



RWTO - Mississauga Branch



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2025



Dear Mississauga Members,

Our 2025-26 year is off to a great start. Interest groups are going strong, we had a great trip to Stratford, and we have held two very successful Luncheons, which you can read about in this newsletter.

Our Fundraising has allowed us to donate \$3000.00 to the Mississauga Foodbank and \$1200.00 to the Salvation Army. We also had a record number of toys and food items donated to the Salvation Army. Congratulations to our very generous members

Our gratitude goes out to Mary Karol, who donated so much of her time and creativity to the sale of so many items at the Christmas luncheon. We are also very grateful to the Interest Groups who donated many beautiful baskets for the raffle.

Our Executive welcomed two new members to our team of volunteers:

- ❖ Susan Hayman is the new editor of our newsletter. She has also been working on compiling information on all our Interest Groups, which will be posted on our website and new Facebook page in the new year.
- ❖ Annette Ackerman is the new Trips and Tours Convenor. You will be hearing from her very soon regarding our next excursion.

Remember that new volunteers for our executive and luncheons are always needed and welcome.

On behalf of your executive, we want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas Season and Health and Happiness in the New Year.

Marie Solarski and Margaret Geare, Co-Presidents



Interest Group Info

Detailed Interest Group information will be posted on the RWTO website. In January 2026, we will use Facebook to promote our Interest Groups, and to help recruit new retired teachers to our Mississauga Branch of RWTO.



Trips

Convenor: Annette Ackerman (recently took on this role)

Temporary Convenor: Clara Gigliotti

When: TBA. The Executive meets in January, giving Annette time to consider possible trips for 2026 to present to the Executive for approval.

Where: Various destinations within a few hours of the GTA.

Details: We are working out the details of upcoming trips. Please stay tuned. On October 9, 2025, 41 RWTO members travelled by coach to the Stratford Festival Theatre for the delightful play, *Sense and Sensibility*. Before the play, we enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Parlour Inn. We were very happy to have five members from the BurlOak Branch join us on this trip.

Open to all: Be on the lookout for a general email. Trips are capped at a maximum number. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pics:





In Memoriam Donations



The book *West Coast Wild* and an Indigo gift card

- On October 8, 2025, the book *West Coast Wild* and \$200 in Indigo gift cards were donated to Our Lady of Good Voyage Catholic Elementary School. The principal, Karen MacDonald, was thrilled to accept our branch's **In Memoriam** book donation in the name of **Janet English**, who passed on December 29, 2024, and taught at this school.
- The 2025 members who were remembered with the Indigo gift cards:

Joan Innes, May 2024 / Doris Stewart, June 13, 2024 / Eva Emo, June 26, 2024 / Phyllis Anzil, June 26, 2024 / Joyce Cutler, August 9, 2024 / Theresa MacKenzie, Sept 3, 2024 / Eleanor Dallimore, Sept 20, 2024 / Rose Marie Hill, Oct 20, 2024 / Judy Putherbough, February 11, 2025.

- RWTO Mississauga Branch's goal is to donate a book in the name of members being remembered to a school where they taught. Please inform Janet McIntosh, Goodwill Convenor (dalsangan28@gmail.com), of members who have passed since June 2025, if you know where they taught.



We're in the Money!

Congratulations to the first ten members of RWTO Mississauga who sent their 2025-26 fees in a **very timely manner**, in late May and early June. Here they are, listed on date received:

Sharon Smith, May 26 / Terry Malette, May 27 / Mary Lynn Guay, May 27 / Sharon Bedard, May 28 / Gerri Khalid, May 28 / Gerry Cunningham, May 31 / Beverley Staddon, June 1 / Mary Young, June 1 / Janet Hein, June 1 / Kairy MacAulay, June 3



Our October 2025 Luncheon



Our October Lunch at Credit Valley Golf and Country Club began with a book sale, a fundraiser for the **Stephen Lewis Foundation**, and the sale of members' crafts.

Marie Solarski, our Co-President, called us to order for a **Cora Bailey Presentation** to Mary Thompson, a **Yellow Rose Presentation** to our "Over-80s" and to New Members.

Margaret Geare, our Co-President, gave a PowerPoint on the value of a **Facebook Account** for our Mississauga Branch. A motion was passed unanimously to create a Facebook Account for our branch.

Margaret also told us about a 5-part series of workshops being presented by the Provincial Social Justice Committee on *Strategies for Living Our Best Lives*.

Our meal of creamed potato, herb-roasted chicken supreme, (vegetarian - grilled and roasted vegetable Wellington), chocolate mouse or fresh fruit plate, coffee/tea, was enjoyed by everyone while socializing.



Our Membership Convenor, Deborah Hart, presented membership pins to Annette Ackerman, Agnes Bogucki, Angela Di Lorito, and Bernette Gilles, while Nancy Sainthill, Secretary, presented the yellow roses.



Our December 2025 Luncheon

Location: Renaissance by the Creek, Hall D. 3045 Southcreek Rd. Mississauga
(905) 238-9666 <https://www.renaissancebythecreek.com>



Hors d'oeuvres were passed while members purchased their raffle tickets and socialized. Coffee, punch, and tea were available. Red and white wine were \$7 per glass.

Our celebration was all about sharing and giving while enjoying a delicious lunch. Our **lunch** consisted of:

Appetizer: Garden salad of mixed greens

Main course: Char-grilled chicken with cranberry jus, crispy orange glazed salmon, and penne Alfredo with wild mushrooms, and sweet and sour green glazed beans.

Vegetarian and vegan options were available

Dessert: Warm apple crumble with French vanilla ice cream OR fruit plate

Interest Groups were asked to provide a **wrapped gift basket** for the raffle if they could. Baskets (with a list of contents attached) were dropped off the day before.

The Luncheon started with a raffle for the baskets. A sheet of raffle tickets cost \$10, sold by Nancy Sainthill, Deborah Hart, and Janet McIntosh, on our Mississauga Branch executive. All raffle proceeds went to the Mississauga Food Bank.



Our raffle was popular with our members



Back by Popular Demand—our 100 Board 50/50. Tickets were \$2.00, and \$100 went to the lucky winner.

The donation from the Raffle, the 100 Board, and Mary Karol's Christmas decorative ornaments was \$2,500.

Again, we extend our deep **gratitude** to **Mary Karol**, who donated time and creativity to the sale of many items, and to our **Interest Groups**, who donated many lovely raffle baskets.

Best of all, our **total fundraising** allowed us to donate \$3000.00 to the Mississauga Foodbank and \$1200.00 to the Salvation Army. We also had a record number of toys and food items donated to the Salvation Army. We congratulate our members' generosity.



Brigham Phillips, music director, guided these energetic women (The Ambiance Singers) to sing for the love of music. Included in their customized Christmas concert was a wide variety of music.

This performance brought out the spirit of Christmas!



Members brought new unwrapped toys and non-perishable foods to put near the Christmas tree outside the banquet room. Sheila Williams, Issues and Concerns, delivered them, along with \$600, to the Salvation Army after the luncheon.



How Provincial Membership Fees Assist Branches

The Provincial Board is composed of members from all over Ontario. Together, they work diligently to be financially responsible to the organization.

- By the end of October, Provincial receives the membership fee of \$50 per member from all Branches.
- In November, the Branches receive 30% (\$15) for operational expenses. The Provincial Board is working to assist smaller Branches with the money that is left after the rebate.
- Every year at our June AGM, delegates receive an in-depth report of our finances from our Provincial Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Huffman. Unfortunately, this information is not always passed along to Branch members.
- RWTO/OERO pays a huge expense for our conventions. Recently, the Kingston Convention cost a little over \$90,000. They did make a profit, but this does not always happen.
- Provincial pays for two delegate registrations, hotels, meals, entertainment, and mileage in some cases. Provincial also provides a small budget for Executive and Area Directors for their meeting in September with the Presidents.
- Membership fees also provide the prize money for our awards: Barbara Bain, Feather in Your Hat, and Honorary President
- Membership fees pay for the Goodwill budget. Our "over 90 years old" members receive cards at special times of the year. When they reach 100 years of age, these members receive a gift or gifts worth up to \$100 on behalf of RWTO/OERO.
- For our 70th Anniversary, Branches were given a \$200 grant to celebrate in their community.
- The reduction of members necessitated the latest fee increase, which had not happened for twenty years.
- Regarding fee increases, in March 2007, RWTO/OERO registered 5,323 paid members, while as of March 2023, we had a total of 4,392 paid members. Financially, that drop in numbers meant that we lost \$37,240 in fees, compared to 2007.
- But this is not just about finances. Our age demographic is also an important factor. In 2023, here was the age demographic spread:

Members born 1964-1968 numbered only 56.
 Members born 1954-1963 numbered 434.
 Members aged 70-79 numbered 1,686.
 Members aged 80-89 numbered 1,034.
 Members aged 90+ numbered 250 - 320
 They are Life Members paying no fees.
 RWTO is an aging demographic!



Volunteers Needed

For Meals on Wheels

Can you spare 3 to 4 hours one day a week?

Please contact the VON to volunteer.

905-821-3254



Friendly Outreach

If you know of an RWTO member who is ill or has lost a family member or needs a friendly greeting, please contact our Friendship and Goodwill Convenor Janet McIntosh
dalsangan28@gmail.com



What a beautiful start to the RWTO spirit of Christmas giving!
Wishing all a Merry Christmas, a lovely holiday season, and a Happy New Year!
See you in 2026!



