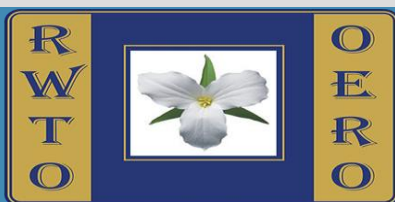


Retired Women
Teachers of Ontario



Organisation des
enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario

President's Message:

Hi everyone!
I'm looking forward to my favourite season, Christmas! I can't wait to decorate our three trees with ornaments gifted to me by my former students. Yes, I have enough ornaments to decorate three trees!

To kick off this Christmas season, you are invited to come to the November General Meeting. It will be full of fun and laughter! The Quarter Auction is back. I will be the "Chief Elf". It will be a challenge to fill Carole Watson's big elf shoes! You are encouraged to wear festive wear (Christmas sweaters, vests, hats, jewelry and even socks!). Bring your Jingle Bells and join Susie Q in the Christmas Carol Sing A-long. I guarantee you that this meeting will fill you with the Christmas Spirit! See you in November! Rita a.k.a "Chief Elf"

Our Next Meeting: You are invited! Come to the Masonic Centre, 42073 Fruit Ridge Line St. Thomas on Thurs. Nov. 16th to enjoy Suzie Q's musical delights, a great meal and our Fun Auction. Bring your quarters and one unwrapped raffle gift!

From our Treasurer, Millie:

Our November Meeting fee is \$35. You can pay by:

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. Cash or cheque at the door

A friendly reminder...once you commit to attending, we are unable to reimburse you.

Remember to save and bring in your Pop Tabs for Wheelchairs!



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



At our October meeting, 1st VP Shelly Sturk began our meeting by delivering our Land Acknowledgement.

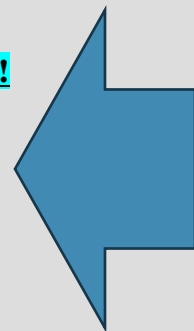
Looking ahead..... please mark your calendars for the 2023-2024 meetings!

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



From our Caller Convenor, Mary Lynch:



General Meeting Notification System

General Meeting notices will be sent from a central g-mail account (new) this year! Watch for messages from:

sttelginrwtomeetings@gmail.com

Watch for this email around the **first Thursday of the month** in the months that we have meetings.

- Please respond **YES to sender only**, that you will be attending, or **NO**, you will not be attending.
- Although the RSVP date allows about a week to reply, **respond as soon as you are able.**
- If you don't see the meeting notice in your email, check your SPAM folder.

Add this email address to your inbox and then it will come through every time!

Thank you for your assistance as we streamline our notification process.

We are already planning for our June Fashion Show on June 20th at Stoneridge Inn. If you would like to volunteer (or nominate a friend) to model clothing from Durkees, in Aylmer, please let Cathy Gardiner know. You can reach her by email at: cgardiner6112@gmail.com

West Elgin Daffodil Society:

Thank you to our generous members for your food and cash donations. They will be well received at the Dutton location, which serves many West Elgin residents. Our Branch members generously donated \$620 plus food items. Thank you so much!

Our Goodwill Convenors are happy to spread some cheer to members who may need a “pick me up” card. Please contact our Area Convenors if you know of someone who deserves this reach out.

East Elgin: Linda Laforge at lindalaforge50@gmail.com

West Elgin: Ginny Barfett at barfettgabby@gmail.com

Central Elgin: Lynn Christie at christielynnjean@gmail.com



President Rita welcomed Area 3 Director Lyn Sulman and Chatham Kent Branch members to our Oct. 19th meeting.

Our Special Guests from the West joined us at Lawrence Hall Station on Oct. 19th for a delicious roast beef meal.



Getting into the Christmas Spirit! On Nov. 16th, we are supporting Christmas Care. Please bring either a new toy or new book. Cash donations will be most welcomed. Also: our annual Gift Raffle will be held, so please bring one small gift for this and the Quarter Auction. Raffle tickets will only be \$5 for 3! Lots of fun to be had! We hope to see you at the Masonic Centre!


Christmas Care
Serving St. Thomas and Area families since 1980

25 cents and a little luck can bring out lots of smiles!

We hope you will join the fun! All funds will go into our main account to help defray costs of our meetings.

Please consider.....Our Branch needs a 2nd VP! This person will attend executive meetings (4-5 per year) and observe this year, while preparing to lead our team over the next 2 years. We get things done and have a laugh while we do it! Please nominate someone (or yourself) who would like to join our Dynamic Dream Team! Help keep our Branch growing and strong!

A special thanks to our Callers who will be greeting you at the meeting and contacting you if we don't get a Reply email about our meetings.

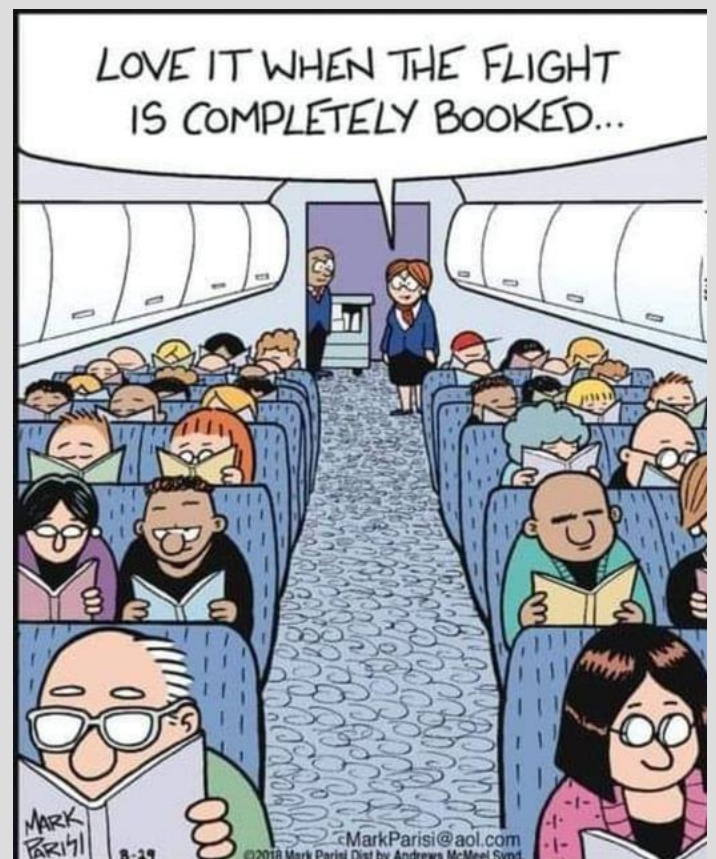
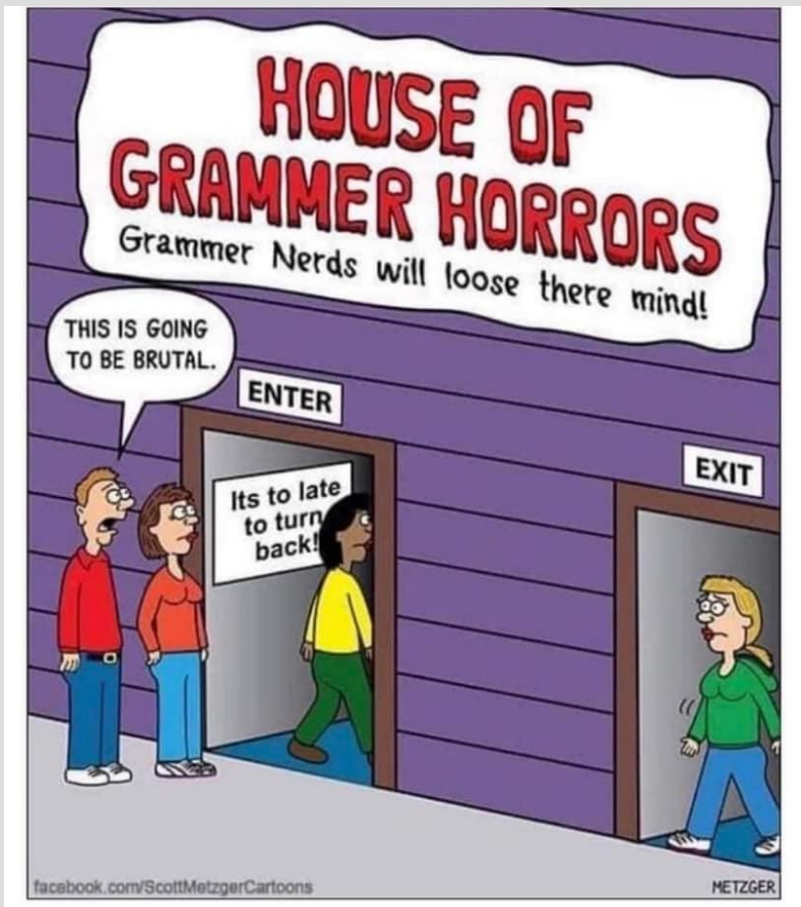
Thank you to....

Linda Alton, Vicki Clarke, Jeanette Jenkins, Mary MacLachlan, Diane Pease, Janice Reid, Hazel Sims, Mona Wilkins and Debbie Woods



We are always happy to welcome new members to the St. Thomas Elgin Branch of RWTO. If you know of a woman who has retired from Education (Teacher, Educational Assistant, Early Childhood Educator, Administrator or Child and Youth Worker), please invite them to join our wonderful group. There is nothing like the powerful feeling of hearing a large group of women laugh, enjoy a good meal and visit, give to our community and think about the topic of the day through our speaker program. And just wait till you hear us join voices to sing O' Canada! It's beautiful! The power of our Caring and Sharing attitude can truly lift you up.

In October, President Rita was thrilled to welcome two new members, Esther Wendel-Caraher and Norma Ewanik. Norma is a retired E. A. and Esther is a retired principal. Both were presented with new member pins.



Oct. 19/23



We hope you will join us on Nov. 16th at the Masonic Centre! Bring along a donation for Christmas Care and a small, raffle prize for our Quarter Auction Fun (don't forget your quarters!)

Moments from our Meeting: Oct. 19th Meeting

(thank you to Susan Grieve for taking great notes!)

- ❖ Fran Wren came up to recognize Deanna Cole from the Lawrence Station Community Hall. She is a special woman who sews endlessly for others, most recently completing 56 pairs of pajamas for children in need. Fran also thanked members for the donations of toiletries which are made into gift bags and given to different women's shelters. Millie Gremont led a group of children, including her granddaughter, in making the tote bags for Fran's project.
- ❖ Our Area 3 Director, Lynn Sulman, was introduced by Rita Demcheson and invited to make a few remarks. Lynn is in her 4th and final year as our director. Mary Maxwell, the co-president of the London Middlesex branch will replace Lynn as our director. Lynn congratulated our branch on our active work to support community needs and she encouraged all members to be open to taking on leadership roles. She gave a brief outline of the provincial committee structure and how they work. Rita thanked Lynn for representing us so well for the last four years and presented her with a lovely fall potted mum.
- ❖ Millie Gremont introduced our guest speaker, Andrea Ferrett, whose presentation was entitled Adventures from Land to Sea. Andrea gave us a behind the scenes look at life on cruise ships as one of the performers. She shared how she entered the field of performance as a child at Lester B. Pearson School for the Arts and ended up working on 9 different ships over 8 years, touring from Boston to Anchorage, Southampton to Turkey. Andrea was very enthusiastic about the experience at that time in her life. With some persuasion, Andrea favoured us with an a capella rendition of "Maybe" from the musical Annie, sharing her wonderful musical talent with us. Andrea was then thanked by Sue Bander.
- ❖ Rita then drew the name of Bonnie Tait as winner of the potted mum. The Toonie Board was sold out and the \$10 winner was Vicki Clarke, and the lucky \$100 winner was Pat McCaig. The Toonie Board will return in April. Funds from our Toonie Board go into our General Account to help pay for our meetings. The table top plants were given to the table member with the person whose birthday was closest to Hallowe'en.



Have you heard of Harvest Hands? If not, check them out at <https://harvesthands.ca/>

They are in need of shopping bags (cloth or plastic) to help with deliveries of food to those in need. If you have an excess of bags at home and wish to repurpose them, bring to our November meeting and Sue Bander will deliver them to Harvest Hands. They are supporting food security for thousands of people locally and beyond!