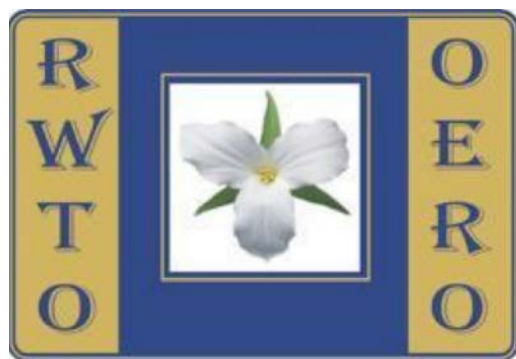




Lydia Snow North Halton September 2026 Newsletter

Lydia Snow 2026-2027 Begins Wednesday, September 16th, 2026

We are looking forward to a great year for our branch. Please join us as we launch on Wednesday September 16 with two amazing guest speakers, our book and puzzle sale and a lunch to reconnect after our summer break.

NEW members and guests are welcome - reach out and invite someone to join you!

Location: Acton Town Hall

Book and Puzzle Sale throughout the morning

9:15 - refreshments, meet and greet social time

10:00 - Guest Speakers ~ Anne Bokma & Pat Dickinson

Start Your Story: The Magic of Memoir

12:00 - Lunch* ~ Quiche, Salad and Dessert

***Deadline for Lunch Payment of \$25: Tuesday, September 8**

Pay by e-transfer to: lydiasnow1999@gmail.com or make cheque payable to

Retired Women Teachers of Ontario, Lydia Snow Branch. Send to: Jeanne Gray, [12 Nixon Cres., Georgetown, ON L7G 5K4](#). Please let Jeanne know if you are sending your cheque via the post so that you can be included in the luncheon numbers.

A Little About our Guest Speakers: Anne Bokma and Pat Dickinson

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you," wrote Maya Angelou.

In this workshop, you'll familiarize yourself with the art of memoir and start thinking about a story you might want to write from your life.

Anne Bokma is Hamilton-based journalist and author. Her memoir, *My Year of Living Spiritually: One Woman's Secular Quest for a More Soulful Life*, was published by Douglas & McIntyre and won the 2020 Hamilton Literary Award for Nonfiction and the Kerry Schooley Book Award. She is a recipient of the City of Hamilton's Arts Award for Established Writers and was nominated in 2025 for The Landsberg Award, named after trailblazing feminist journalist Michele Landsberg. Anne is also a memoir writing coach and workshop and retreat leader as well as a columnist at *The Hamilton Spectator*. She is the founder and host of the 6-Minute Memoir storytelling event.



Pat Dickinson is a retired educator who has won many awards for her work teaching all levels from preschool through graduate school. In her retirement, she has been an active volunteer and was a founding member of Blooms for Africa, part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation's grandmothers campaign. She has enjoyed participating in Anne's workshops and was especially fortunate to have Anne as a coach when writing her own memoir, *I Think I Can: Reflections on eight*

decades of searching for my identity that she wrote three years ago when she was 85.

[2026-2027 Lydia Snow Program Brochure](#)

If you have not received the [Program Brochure for 2026-2027](#), you can pick it up at our September meeting. For your convenience, the topics, dates, times and locations for all of our meetings are found below. It is best to mark your calendar now so you don't miss out on any of the exciting guest speakers that have been arranged for the benefit of all Lydia Snow members.

Tuesday, October 13 ~ Gellert Centre, Georgetown
Pelvic Health as We Age - Meryl DaCosta
General Meeting

Wednesday, November 25 ~ Granite Ridge Golf Club
Christmas Luncheon & Fundraising Raffle

Wednesday, January 13 ~ Zoom
What does AI mean to me? - Amanda Tkaczyk

Wednesday, February 10 ~ Zoom
Super Agers - Dr. Angela Roberts
Special Meeting for Outreach Vote

Monday, March 8 ~ St. John's United Church, Georgetown
Sleeping Children Around the World - Debbie Will-Dryden

Tuesday, April 13 ~ Acton Town Hall
A Life of Courage, Curiosity & Conservation -Dr. Anne Innis Dagg
Annual General Meeting Book and Puzzle Sale & Lunch

Wednesday, May 12 ~ Acton Town Hall
Healthy Aging and Wellness Fair

For your convenience, click on the link found below to view the entire program brochure for 2026-2027.

[2026-2027 Lydia Snow Program Brochure](#)

In addition, by popular request, we will distribute a contact list in September, complete with telephone and email addresses of current Lydia Snow members

Update: Sleeping Children Around the World

Every year, our Lydia Snow members donate to the Sleeping Children Around the World fund through the spare change collected in our SCAW jar.

This past year, we contributed to the 4,000 bedkits that were distributed to children in Northern Uganda. Bedkits represent comfort, dignity and the opportunity for a healthier future. A good night's sleep supports better health and improved educational outcomes, helping children arrive at school better rested, healthier and ready to learn.

The photo seen below features 10 smiling children, the supplies found within their bedkits, and a plaque to acknowledge the generous donation made by Lydia Snow members.



Update from the RWTO AGM and Convention:



Lydia Snow was well represented at the recent RWTO AGM and Convention held June 2-4 in London, Ontario. Tammy Somerville, Jennifer Cardwell, LeAnne Taylor and Cheryl Davidson attended on behalf of our group. Info from the Convention will be shared at the September 16 meeting.

RWTO/OERO Letter from Provincial President Betty Lee-Daigle

Hello wonderful RWTO/OERO Branch Members,

It is a pleasure to bring greetings as Provincial President of RWTO/OERO and from the Board of Directors. I am proud to be part of this women-led social organization. We have a great group of ladies in all 46 Branches. In my first month as President, I have visited 4 Branches. The members who I have had the pleasure to meet were so welcoming, but I will not remember many names because we do not need to have a student seating plan anymore!

So let me tell you something about myself. I am originally from Kingston. I am the youngest of 5 children whose father was a Chinese restaurant owner, and our mother was a homemaker, and I was in the

high school band with 3 of the Tragically Hip members. I met my future husband at a summer camp near Parry Sound where Barbara Streisand's son was the lead for the musical Jesus Christ Superstar. We have three sons; one who has given us our two beautiful granddaughters; our middle son is a nurse and about to start his Masters in Epidemiology on mental health; and the youngest is getting married next year who has gone into our profession in a high school. I taught for a total of 32 years in the London and Windsor areas, ranging from Compensatory to French Immersion schools. My specialties were Music and Core French, as well as a few years in junior classrooms in about a dozen schools.

I was the Southwestern Convenor for FWTAO for a couple of years and was at the Convention when ETFO was formed. I enjoyed leading music workshops for the Occasional Teachers as well as through the Ontario Music Educators Association (OMEA) promoting music education in the province. I was also hosting workshops for the Ontario Modern Languages Teachers' Association and I was on the Arts Advisory Board for ETFO Provincial before retiring. During my career, I opened up well-equipped music classrooms in two brand new schools.

I told the delegates at the 70th Convention in London that I would share a humorous event in each newsletter. When I was teaching a grade 4 class, I had an occasional teacher who wrote about her day stating that one of my male students in class (who will remain nameless) decided to walk around the classroom with a diaper on. Gosh! Did I give a lecture to my class the next day!!!! You all have teaching incidences that have been hilarious. We really should write a book collectively of our incidents in the schools. Please share some of these stories when you meet for lunch. I have heard some funny incidences visiting my eastern Ontario Branches so far in my Presidency.

I retired in 2018 and found camaraderie with my Retired Women Windsor-Essex Branch friends and went to the AGM in London and then virtually in 2020. When my husband and I moved east to be closer to family, I met my wonderful Gananoque Retired Women Educator friends as members in our small Branch. Little did I know I would become Provincial President in 8 years' time.

Provincially, to help balance the budget, we have a 3-year pilot project where there are no in person meetings for the Board of Directors for the next 3 years except for the 2027 Convention. All of our meetings will be held on Zoom.

Now here is where you can help as a Branch...

RWTO/OERO needs you to get involved with your local Branch, actively finding new members to engage in this organization. London-

Middlesex has a motto "Each 1 ... Reach 1". So, BRING A FRIEND to upcoming luncheons and events. London-Middlesex gained 14 new members this past year!!

A committee is looking into introducing Sponsorships from companies to help us financially. We need to refrain from excessive spending so the Board decided that I will only be visiting the Eastern Ontario Branches where I reside, and the next two Presidents will be only visiting the Branches closest to them to save on costs

A gentle reminder to complete your response to our Newsletter survey in September's *Connections* to help us improve its format. Also, if you can receive the newsletter by email, it would save our organization the high printing cost and postage.

We need to promote our organization by word of mouth as well as, on your personal Facebook page. We are opening our organization to all retired women educational professionals. In summary, we need to keep the Provincial Branch viable and Provincial sponsorships might be the way to thrive in Ontario. Thank you for your dedication to educate the minds of our future. Let's get our first sponsorships together. Enjoy our future and have a great year!

In Caring and Sharing and Fun!

Betty Lee-Daigle

RWTO/OERO

Provincial President

2026-2027

Website Information:

Did you know that Lydia Snow has an active website? Please use the link below to connect with the site.

<https://rwto.org/branch-new/lydia-snow-north-halton/>

We also have a FaceBook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lydiasnownorthhaltongroupchat>

Contact Information:

We are updating our current membership list. If you have had a change of mailing address, e-mail address, phone number or emergency contact person,

please share your new information with Jan Hassard hassardj1982@gmail.com or call Jan at [905-703-0005](tel:905-703-0005).

Email Issues: If you have heard of anyone who is not receiving our emails, please let Jan Hassard know so that some follow up can take place.

Care and Share:

Do you have any information on members that we should connect with through our caring and sharing? Please forward the information to Valerie Jordan, jordanheirs@yahoo.com or call Valerie at [905-877-3291](tel:905-877-3291).

Celebration of Life for Carolyn Ryall: Alan Ryall has shared that there will be a celebration of Carolyn's incredible life on Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Acton Branch, 15 Wright Ave., Acton. Alan wrote that the family is preparing a booklet that celebrates Carolyn's life- in her own words and through the words of friends. If you would like to share a special memory, story or moment, please send it to alanryall48@gmail.com.

Let's Grow Lydia Snow!

Members are encouraged to invite others to join our branch. If they are a retired woman teacher, educational assistant, early childhood educator, child and youth worker/counsellor, audiologist, office support staff, psychologist, social worker or speech and language pathologist, invite them to a meeting, give them a brochure, tell them to visit our [Website](#) or FaceBook page.

Please Lend a Hand.....

With two of our Exec out of the province on September 16, we could use some helping hands. If you can help set up, take down, serve lunch or volunteer in any other capacity, please let LeAnne Taylor know by calling [905-877-7030](tel:905-877-7030).

Finally - In Conclusion.....

We look forward to seeing you on September 16 as we will be treated to two amazing guest speakers. As a reminder, the meeting on September 16 also includes a wonderful lunch, our bi-annual used book and puzzle sale, an opportunity to pick up both a printed copy of the 2026-2027 program brochure and a copy of the phone and email contact list for all of our members. In addition, for those who are early birds, you can also submit payment (\$60) for the annual Christmas Luncheon and fundraising raffle being held on Wednesday November 25 at the Granite Ridge Golf Club.

Once again: deadline for \$25 Sept. 16 lunch payment Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Yours in Caring and Sharing - The Lydia Snow Executive

