculately plated, piping hot and fabulously tasty, all served by black light performers at Diane Dupuy's Famous People Players theatre. Celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we saw their Winter Wonderland show. Members also donated \$ to have a star displayed with our RWTO name. Further, RWTO members brought donations of a new unopened toy and/or some non-perishable food. All donations will go to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. **As Ms. Dupuy says, "F.P.P. is where Special Happens."**



RWTO member, Betty Schultz, was reunited with former student, Elsa, who works as a performer and server at F.P.P. What a nice surprise to meet up again after many years. Amazingly, they both recognized each other!







**Garden Group #1:** Theresa G. tells us that her group had an active Spring and Summer. Some visits were to a Garden Nursery, a Tulip Farm, and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. They also saw lovely roses at Gairloch Gardens, and the rooftop Gardens and Bee hives at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Additionally, they made several visits to local parks to check out the flowers in bloom.



## **Ready for our December lunch?**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023** Renaissance by the Creek @ 3045 Southcreek Rd.

- ❖ 10:30-11:00 a.m. Arrival. Buy Raffle tickets. Enjoy coffee/tea
- ❖ 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting
- ❖ 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- ❖ 1:00 p.m. Entertainment - Cruisin'

**Payment due Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Menu: Soup:** Potato and leek, arugula pesto

**Salad:** Spinach with roasted Cajun pecans, feta, grilled red peppers and Balsamic poppy seed dressing

**Main course:** turkey roulade stuffed with apple sage stuffing, cranberry, turkey au jus

**Vegetarian/ Vegan option:** eggplant parmesan made with Kosher cheese

**Dessert:** Apple crumble with French vanilla ice cream or fruit. Coffee and tea