

Retired Women Teachers
of Ontario



Organisation des
enseignantes retraitées
de l'Ontario

President's Message:

Happy summer everyone!

My name is Pam Deven and I'm your St. Thomas-Elgin President this year.

I retired from teaching 2.5 years ago and spent most of my career at Arthur Voaden. It's hard to believe the school is closed now, but there will always be great memories there.

This summer I was lucky to spend time with my family at cottages in Muskoka and in the Bancroft area. We went on an antique boat ride in Muskoka, jet skied and just relaxed on the dock. I hope you were able to do the things you enjoy with friends and family.

I'm looking forward to working with the amazing people on our executive this year. We've planned many fun events and can't wait to share them with you! I encourage everyone to bring out a retiree to our September event at the Senior's Centre.

See you there!
Pam Deven

Your 2026-2027 Executive:

President: Pam Deven

Past President: Shelly Sturk

1st VP: open

2nd VP: open

Meeting Convenor: Penny Jones

Treasurer & Membership: Millie Gremontprez

Secretary: Joan Janes

Communications Convenor: Karen Auckland

Insurance Convenor: Rita Demcheson

eNews & Archivist: Mary Lynch

Goodwill Ambassadors:
Central: Lynn Christie
East: Linda Laforge
West: Ginny Barfett



From the Treasurer's Desk:

A warm welcome to several new members in the past twelve months and deepest thanks to all our loyal members; many of whom have been with us for decades! Everyone of you represent both the future and the solid backbone of our branch! We hope to see many of you at our September coffee meeting. If you notice an unfamiliar face or name, please introduce yourself and make our new ladies feel welcome. Our branch is proud to have a potential of 130 paid-up members and 10 treasured life members who are no longer able to attend meetings. If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, you may contact Millie at 519-660-9095 or email at rwto.ste@gmail.com. Please remember that if you are carrying the Manulife Insurance through RWTO your membership must remain in good standing. Finally, a huge thanks to everyone on your meeting attendance numbers. Our record turnout is the envy of many other branches in Ontario. Hope to see that continue in the new 2026-2027 season!

Millie Gremontprez

BE IN THE LOOP...

ANOTHER AMAZING BACKPACK CAMPAIGN!!

Once again it has been another successful year for our St. Thomas-Elgin Branch's Legacy Project (now 25 years old). **Through your generosity we raised over \$1200.** We are also very appreciative for the additional **donation of \$500 from the Golden K Kiwanis Club** and thank them, once again, for their support. Together we can do so much!

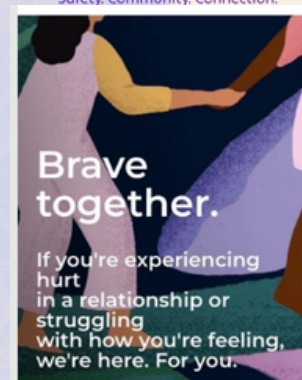
With this money, members **Gianna Filipovic and Monique Wood** have hit the stores purchasing backpacks and filling them with so many of the supplies a child needs for school. Thank you, Gianna and Monique!

At our September meeting these **filled backpacks will be gifted to our local women's shelter, Valora Place**, ensuring that any child who enters their doors with their mom has a full backpack of supplies when they go to school.

To learn more about Valora Place, use this link
<https://valoraplace.ca/>



Valora Place
Safety. Community. Connection.



INTRODUCING PROJECT PERIOD



At our September General Meeting, we will be introducing a new initiative, **'Project Period'**. **Members are asked to bring a donation of feminine products to each General Meeting** which will be donated to Valora Place and Fresh Start in St. Thomas. These organizations are seeing an increasing demand for such products which have become very expensive. For women on fixed incomes, it can be hard to find funds in their limited budget to pay for them. **Valora Place and Fresh Start** are in much need of various feminine products, especially **'super-plus' tampons and pads as well as pads with wings.** After every General Meeting, the donations of feminine products collected will be delivered to the above organizations.



Your support for this new initiative is greatly appreciated and will make life a little easier for the women who receive them.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Rita at rdemcheson@hotmail.com

BITE-SIZED BITS...

Watch for **Penny's General Meeting notices** which will arrive in your email about 2 weeks prior to each meeting. If you don't see it, check your Spam folder.

A reply of reply **YES or No** to the email is appreciated so Penny knows you have received the notice.



A big **thank you to Millie and her team of sewers** who have donated their time and skills making colourful cloth bags to carry supplies provided by St. Thomas-Elgin Second Stage Housing to their clients.



A small group of very talented **members** took it upon themselves to sew a lovely quilt to support the valuable services provided at the **Barry Family Hospice of Elgin**.

At General Meetings in **September, October and April**, raffle tickets will be **sold** to win this beautiful quilt. (Price of tickets TBD). The drawing for the lucky winner will take place at our April meeting.

Don't miss out on your chance to take home this treasure!



YOU are AWESOME!!!



Time and time again you have demonstrated that, as members of the ST. Thomas-Elgin Branch, RWTO's motto '**Caring and Sharing**' is more than just words to you. **We sincerely thank you for your generous and on-going support for our charities.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! Here's the program for our 2026/27 meetings...



DATE	LOCATION	PROGRAM/MEAL	CHARITY
Thurs., Sept. 17th Registration: 9:30 Cost: \$10	St. Thomas Seniors' Centre Toonie Board	Coffee Hour with Muffins, Fruit, Coffee & Tea Activity: Celebrating our 70th Anniversary with skits, songs, and laughter!	Celebrating a Successful Backpack Project for Valora Place **Period Project collection
Thurs., Oct. 15th Registration: 11 am Cost: \$35	Lawrence Station Community Hall Toonie Board	Roast Beef Dinner Speaker: Pete Sheridan Topic: Alma College	West End Daffodil Auxiliary Food Bank- Accepting \$ donations **Period Project collection
Thurs., Nov. 19th Registration 11am Cost: \$35	Masonic Centre, St. Thomas	Turkey Dinner Activity: Raffle & Quarter Auction	Christmas Care- (Watch for donation suggestions in October's eNews) PLUS One item for the Raffle or Quarter Auction Table **Period Project collection
Thurs., April 15th Registration: 11 am Cost: \$35	St. Thomas Golf and Country Club	Lunch Buffet Memorial Service Activity: Dance with Barb Kunz- A Joyful Explosion of Movement, Music and Freedom	East Elgin Community Assistance Program- Accepting \$ donations **Period Project collection
Thurs., May 20th Registration 11 am Cost: \$35	St. Thomas Seniors' Centre	Meal: Ham and Scalloped Potatoes Special Birthdays Celebration Speaker: Jordanna Jones from Soles 4 Souls	Soles 4 Souls- Bring in any unwanted shoes or boots **Period Project collection
Thurs., June 17th Registration 11 am Cost: \$35	Stoneridge Inn	Meal: TBD Program: TBD	Backpack Project for Valora Place **Period Project collection

COMMUNITY CORNER



Take advantage of this opportunity to visit local artists in their workplaces!

And celebrate the amazing talent of local artists, including one of our members- **Judy Mennill**, who is a featured artist on this tour. For more information, see: elgincountystudiotour.ca

Calling all Beach Boys fans and lovers of their trademark harmonies and their uplifting, catchy tunes of summer! Check this out!!

The Ladies Auxiliary at the St. Thomas Elgin Hospital is hosting a Beach Boys concert.

Where: Old Town Hall, Aylmer ON

When: Sat. Sept. 26, 2026

Time: 8:00 pm

Cost: \$50.00 a ticket

All proceeds from this concert goes back to STEGH Hospital to benefit their latest Comfort & Care Campaign.

COMMUNITY CORNER

It's obvious from our June meeting that we have many trivia enthusiasts among us!!

So gather a team and take your game to the next level by entering the Trivia Night event hosted by the St. Thomas Railway City Rotary Club on Saturday, October 17th. See the letter below for all the details.

Have fun, show off your knowledge of trivia and **support the St. Thomas Railway City Rotary Club and the valuable work they do in our community and beyond!!**



St. Thomas Railway City Rotary Club Rotary International District 6330

PO Box 22026 St Thomas RPO Elmwood Square
St. Thomas, Ontario N5R 6A1
info@railwaycityrotary.club website: www.railwaycityrotary.club

August 2026

Hello Community Leader!

We know that our summer is still in busy speed but as you look ahead to the coming few months, we hope you will consider this invitation to provide a team building activity for the folks you work (or live) with!

Railway City Rotary Club is holding a fun, fall FUNdraiser for our Rotary projects. We are inviting you to pull your staff or family and friends together, to form a team of up to 8 people! You can book your table by registering, using our pop-up link on our Club Website. Once we receive your team registration and the fee of \$200, we will reserve your table.

This is a great way to have some fun, get your team noticed AND support our Rotary volunteers in the work we do in our community and beyond. Please see the details below in order to reserve your spot for some fun this fall!

Questions? Contact us by emailing info@railwaycityrotary.club

Event: Trivia Night- Sat. Oct. 17th, 2026

Venue: St. Thomas Sr. Centre, 225 Chestnut Street, St. Thomas

Time: 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30)

Cost: \$200/table (up to 8 people maximum)- limited tables available

Prizes: \$200 for 1st prize, \$100 for 2nd prize

Cash bar, snacks and mini live auction available!

Quiz Master: Kirk Langford

FINAL THOUGHTS

JUST THINK:

On September 8th,

- > you don't have to wake up to an alarm
- > you can just pull the covers over your head if you feel tired
- > you can drink your whole cup of coffee while it's hot
- > you don't have to commute anywhere (except maybe from the couch to a lawn chair)
- > you can make your own plans for the day- relax, enjoy the outdoors, read, visit with friends, go shopping- the possibilities are endless

And, you don't have to think about managing crowd control, organizing resources, following lesson plans, rushing to yard duty, gulping down your lunch, or running to the washroom!

BECAUSE YOU ARE RETIRED!! SMILE!!



Please remember to invite any neighbours, friends or family that are retired women educators (Educational Assistants, Early Child Educators, Child & Youth Workers, Speech and Language Pathologists, Educational Audiologists, Social Workers & Psychologists, Office Support Staff, Teachers) who are interested in joining an awesome group . We would love to have them join us!