



HAMILTON-WENTWORTH
BRANCH

Newsletter

JAN - MAR 2026



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Please send articles and photos for our RWTO/OERO Hamilton-Wentworth April 2026 newsletter by March 26, to trandles@rogers.com.

President's Message

All I can think about are gingerbread cookies, shortbread, gingersnaps, and those curved walnut moon cookies. What a fantastic time of year.

We celebrated well at our "Holiday Happenings" event at the Hamilton Airforce Association in Dundas. The hot apple crisp is still on my mind. Our congratulations and thanks to chef Kyle Chovaz, his team and the Club for making available the venue on such short notice, to accommodate our change of plans. Thanks always to Jan Lukas for the incredible pictures, and of course to our fantastic executive team. Our thanks also to members who came early and pitched in to help!



We look forward to a break from the winter blahs with TRIVIA NIGHT to be held on February 25 at The SHED in Dundas. Education professionals are always great at trivia, so let's get together a table or two and try to win!

We are trying to start a new book club in the new year, so if you are interested, please send a note to rwto.annlouise@gmail.com. We already have six members interested and could use more!

Our author zoom was so fascinating with Julie E Czerneda. I think all of us attending wanted to try our hands at science fiction reading. We have another author to connect with in the new year, so watch for details on Cinda Gault.

Help also locally to promote RWTO's 70th anniversary. Plans are underway for the 2026 convention in London, so check out details in our Newsletter!

Holiday plans are evident all around us. For those heading to warm places, take care and be safe!

-President Ann Louise Gloyn, rwto.annlouise@gmail.com, (289) 921-0705



MEMBERSHIP

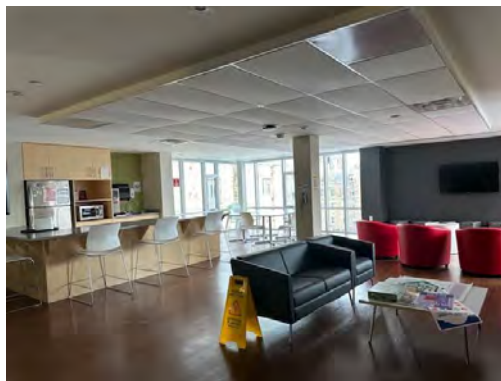
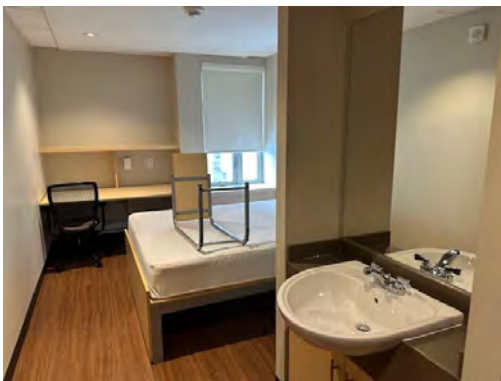
2026 AGM Convention

In early 2026, Branches will receive information about the number of delegates that will receive funding from Provincial. With our 70th Anniversary celebrations, all Branches are encouraged to try to interest members to attend the 2026 Convention. It will be a memorable experience.

Hamilton-Wentworth will be sending 4 delegates. Details will be in the March Connections newsletter.

Accommodations - Western University, Clare Hall

1. Single room accommodation for each delegate or guest - with a queen bed, a sink, a refrigerator and a shared bathroom with an adjoining room. There are a few handicapped rooms.
2. Lounge - There are five floors of accommodation with a lounge for socializing.
3. Cafeteria - providing meals that have been selected by the Convention Committee.



How Does the Provincial Organization of RWTO/OERO Spend My Membership Fee?

Provincial membership fees are currently **\$50** a year. Some of our 46 Branches also include a smaller top-up fee to assist with their own expenses.

(Hamilton-Wentworth currently adds \$10 per person annually.)

Provincial current sources of income:

- Membership fees (our only guaranteed funds)
(Life Members - elderly/infirm who are unable to attend activities pay no fees)
- Manulife insurance - annual premium rebate & promotional support
- Bank investment income
- Convention surplus - if any
- Bequeathment by members (occasionally) – something to consider?

Expenses:

- Note - 30% of your membership fee is returned to your Branch (\$15), leaving Provincial with \$35 of your fee to assist with the following items:
 - Convention costs (approx. \$80,000 - \$100,000) - reimbursements to delegates, Over 90's Luncheon, workshops, printing, etc.
 - Connections Newsletter, creation, as well as printing and postage for the 2500 members who do not receive it by email X 3 times a year
 - Website expenses - domain costs, creation, updates
 - Salary - Executive Secretary-Treasurer
 - Liability Insurance
 - Annual Branch Awards - Barbara Bain (Branch membership increase), Feather-in-your-hat (Branch projects), Cora Bailey Award Pins
 - Special Awards - Honorary Members (Provincial Service Award), Centenarian Awards (for each member who turns 100), Honorarium for the Provincial President and Recording Secretary
 - Small Branch Grants -12 small Branches receive \$400 annually to help costs
 - Branch Grants - given periodically (e.g. \$200 this year to each of our 46 Branches to help celebrate our 70th anniversary.)
 - Board of Directors Meetings (once or twice annually - 3 days each)
 - Goodwill Committee - mails 3 cards each year to each member 90+
 - Committee Projects & Expenses, e.g. brochures, sales & materials
 - Office expenses (computer programs, postage, supplies, etc.)
 - Area Director Meetings with their Branches
 - Insurance Meetings with Branches
 - President's visits to Branches

Provincial Membership - March 2025 - 4423

Over 90	293	Most are life members
80 - 89	1,148	
70 - 79	1,519	
60 - 69	338	
50 - 59	49	
No birth dates known	1,076	



Millie Green

Betty Coombs

Dorothy Wentworth, Millie, Elaine Aikman, Linda Sargeant



RWTO/OERO (Retired Women Teachers of Ontario)

Linda Sargeant · Dec 21 · 🌐

Greetings! My name is Linda Sargeant, and I am honoured to hold the role of RWTO/OERO President for 2025-2026. It saddens me to have to make the attached post, which I ask you to read carefully. Unfortunately, as senior women, we are targets for thieves who use email fraud as a means to make a quick buck. They do not have access to the email addresses of our members, but can find email addresses for some of the Provincial Board of Directors, and Branch contacts. Please check out the poster, and thank you for not ever buying gift cards for anyone who asks for them on-line.

RWTO EMAIL SCAM

If you receive an email from the Provincial or a Branch President, or an Executive member, that asks if you have a moment, or are you busy, it is a SCAM! If you reply, you will be asked to buy gift cards and send them. Our email accounts have NOT been hacked. Someone is creating new ones, pretending they are us. If you receive one of these, block the sender and put the email in your trash. Please let the person know, who supposedly sent it to you, so they are aware. We never use gift cards as currency, and would never be asking you to handle the financial aspects of our duties.

Outreach Report



The Harvest Luncheon held at the Waterfront Centre was an exciting afternoon of reconnecting. After lunch and entertainment, we collected the envelopes for Hamilton Food Share. Our timing was perfect to donate to this worthwhile charity, with children going back to school and expenses high after summer for many families.

We raised \$1362.00. Ann Louise, Lesley Devries and myself met at the Stoney Creek Hamilton Food Share to present them with our cheque. The warehouse was busy receiving much needed donations. We were welcomed by front office staff and were able to have a lovely picture taken of the presentation.

Our Holiday Happenings Luncheon, held at a new venue was a roaring success. Members were happy to see each other. We enjoyed a lovely background chorus while we ate. The food was amazing.

Together we raised \$1,539.50 for the Eva Rothwell Centre. Executive members Ann Louise Gloyn, Lesley Devries, Isabella Marchese and myself met at the Eva Rothwell Centre to present the cheque to the centre's director. Another staff member showed us around the facility as clients were coming and going.

We were feeling joyful as we posed in front of the Xmas tree, knowing how appreciated our donation would be.

- Submitted by Ruth Settle

I want to remind you about our "SPECIAL OUTREACH PROJECT" 2026. Our budget has \$500 allocated for special outreach, and we certainly want to be able to use that money and help some needy person in our community. There are certainly many who could benefit.

You can nominate someone who is not a charity or a non-profit, (focusing on women and children) and fill out the application form found on our website under BRANCH Hamilton-Wentworth.

All applications are due by JANUARY 15TH, 2026, and can be forwarded to me. I look forward to receiving them. Thank you

Hope Leon, ...Chair of Special Outreach, hopesleon01@gmail.com

"We Are the Bridge"

My name's Richard. I'm 74. I sometimes think our generation is the bridge between two worlds — one made of dirt roads and handwritten letters, the other made of satellites and screens in our pockets.

I was born in a house without air conditioning. Summer meant open windows and the hum of a box fan. We knew the neighbors by name, and if your bike chain broke, you knocked on any door until someone found a wrench. We grew up on patience — waiting for the mail, waiting for the library to open, waiting for the radio to play our favorite song again.

Then the world sped up. Phones shrank, music became invisible, and the news didn't take days to reach us — it arrived in our palms before we finished breakfast. We learned to type, to swipe, to tap. We learned to talk to machines and have them talk back. We learned... because we always had to.

We've seen milk delivered to the door in glass bottles, and we've scanned groceries without a cashier. We've dropped coins in payphones and made video calls across oceans. We've known the sound of silence — no buzzing notifications — and the sound of an entire world pinging at once.

Sometimes younger folks think we're behind. But here's what I know: our generation knows both worlds. We can plant tomatoes and write an email. We can tell a story without Google, and then fact-check ourselves with it. We know the weight of a handwritten letter because we've held it, and we know the reach of a message sent in seconds because we've pressed "send" and watched a reply arrive from thousands of miles away.

We are proof that you can change without losing yourself. That you can honor where you came from while learning where the world is going.

We've buried friends and welcomed grandchildren. We've watched diseases disappear and new ones arrive. We've known paper maps and GPS, postcards and emojis, patience and immediacy.

And maybe that's our real gift — we carry the memory of a slower, quieter world, and the skills to navigate the fast, loud one. We can teach the young that not everything needs to happen instantly... and remind the old that it's never too late to try something new.

We are the bridge. The middle chapter. The link between what was and what will be.
~ author unknown, submitted by Mardie Panabaker

RWTO Insurance Tidbits

Here are some lesser known facts about our RWTO insurance plan which help to show why it is so worth having and for such a reasonable amount.

Cataract Surgery Benefit pays for cost of prescribed pre-and post-operative medical supplies, including medications, sunglasses, lenses, frames, cataract testing and eye patches. Subject to a \$100 Max. per eye. Do not forget to apply for it, as most of this is not covered by RTO or OTIP.

Under your Personal Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan you have a Repatriation Benefit which pays the expenses incurred in preparing the body for burial or cremation and the transportation of the body to his or her city of residence, should an in jury result in the loss of life outside Canada. Subject to a maximum of \$5000.

Comfort Care Benefit - If you have similar coverage from another insurance plan, like RTO, submit theirs first. If there are still outstanding costs, submit them to RWTO Plan.

*.Also, did you know that our Fracture Benefit pays out to you even if you did not require hospitalization?
- Lynn Anderton, HW Insurance Convenor

HAPPENINGS – LOOKING BACK

Harvest Luncheon, October 8, 2025



The Downtime Band at the Waterfront Centre

Table envelopes and Share the Wealth for Hamilton Food Share



The Ti-Cats Game – Saturday, October 11, 2025



A beautiful day for a Ti-Cat game!



Karaoke Night at Tracie's Place Restaurant - October, 2025



Karaoke night at Tracie's Place Restaurant was so much fun that we would like to try it again in the Spring, only with more of you!

We even danced a little!

New Members Breakfast - The Egg & I, November 5, 2025



The New Members Breakfast at "The Egg & I" was successful. We accepted 2 new members and found others who were interested. Those who recruited our members and potential members made them feel welcome. We even had our Provincial President attend!

It was a great way to spread the word about RWTO!



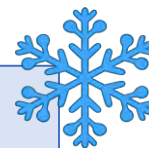
Winter's Bright Moments

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

Winter may be cold and gray,
But special times warm up each day.
New Year's brings a hopeful start,
With fresh resolve in every heart.

Groundhog Day adds a little fun,
Will winter linger, or spring soon come?
Valentine's Day spreads love around,
In every corner, joy is found.

These moments make the season bright,
Filling our hearts with pure delight.
Though winter's long, these days remind,
There's warmth and cheer for us to find!



Holiday Happenings, Dec. 3, 2025



Entertainment by the Chorus Hamilton Choir



The Volunteer Service Awards recipients: Nancy Papiez, Mardie Panabaker, Ann Louise Gloyn (presenter), Eileen Collins, Danielle Chouinard, Rosemary Marcotte (absent – Sandie Bender)



A delicious turkey dinner at the Hamilton Airforce Association Hall, in Dundas



HAPPENINGS – LOOKING FORWARD

TRIVIA NIGHT AT THE SHED!



Shawn & Ed Brewery

65 Hatt St., Dundas, ON

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!

Test your knowledge, compete with friends and enjoy a night out at Shawn & Ed's!

Reserve your table by emailing: rwto.annlouise@gmail.com.

Please RSVP by February 18, 2026 to guarantee your spot.

Grab your thinking toques and join us for a great night of trivia!

<p>Make new friends throughout Ontario!</p> <p>Sharing, Caring, & so much FUN!</p> <p>Plan events, invite each other, and give support to each other!</p> <p>How great is that?</p> <p>Come-join us!</p>	 <p>“Let’s Do Coffee!”</p>	<p>Thurs. Jan. 29</p> <p>Thurs. Feb. 26</p> <p>Thurs. Mar. 26</p> <p>Thurs. Apr. 30</p> <p>Thurs. May 28</p> <p>Thurs. June 25</p> <p>@ 10:00 am.</p> <p>JOIN THE FUN!</p> <p>in 2026</p>
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Contact Hope Leon for the link, hopesleon01@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUPS



Painting Group

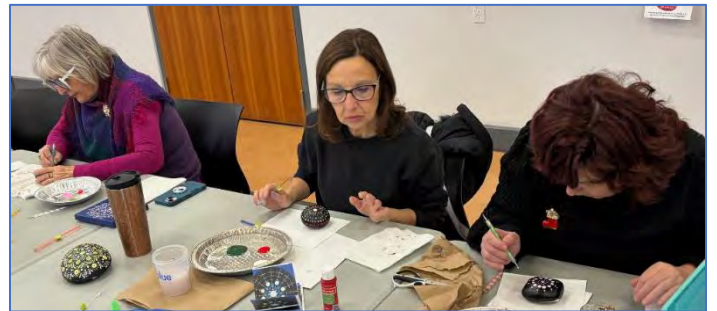
The RWTO Artist Group has had a fantastic Fall season. We started out bringing our own supplies and working individually on our own artwork. After much lively conversation some of our members volunteered to demonstrate one aspect of their creative practice to the group. One month was dedicated to gold leaf painting where each member created their own picture using the method. We also had a Mandala workshop where the members created a beautiful rock using the mandala tools. Upcoming in January, we will be exploring altered books, using an old book as a base for artistic practise. We continue to bring our own supplies and work on our own artwork as well.



We meet at the Dundas Senior Center on the first Tuesday of each month, from 1:00 – 3:30. Our dates for 2026 are: January 6th, February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th, and June 2nd.

We always welcome new members to join us.

Please contact Cindy Robinson cindyrobinson193@gmail.com, 905-973-3836



Bumper Babes Bowling

Come out for some fun and socialization with our bowling group. No previous bowling experience or skills are required.

We meet at 10:45 at Mountain Lanes on Upper Wentworth Street. Cost for two games is \$20. After bowling lunch is an optional extra.

We bowl every third Friday of the month. Our next dates are January 16, February 20 and March 20, (note: this is during March Break so the date may be changed).

For information contact Marion at mebrooks29@gmail.com, phone 905 627 9294.



Golf Interest Group

We play every two weeks, from May until October 15th. Contact: Danielle Chouinard, daniellechouinard3@cogeco.ca, 905-635-9051.

Euchre West Interest Group

After a fun filled fall enjoying lunch and playing Euchre at Southcote 53 we are ready to start the new year. We will continue to meet at about 11:45 for lunch or if you just want to play Euchre, we start at 1:00. Everyone is welcome to join us. You don't have to be a pro. Just come and enjoy the companionship and the game. Hope to see you there.

The following dates have been booked:

January 26, February 23, March 30, April 27, May 25 , June 29.

A reminder will be sent out to those on my list in the week prior to playing. If you wish to be added to the list or have any questions, just let me know. Gwen Kirkpatrick rwto.gwen@gmail.com or 905-689-8975



Euchre East Interest Group

We meet in Grimsby on the third Thursday of the month. Join us at noon at Teddy's, on Main Street for lunch and then we play euchre until 3 PM. Enjoy good food, conversation, laughter and euchre.

Our first dates for 2026 are: January 15th, February 19th, March 19th. & April 16th.

If you are interested or have any questions contact Lynn Gillie, lynngillie@yahoo.ca, 905-309-4438

Knitting and Crocheting Group

Our group continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Dundas Senior's Centre, 10 Market St. Dundas. We've completed many lap size blankets that have been donated to St. Joseph's Hospital complex care unit and to Wentworth Lodge in Dundas. Wentworth Lodge was very thankful to receive the blankets just before Christmas. Some will become gifts for residents and with the cold weather they will certainly appreciate lap warmers.

We also had 20 baby blankets along with 20 copies of the board book Love You to the Moon and Back go to Grace Haven for their programs which help young parents (yes, they have dads, too) as they learn parenting skills, complete their secondary education and work through breaking addictions.



If you can knit or crochet a square you are welcome to join us on the following dates: January 13, February 10 and March 10 at 1:30. For more information contact Dalia Small ladybggg@gmail.com or Gwen Kirkpatrick rwto.gwen@gmail.com (905-689-8975).

Scrapbooking

Your new Hobby for 2026 – Scrapbooking!

I love how something I read springboards me into something I need to do. All I had to do was read the title on the front page of the RT0/ERO Winter 2026 issue, and I knew how to begin my submission for our interest group.

The title was, “WINTER MEMORIES & TRADITIONS: Echoes of laughter and holiday cheer.”

To me, there is no better way to relive those holiday moments than to create a scrapbook layout of pictures taken of family and friends gathered around a dinner table or attending a holiday event. The echoes of the squeals of glee or those breathtaking “aahhh” moments combined with smiles that radiate love and happiness fill your page as you do your layout. And the beautiful thing about it, you can relive those happy memories every time you look at that work of art you assembled.

Come join the Scrapbooking group and make it your new hobby for 2026.

Where: Dundas Senior Centre – 10 Market St. S. Dundas

When: 3rd Tuesday of the month - January 20, February 17 and March 17

Time: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Contact: Debbie Pratt – deb.pratt10@gmail.com, 905-689-0253.



Lunch Bunch



This fall we visited some new spots and enjoyed both the tasty dishes and the company. Our traditional December lunch at Mandarin sent everyone home full of food and seasonal cheer. Over the winter we will be visiting some old favourites:



January 21: Collins Brewhouse, 33 King St. W., Dundas, @ 12:00. RSVP by January 17. Free parking behind the restaurant.

February 18: Village Restaurant, 25 King St. E., Stoney Creek @ 12:00. RSVP by February 14. Free parking behind the restaurant. There is also street parking.

March 18: Watermark Restaurant, 115 Hamilton St N., Waterdown @ 12:00. RSVP by March 14. Free parking in the Fortino's Plaza lot.



As always, I will need to know by the Saturday prior to the lunch if you are coming so that I can confirm the reservation. Since it is winter, if the forecast is for bad weather, I will make the decision on whether or not to go ahead with the lunch and let everyone know by the Saturday before the lunch, (so keep an eye on your e-mail).

Gwen Kirkpatrick rwto.lunchbunch@gmail.com or 905-689-8975.

(Photos from top to bottom: RBG, Cavallo Nero in Ancaster, Mandarin)



Zoom Movie Group

Our Fall film choices were varied in terms of theme and produced interesting (We screened *The Annihilation of Fish* – finding love, connection, and solation and mental struggle); *Chef* – father/son bonding during food truck journey; *The Lesson* – a psychological thriller; and *Ezra* – growth in the connection between an autistic 11-year-old and his dad, a stand-up comedian.

In 2026, we will meet online on Zoom for a 45-minute discussion. Please consider joining us. To receive more information and Zoom invitations, please contact Mardie mardiepan@gmail.com, 905-527-6075.

Winter Schedule
January 12, February 9,
March 9, April 13,
May 18 June 15

Stampin' Up Cardmakers Group



What a successful year we had. We met each month, at which time one of our members suggested a card that we would all make. Though the design was the same, the results were all unique due to choices of papers and trims.

We completed our outreach for the Purse Network Project with 1800+ handmade cards of blessing. These were added to gently used purses, filled with hygiene products and distributed in December.

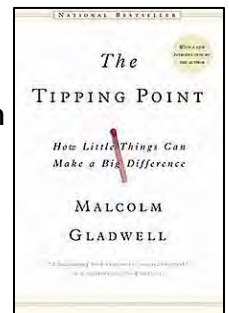
We meet on the 4th Tuesday each month from 1-3 pm, at the Dundas Seniors' Centre. New members are very welcome. For information, please contact Mardie, mardiepan@gmail.com, 905-527-6075.

Book Clubs

Book Club Three

Since there are under ten members in our book club, we have chosen not to have a meeting in January and February. Therefore, our first get-together in 2026 will be in March. At this time, we will discuss The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference, by Malcolm Gladwell. Hopefully reading this non-fiction book will inspire a stimulating discussion.

In 2009 we read Gladwell's book, What the Dog Saw: And Other Adventures. It adds an interesting and different perspective to read more than one book by a particular author. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2026. Contact: Ann Ivol, ann.ivol65@gmail.com, 905-387-6662.



Walking on the Mountain & Coffee

Walking is cancelled for January and February and weather permitting, we will start again on the first Monday in March. Contact: Rosemary Marcotte, rosemarymarcotte@me.com, 905-975-8421.



Red Bird

*Red bird came all winter
 Firing up the landscape
 As nothing else could.
 Of course I love the sparrows,
 Those dun-colored darlings,
 So hungry and so many.
 I am a God-fearing feeder of
 birds,
 I know he has many children,
 Not all of them bold in spirit.
 Still, for whatever reason-
 Perhaps because the winter is so
 long
 And the sky so black-blue,
 Or perhaps because the heart
 narrows
 As often as it opens-
 I am grateful
 That red bird comes all winter
 Firing up the landscape
 As nothing else can do.*

- Mary Oliver

artworks created since the 1960s, including stone sculpture, printmaking, and textile. All works are available for acquisition and the exhibition reflects the enduring strength of Inuit artistic practice across generations, communities, and regions of the Canadian Arctic.

Art Gallery of Hamilton

EXHIBITIONS GALLERY LEVEL 1

mīgisak mīgoĥk / Beads in the Blood: A Ruth Cuthand Retrospective

February 21 - May 24, 2026

Admission Applies

Open Swim

We would like to encourage you to attend "Open Swim", at Westmount Recreation Center, 35 Lynbrook Dr., Hamilton on Sundays from 1:00-2:30 with RWT0!

We not only swim, we stretch, run and jump in place and even try the hot pool.

The cost is \$4.00 or recreation cards are accepted. We meet afterwards for a cold drink in the foyer.



Contact: Ann Louise Gloyn, rwto.annlouise@gmail.com, 289 921-0705.

Art Appreciation and Tours Group

There will be no group planned tours during the winter months. We are looking for someone to plan tours or if individuals have ideas to share, please send them to Lynn Anderton via rwto.lynn@gmail.com, 905-308-1133.

Here are some things going on this winter you might like to choose a good weather day to attend join your own:

Across Generations | Inuit Art Since the 1960s January 10 - February 7, 2026

Earls Court Gallery is pleased to present Across Generations: Inuit Art Since the 1960s, on view from January 10 – February 7, 2026.

This exhibition brings together historical and contemporary Inuit artworks created since the 1960s, including stone sculpture, printmaking, and textile. All works are available for acquisition and the exhibition reflects the enduring strength of Inuit artistic practice across generations, communities, and regions of the Canadian Arctic.

EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY



Good Shepherd
Faith in people.

WINTER WEAR NEEDED!

We are seeing an increase in members of the community needing warm winter apparel since the deep cold has hit, and we do not have enough for everyone. We're looking for donations (for adults and children):

- winter coats
- toques/hats
- socks
- mittens/gloves
- scarves

DONATION DROP OFF:
Good Shepherd Venture Centre, 155 Cannon St. E, Hamilton
Monday - Friday, 9AM - 3PM



Winter's Light: An Evening of Hope & Remembrance

Please join us for an evening of reflection and renewal as we honour loved ones and embrace the promise of new beginnings. This inclusive service will feature candle lighting, live music, and moments of hope and inspiration during the long winter nights. All members of the community are warmly invited to attend.

Monday, January 19th at 7 pm

Dodsworth & Brown Funeral Home - Ancaster Chapel
90 Garner Road, Ancaster ON

What to Expect

- Memorial Service with candle lighting
- Live music
- Refreshments and a cozy hot chocolate bar
- Tour of our new facility
- Sweet treats to take home
- Livestream available for those at a distance

For more information, call **905-648-3852**



Dodsworth & Brown
Funeral Home - Ancaster Chapel
by Arbor Memorial

