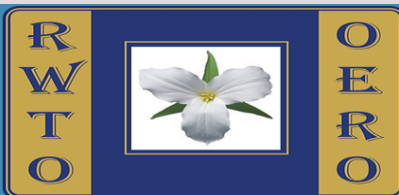


Retired Women  
Teachers of Ontario



Organisation des  
enseignantes  
retraitées de l'Ontario

### **President's Message:**

Hi everyone!

Spring has arrived! I know this because every morning at 5:00 a.m. my husband and I are awakened by the chirping of birds. The other morning, I was serenaded by Mr. and Mrs. Cardinal as I was getting into my car. So, you know what that means, it's time for gardening! It is also time to turn our attention to the upcoming Virtual Convention. Information about the Virtual Convention can be found in the March Connection Newsletter. The voting delegates for our branch are Millie Gremontprez, Mary Lynch and myself. This year's resolutions deal with further expansion of our membership as well as a name change for our organization. Please review them and share your opinion and concerns with your voting delegates. This year all branch members are invited to join this virtual convention. Spring is also the time for our first General meeting of the year. It will be held on Thursday, April 18. Let's shatter last year's attendance record of 64! See you there!

Rita Demcheson, President

*Our April 18<sup>th</sup> Speaker is:* Millie Gremontprez! Take a step with Millie into an amazing time capsule of little-known Canadian History: Grosse Ile, Quebec - a unique quarantine station for all ships from 1832 to 1937. Prepare to be surprised and enlightened.

### **Your 2023-24 Executive:**

**President:** Rita Demcheson

**Past Pres:** Cathy Gardiner

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Shelly Sturk

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**Our Next Meeting: Thurs.**  
**April 18<sup>th</sup> at the St. Thomas**  
**Sr. Centre. 11:00**  
**Registration- Toonie Board**  
**Time! Bring your toonies!**

**Watch for Mary's email**  
**invite! Just hit REPLY to**  
**book your spot!**



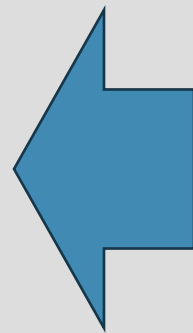
**Looking ahead..... please mark your calendars for the 2023-2024 meetings!**

**Registration will open at 11:00 with program starting at 11:30. Lunch to follow.**

**Apr.18- St. Thomas Sr. Centre-Lunch – Register at 11:00 \$35**

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

**June 20- Stoneridge Inn- Fashion Show and Register at 11:00 \$35**



### Membership News:

**Annual Dues:** It has been our good fortune to pay extremely low annual dues for many years now, despite the rise in costs of just about everything this past decade. At our annual convention in Kingston last June, an increase of ten dollars was approved by delegates. The new fee, payable in May, will be \$55. Our membership convenor, Millie, will send out a reminder in May. Dues paid this spring carry your membership through to Aug 31 2025.

*FYI: most St. Thomas organizations (Rotary, Kiwanis etc.) have annual fees three to four times higher.*

**New Info?** Help keep our membership list up to date! If you have any changes to your contact information, please let us know at [rwto.ste@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.ste@gmail.com)

**DO YOU KNOW THAT FOR LESS THAN**



**PER DAY.....**

**the RWTO Health Insurance Plan offers post-hospital home care insurance to help with expenses following an accident or illness? For certain benefits, the plan offers cash with no receipts necessary - only the doctor's certification that you have been in hospital. This is a unique plan, offered only to retired WOMEN educators and their spouses.**

**For information go to [rwto.org](http://rwto.org) – Insurance Plans – Member Benefits. Brochures are available at our meetings or contact our very approachable Provincial Convenor Leanne Taylor at [rwtoeroinsurance@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoeroinsurance@gmail.com)**

**Members must be in good standing (dues paid) with RWTO to qualify.**

Do you have a great idea? Your BRANCH executive is seeking suggestions for a *"Feather in our Hat"* project for our 2024-25 year.

If you have an idea for a big project that will help our community, please send your suggestions to our President Rita at [rdemcheson@hotmail.com](mailto:rdemcheson@hotmail.com) or our Vice President

Shelly Sturk at [shellysturk@rogers.com](mailto:shellysturk@rogers.com)

One suggestion is to find a way to create a summer food bank specifically for kids and teens. Thoughts?

We will continue collecting and creating Backpacks for Students at our local Women's Shelter, but we are looking for a second way to support the needs our children in our community.



**FROM THE ELGIN COUNTY ARCHIVES.....**



**Hazel Sims and Mildred Heidt at the St. Thomas-Elgin Chapter of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario meeting at the New Sarum Diner on April 20th, 2012 at the St. Thomas-Elgin Chapter of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario meeting at the New Sarum Diner on April 20th, 2012. Mildred Heidt was one of 14 retired teachers, long-time members of RWTO, 85 years and older, who were recognized and honored for their years of service and steadfastness to help make the organization and the teaching profession what it is today.**



**1st Vice-President Beth Phoenix (on left) with Chapter Archivists Leslie Carroll-Frey and Wendy Glover, during a meeting of the St. Thomas-Elgin Chapter of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario at the Lawrence Station Hall on October 21st, 2016. Included in the scrapbook documenting the activities of the St. Thomas-Elgin Chapter of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario for the period September 2015 to June 2017.**

**67 members are pictured during the St. Thomas-Elgin Chapter of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario meeting at the Elmhurst Inn in Ingersoll on June 20th, 2019. Included in the scrapbook documenting the activities of the St. Thomas-Elgin Chapter of Retired Women Teachers of Ontario for the period March 2019 to November 2019.**

