

Retired Women
Teachers of OntarioOrganisation des
enseignantes
retraitées de l'Ontario**President's Message:**

Happy August! Again, they simply just get faster every year. I hope you all enjoyed the sunshine and warmth. Retirement certainly makes summer feel different. I really hope you were able to enjoy doing the things that bring you joy.

For myself, it was fabulous to spend time with family and friends. My children live in BC, so I was lucky this summer to visit with them and then go on an Alaskan cruise. (I can also say, I successfully hiked many kilometres and did not fall or break any bones!) I feel so incredibly blessed to be able to do the things I love with my family.



Moving into the new year, I wish all our friends and neighbours still working to have a great start up to the school year. I'm going to join them as a co-principal with my friend Esther and will be starting up a school in Elgin County to help a former colleague.

I love the excitement a new school year brings and am looking forward to this year. I'm asking you to please reach out to a new retiree and have them join us in September at the Senior's Centre. This amazing dream team executive has a lot planned for a new year together. "Many hands make light work" as we all know. Enjoy the end of summer and hope to see you all in September!

Shelly

From our Treasurer, Millie:

Membership Renewals cost \$55.

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

Your 2024-25 Executive:**President:** Shelly Sturk**Past Pres:** Rita Demcheson**1st VP:** open**2nd VP:** open**Caller Convenor:** Mary Lynch**Treasurer:** Millie Gremontprez**Secretary:** Susan Grieve**Communications:** Karen Auckland**Insurance Convenor:** Rita Demcheson**Archivist:** Sue Bandeen**Goodwill Convenors:**

Central- Lynn Christie

East- Linda Laforge

West- Ginny Barfett



LOOKING AHEAD- PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2025-26 PROGRAM!

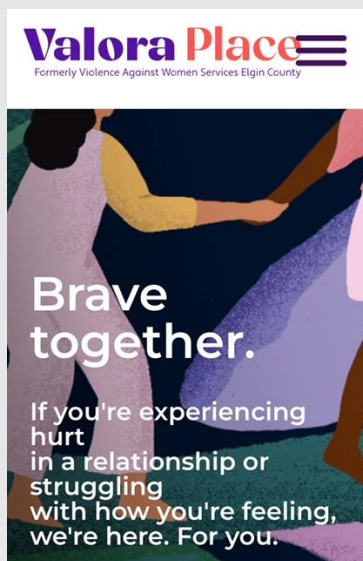
<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Program/M meal</i>	<i>Charity Support for....</i>
Thurs.Sept.18th 9:30 Registration Cost: \$10	St. Thomas Sr. Centre Toonie Board	Coffee Meeting Guest: Brian May and the Ukelele Band	<i>Valora Place</i> (formerly known as Violence Against Women Shelter) Presentation of Backpacks from our Branch (no donations needed at this time)
Thurs. Oct. 16th 11:00 Registration Cost: \$35	Lawrence Station Community Hall Toonie Board Wear your best Western Hat or outfit!	Come to the West for a Roast Beef Dinner (With pie!) Speaker: Kathryn Kenney- Dolly Parton Imagination Library	<i>West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary Food Bank-</i> Accepting \$ donations
Thurs. Nov. 20th 11:00 Registration Cost: \$35	Masonic Hall, St. Thomas Wear your best Christmas colours or sweaters!	Turkey Dinner Silent Auction, Quarter Auction Music by Susie Q	<i>Christmas Care-</i> bring \$ or a new toy or book plus one item for the Silent Auction Table
Thurs. Apr. 16th 11:00 Registration Cost \$35	St. Thomas Golf and Country Club, Union	Light lunch <i>Memorial Services and Special Birthday Celebration</i> Speaker: Matt Janes- "Our Railway History"	<i>East Elgin Community Assistance Program-</i> Accepting \$ donations
Thurs. May 21st 11:00 Registration Cost: \$35	St. Thomas Senior Centre Toonie Board	Lasagna Lunch Fashion Show, STEGH Foundation	<i>St. Thomas Elgin Food Bank</i> Accepting \$ donations
Thurs. June 18th 11:00 Registration Cost \$35	Location and Meal to be confirmed. Toonie Board	Elgin County Team Trivia Game Show	<i>Backpack Project for Valora Place</i> Accepting \$ donations

Thank you to everyone who donated towards our St. Thomas-Elgin Branch's Legacy Project (now 24 years old). 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!

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 Valora Place.

Click on this link to learn more about services available at Valora Place <https://valoraplace.ca/>



Thank you to Pam Deven, Sandi Manfredi and Marilyn Beaton for assisting with meeting planning and set ups. Every bit of support makes is do-able and fun for all!

Please let President Shelly know if you can help by doing an e-news, taking minutes for a meeting, or just joining in on our planning meetings.

Our executive meets on Thurs. Sept. 11th at 9:00 a.m. email Shelly at shellysturk@rogers.com for location details.

COMMUNITY CORNER:

ELGIN COUNTY STUDIO TOUR

SEPTEMBER 27 & 28 2025

The Elgin County Studio Tour is a self-directed tour of artists' studios, providing a unique opportunity to meet the artists in their workspaces.

10-5 DAILY



Visit the website for locations and maps!
elgincountystudiotour.ca



The Elgin County Studio Tour is a FREE self-directed tour of artists' studios, providing a unique opportunity to meet the artists in their workspaces.

Join this awesome opportunity to celebrate one of our own members and see the results of her talents and time!

Congrats to Judy Mennill!



Judy Mennill The Bunkhouse

Acrylic painter depicting a variety of subjects including landscapes, still life and portraits.

51200 Vienna Line, Aylmer, ON.