

Retired Women  
Teachers of Ontario



Organisation des  
enseignantes  
retraitées de l'Ontario

### President's Message:

Hi everyone!  
What a great turn out we had for the November meeting! I hope you had fun and were lucky enough to win some prizes. Through your participation in the Raffle and Quarter Auction, we raised \$1032.40 for our Branch activities. Thank you for your generous donation of cash (\$1230), toys and books to Christmas Care. As Chief Elf, I was very pleased that we had a successful meeting! Now, I can turn to a more serious task – “My Christmas Wish List”. I would like to share it with you hoping that you may be able to help Santa fulfill my wishes.  
My Christmas Wish List  
1. A Second- Vice President  
2. An Insurance Convenor  
3. A new bra  
4. Peace on Earth  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Rita a.k.a Chief Elf

**Our Next Meeting: You are invited! Thurs. April 18<sup>th</sup> at the St. Thomas Sr. Centre.**

**More details closer to date. Watch for Mary's email invite!**



Millie and Gianna welcomed our members to our annual Christmas Meeting at the Masonic Centre.

**Remember to save and bring in your Pop Tabs for Wheelchairs! Aurilla's team is working on their 58<sup>th</sup> wheelchair (with 4 already in 2023!) Aurilla is starting to train Youth Groups to help process these tabs. If you know of a group, please contact [aurillaripley@gmail.com](mailto:aurillaripley@gmail.com)**



### 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



From Sue Bandeen:

Thank you to those who brought re-useable bags. They have been donated to Harvest Hands and are greatly appreciated!

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

**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**



**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](mailto:lindalaforge50@gmail.com)**

**West Elgin: Ginny Barfett at [barfettginny@gmail.com](mailto:barfettginny@gmail.com)**

**Central Elgin: Lynn Christie at [christielynnjean@gmail.com](mailto:christielynnjean@gmail.com)**



**Christmas Care Thank YOU!**

**Thank you to our generous members for your food and cash donations. Our Branch members generously donated \$1230 plus new toys and books. Thank you so much! Our Branch made a BIG difference in the lives of many little ones!**

**Pictured is: Susan Grieve and Rita Demcheson presenting to Richard Auckland.**



**We are already planning for our June Fashion Show on June 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cgardiner6112@gmail.com)**

**Millie's MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

Our branch welcomed several new members in the past twelve months, including three retired Educational Assistants for the first time. The following have joined our team and we look forward to seeing them at future meetings. Please take a moment to note the names and if possible, help make them feel welcome at a future meeting.

Esther Wendel-Caraher

Sylvie Thibeault

Melinda Doan

Judy Johnston

Norma Ewanick

Jaye Lale

As members, you are the backbone of this wonderful organization. In most cases, *you are also the best resource for new members*. Whether you are new to RWTO, or have been a faithful friend for years, please consider reaching out to those you know who are newly retired or someone whose life circumstances have changed where they might now enjoy the camaraderie of our meetings. As members, you are welcome to bring a guest once to a meeting as long as they pay for their meal. Guest attendees have very often joined and become valued members.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL ! We wish you a healthy and happy season. See you in April!**

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, Debbie Woods and Fran Wren.



**From your Executive Elves.**

## INSURANCE MATTERS: WHY?

Would you consider **Hospital and Home Care Insurance** through RWTO?

*Most of us are optimistic that we can successfully avoid medical complications, but as we enjoy our retirement years, the reality is many of us will be confronted with the physical and financial strain that comes with recovering from an accident, elective surgery or illness.*

It provides you with a very beneficial **third tier of coverage** after OHIP and your current plan, such as Johnson.

## REMEMBER!

If you are currently enrolled in our Hospital Home and Care Plan, your coverage is secure as long as you are a member in good standing with RWTO with dues paid up annually. You should also inform a close family member and/or your executor that you are carrying this plan in the event that it is no longer needed and can be cancelled. **Manulife Financial 1-877-222-7340**

## LEARN MORE:

Use the link here to view a short but very informative slide show on the benefits offered

<https://rwto.org/membership/insurance-plan/>

## QUESTIONS:

Contact our Provincial Insurance Convenor LeAnne Taylor 905-875-5953

[rwtoeroinsurance@gmail.com](mailto:rwtoeroinsurance@gmail.com)

## *From the Archives:*



**Creating Christmas cards during the meeting at the Kettle Creek Golf and Country Club on March 25th, 2011. What a wonderful idea but does anyone recall why they were being made in March?**

# Minutes from our Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting:

- As members registered, we were entertained by Suzie Q who sang a wonderful variety of songs as background music as everyone browsed the raffle items and visited with friends. We had 82 members in attendance.
- President Rita called the meeting to order and we opened with O Canada, led by Suzie Q. Cathy Gardiner read the land acknowledgement and then our Chief Elf Rita welcomed everyone. *The minutes of the October general meeting were adopted on a motion by Deb Rosebrugh, seconded by Cathy Gardiner. Carried.*
- Our members gave very generously to our charity which was *Christmas Care*. Richard Auckland, President of Christmas Care gratefully received a cheque in the amount of \$1230.00 as well as many boxes of toys, books and other needed items. Richard shared that they assisted 1400 individuals or families in 2022, including 800 children and 300 teens, and sadly they anticipate the need will be even greater this year, so our donations are appreciated.
- Rita announced the winner of the table top poinsettias as the person with a red ribbon around the cutlery. She also announced that raffle tickets would be sold until 12:30 and the raffle would begin during dessert. Rita thanks the executive “elves” and their helpers who looked after setting up the raffle, the quarter auction, and organizing the Christmas Care donations. We then enjoyed the excellent turkey dinner provided by Cathy’s Catering, including the decadent sticky toffee pudding. As we were enjoying the dessert, Chief Elf Rita and her assistant Elf Cathy began the raffle draws. The donated raffle prizes were varied and there was something to appeal to everyone. The raffle raised \$835.00 to help offset our meeting costs. Thank you everyone!
- After lunch, the very entertaining Quarter Auction began, with Rita, Judy DeGroot and Hazel Sims running this event. Again, we enjoyed a wonderful variety of gift options and this fun event raised \$197.40, again to help with our meeting costs.
- Mary Lynch, our Call Convener, reported that the online invitations are going more smoothly as people get comfortable with this format. She thanked everyone who responded promptly as that reduces the work for the callers. The meeting notices will go out on the first Thursday of the month and she asked that people take note of the RSVP deadline. If anyone is still having issues, please contact Mary and she will attempt to resolve any problems. Our next meeting is April 18, 2024, and of course Rita left us smiling as she closed with another of her jokes.  
*The meeting adjourned on a motion by Cathy Gardiner, seconded by Sherry Rosevear. Carried.*

Submitted by: *Susan Grieve, Secretary*

