



RWTO/OERO Owen Sound and Area



SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

September 23, 2026, 11:30 am
Georgian Shores United Church
Cost: \$35.00

- 11:30 Meeting**
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Program - Professional Organizer
- organizing solutions, downsizing



RSVP by Sept 17th to Cynthia Lemon - 519-270-0910
or lemondalefarm@gmail.com



Tracy Marsh will be our speaker.



Tracy Marsh is the Founder and lead Professional Organizer of a company called "House 'n Order". She helps people with custom organizing solutions in their home by helping with downsizing, decluttering, clearing estates, managing moves or merging households. House 'n Order serves all of Grey County and much of Bruce and Simcoe Counties as well. Tracy will explain how she and her team can help take away the stress of downsizing and moving.

We can make the world a better place.

I had an amazing summer. The weather was not too bad at all (other than some scary, smoky days). Our gardens have been lush with many flowers to fill our vases in our home. We had a wonderful trip to Cape Breton for the North American MacMillan Clan Gathering. And many barbecues and visits with family and friends here in Owen Sound and area were had. I hope that you all had a lovely summer as well!

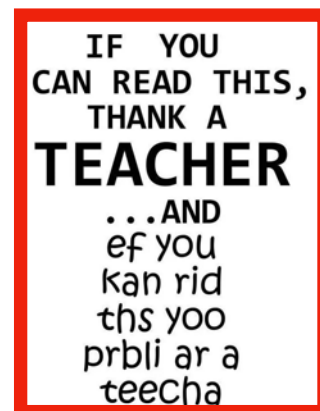
Through all of this there continues to be turmoil in the world. It is worrisome. What does this hold for our future? There is one constant that gives me hope and optimism, and that is the many wise women I know. Think of the women who are members of RWTO Owen Sound and Area. Think of the years of experience we all have in education. Think of the experience we all have in life. Think of the many influences we have had not only in the classroom but

in our communities, and that influence continues. That gives me hope. When we gather our voices together we have significant influence. We may be retired. We may be seniors, however, we are not done yet! We can make the world a better place. Use your voice today. I have faith in you and our shared wisdom.

I look forward to the time we will share this 2026 – 2027 year. Our program committee has wonderful things planned for us. I hope that you will share that time with us!

**In caring and sharing,
Cynthia Lemon - President**





Fall is on the way. The cooler temperatures are very appreciated after the heat of summer. There have been many cards sent to our members since our last Newsletter in May.

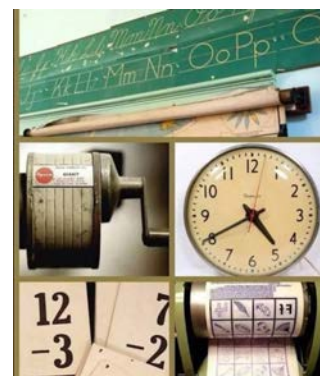
Sympathy cards were sent to Barb Schwartz at the passing of her husband; to Mary Mackenzie at the passing of her sister Nancy, and to the family of Mary Milne.

Get Well cards went to Cathy McCoy and to Anita Holz.

Thinking of You cards went to many members who were dealing with challenges. Cards were sent to Donna Hemeon, Helen Penfold, Phyllis Jolley and Cathy McCoy.

Many Birthday cards were sent. Cards went to Helen Johnstone, to Marjorie Davison, to Betty Ritchie on her 100th, to Margaret Hill, and to Jessie Ross on her 99th.

Yours in Caring and Sharing,
Lorraine Dunning - Goodwill 519-376-5017



Do you remember?

Saturday Afternoons at the Metropolitan Opera

Heads up, opera lovers — a new Live from the Met season is coming to a Galaxy Theatre near you! For starters, on Saturday, September 19, Renée Fleming hosts a 3-hour retrospective with highlights of the past 20 years of live broadcasts. A very modern staging of *Parsifal* ends the season on Saturday, June 5, 2027. Altogether there are eight operas, including: Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*, set in an American amusement park; Verdi's *MacBeth*, with Quinn Kelsey and Lise Davidsen as the would-be royal couple; and Puccini's cowboy romp, *La Fanciulla del West*.

To find out more about the season, check out www.cineplex.com/events/metropolitan-opera. This aficionado is looking forward to the semi-oratorio *Samson et Dalila*, on December 5. I also hope to enjoy Laurent Pelly's staging of *Massenet's Manon*, with Nadine Sierra in the title rôle, and Brian Jagde's *Otello*, arguably Verdi's masterpiece. OK, except for the *Requiem ... or La Traviata*.

For \$25.00 a performance, with a discount for seniors, Live from the Met is a bargain. If your Italian or French is a bit rusty, those unobtrusive 'subtitles' translate the dialogue without intruding on the drama. And music speaks to everybody.

Kevin Puts' *Silent Night* on March 20, 2027, is not for the faint of heart. I cry every time I hear "Agreed. Agreed. But only for to-night," as the truce is called. War, as Saint John Paul II reminded us, is an adventure without return.

Submitted by Elizabeth Dunning EEC District 10 Treasurer

**TEACHING IS THE ONLY PROFESSION
WHERE YOU'RE EXPECTED TO CARE LIKE A PARENT,
MANAGE LIKE A CEO, DOCUMENT LIKE A LAWYER,
COUNSEL LIKE A THERAPIST, AND STILL HAVE
PEOPLE QUESTION HOW HARD THE JOB REALLY IS.**

**SHOUT OUT TO ALL THE TEACHERS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
EVERY SINGLE DAY!**

A teacher at a local school asked the students to write about what they wanted to become in the future...and what they did not want to become.

One little child's answer brought a big smile to everyone's face. In his innocent imagination, becoming a Senior Citizen seemed to be the happiest and most enjoyable stage of life!

The child wrote:

"I don't want to become a President, a Doctor, or a Scientist...None of these. My greatest wish is to become a Senior Citizen because that seems to be the most fun!"

Because my Grandpa:

- 😊 Can wake up late in the morning.
- 😊 Can take afternoon naps whenever he wants.
- 😊 Watches TV peacefully and sleeps early in the evening.
- 😊 Has no homework, no exams, and no tuition classes.
- 😊 If there is no work, he can simply sit under a tree and enjoy the cool breeze, or go to the park and play chess with friends.
- 😊 He can play video games for as long as he wants and nobody complains.
- 😊 Coffee in the morning, tea in the afternoon, milk in the evening — life is wonderful!
- 😊 Free travel in buses, and kind people even offer him a seat.
- 😊 Half tickets in trains and movie theatres.
- 😊 He can eat whatever he likes because nobody stops him.
- 😊 He can do anything he enjoys — sing, dance, paint, play the piano or trumpet, climb mountains, or go trekking.
- 😊 And if he has money in his pocket, he can travel wherever he wants!

"So, becoming a Senior Citizen is truly amazing!" 😊

💡 Inspiration:

Sometimes Senior Citizens themselves do not realize how blessed and free they truly are.

Submitted by Mary Hall



RWTO/OERO Letter to Branch Presidents 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 incidences 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

Our Goal: "Each 1 ... Reach 1!"



happy memories



The Shoreline Chorus entertained us with a 40 minute program of music.



Cynthia presented the Cora Bailey Award to Mary Hall.



Joan Downie received a rose to celebrate being over 90.



Donna Steinacher received a rose to celebrate being over 90.