Retired Women Teachers of Mississauga

Hello Fellow Members, **MAY 2025**

We are so lucky!
We live in a beautiful country where we get to experience the changing of the seasons, as can be seen right now with the blossoming of new life. We have comfortable homes, good food to sustain us, and the love of family and friends for support.

And, we have RWTO. What a wonderful organization for retired women that we belong to! This group has something for each of us to enrich our lives and bring us joy.

Sitting down with friends to play a game of cards, going for a walk on a beautiful day with other women to chat with along the way, enjoying a delightful lunch, creating a craft, visiting a garden, or opening your mail to find a cheerful card when you need it most; all of these and so much more are moments that we can experience with satisfaction because of our connection to RWTO.

It's the women within our organization that make these moments of joy possible. The volunteers on the executive, the convenors and the members who show up to say, "How can I help?" or "What can I bring?"; all are appreciated.

So, I will enjoy these fabulous spring days, and I will continue to enjoy and appreciate the company of the amazing women of RWTO.

I hope you do too.



Yours in Caring and Sharing,

Marie Solarski

President

RWTO Mississauga: The Lighter Side



Stratford, anyone?

STRATFORD TRIP

The RWTO Mississauga Branch is planning a trip to the Stratford Festival Theatre to see Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility" on Thursday, October 9th, 2025.

The deadline for signing up for this trip is August 1st. However, all members are encouraged to sign up early as after May 22nd, the trip will be offered to other nearby branches if the required minimum of 35 seats has not been reached. If interested, or for more information, please email Clara Gigliotti at: mosleymeadow@outlook.com

Lunch Group #2

Lunch group #2 continues to meet monthly. Michele R. tells us that they have 24 members who get together at different restaurants on the second Friday of each month. Since the last newsletter, they have met at Solstice, Aristotle's, WIND, Saucy and Peter's on Eglinton. In January, along with having a lovely meal at Astoria Shish Kebob House, the group celebrated Betty Schultz's 100th Birthday! It was truly a special occasion!





Happy 100th Birthday Betty!



Euchre Group #6: **Linda M. tells us that her Euchre group meets every other Thursday afternoon. They've discovered a new game called 'Oh Hell', also called 'Bug your Neighbour'. Trying something different is good for their brains and has given them so many laughs!**

MAH JONG

- **Deb H.** tells us that the group plays American Mahjong twice per month, usually on the afternoon of the first, and third, Fridays. Presently, they have 10 members and have consistently had between 6 and 8 members out to play each time (minimum of 3 needed per table or game).



- They would like to send a heartfelt thank you to **Margaret G.** for hosting in her condo's lobby-level library for the games this year. They would love to see more members join the group. No experience is needed! "We'd love to show you the ropes. It is a great way to keep your mind active and engaged!"







Garden Group 2

Shirley D. tells us that many members attended the annual Meet and Greet in April, and so far, they have had an exciting start to the season. Spring plans include a visit to Sarah Grey Tulip farm, a nursery tour and a plant exchange; the members help to organize these events.

She says that it is always fun when they get together and chat about gardens. In addition, they also celebrated **Betty W.** for sharing her love of gardening with them: lots of lovely garden visits complete with a beautiful pond and birdsong, and of course her amazing tomato plants. Thanks again Betty!

If you are a garden enthusiast, please consider joining us!















Euchre Group #4

Jo L. tells us that the members of her group continue to enjoy their monthly Euchre get togethers at Abbey Road Pub & Patio. They meet for lunch and laughs, followed by euchre and more laughs!

In January, they joyfully celebrated Betty Schultz's 100th birthday!

BID EUCHRE

The Bid Euchre group meets on the first Monday of every month at Sunset Grill on the Lakeshore. Mary Y. tells us that they meet at 9:30am. They break for brunch after three rounds. When they've thoroughly enjoyed their brunch, they continue playing cards.

The staff are very friendly, and the service is excellent. We have good games and lots of laughs. We always have difficulty, though, in figuring out whose deal it is! 😂

Book Club #2

Shelley D.'s book club has enjoyed their monthly meetings at Swiss Chalet. In addition to discussing books, they share stories, discuss world events, and provide advice, support, and encouragement. It is this camaraderie which makes RWTO such an amazing organization!

A few of their favourite recently read books include Remarkably Bright Creatures (a cute story involving an octopus and friendship), The Rose Code (a story about three women codebreakers in the war), The Women (a story about women nurses in the Vietnam War) and The Gown (female friendship while creating Queen Elizabeth's wedding gown). The books which generated the liveliest discussions were The Housemaid and Behind Closed Doors (Not recommended) which were psychological thrillers with a plot that jumped back and forth in time or between character narration.

All in all, it has been a marvelous start to the year, and the members have enjoyed the food, company, and conversation.





Book Club 7 has read some very good books so far this year. **James** by Percival Everett, a different version of Tom Sawyer from Jim's point of view, was an excellent read and led to lots of discussion. **The Second Mrs. Astor** by Shana Abe dealt with the Jack Astor family and their role as passengers on the Titanic. **Real Ones** by Katherena Vermette was about Indigenous women and cultural appropriation. **Patti L.** tells us that all of these books are recommended and are sure to promote discussion. Next time, they are looking forward to discussing **The Women** by Kristen Hannah.

They are always looking for new members to join their group!

KNITTING GROUP #2

Elizabeth S. tells us that Tuesday afternoons, bags of yarn, knitting needles, patterns, pots of tea and platters of treats is how the women of the RWTO Knitting Group #2 enjoys their monthly meetings. By taking turns hosting each other in their homes, they have bonded over challenging patterns, group projects and a shared interest in their beloved craft.



According to Elizabeth, "Our skill levels are varied, but we help and inspire each other with new ideas and fresh designs. We have enjoyed group trips to Mary Maxim and Lens Mills to source new yarns and needles. This is followed by a restaurant lunch. Our shared interest has led to close friendships and treasured sources of support; every month we look forward to enriching these relationships while enjoying a pleasant afternoon."



Bridge Group #10

Nancy S. tells us that Bridge Group #10 meets twice a month on the second and last Thursdays. Since the year most of us took lessons with our famous RWTO teachers, Judy and Theresa, we have played together for 13 years…**lucky 13!** What fun we have had!

According to Nancy, over the winter months this past year, "we turned to playing on Trickster to avoid asking our farthest-flung members to drive in poor weather, but there is nothing like the face-to-face encounters…lots of food, chatter and challenging hands." Thank you to those who host and those who agree to sub!

Book Club #11

Joanne J. says her club includes a dynamic group of avid readers who enjoy getting together for monthly book club meetings. "We discuss various novels that we have read. Books are selected and then each month one member leads our lively discussion. Our discussions are based on how the books relate to our lives and different situations.
Coffee, tea and snacks round out our meetings. "

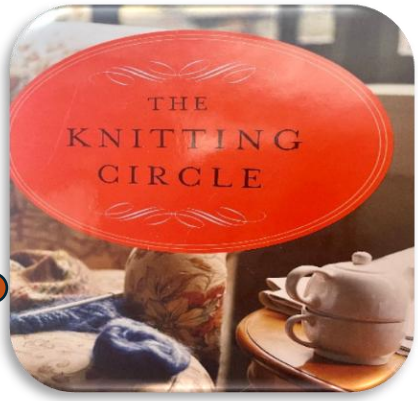
They have read these books:

1. The Grey Wolf
2. The Phoenix Crown
3. The Briar Club
4. The Women
5. The Humans
6. One Plus One



Knitting Group #1:

Margo B. let us know that her knitters also share interesting books. It's not a book of instructions, but rather **The Knitting Circle** novel of how knitting helped a person through her overwhelming grief…true story!



BOOK CLUB #4

Jenny R. let us know that last Fall two book clubs with falling numbers merged. This action breathed new life into the group with wider opinions and lively discussions.

This year they have read and discussed, "**Remarkedly Bright Creatures**" by Shelby Van Pelt and "**The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo**" by Taylor Jenkins Reed. Both books were enjoyed. The books are very different, says Jenny, "but expanding our reading experience is what being in a book club is all about."

They are now gathering titles for next year's list. It is sure to be an interesting one.

Walking Group

Carole A. tells us that the RWTO Walking Group continued to enjoy weekly walks all winter and throughout the spring! Their final "Spring Walk" is Thursday, June 19. Fall walks will resume on September 11 at Erindale Park.

There is always room for new walkers!! Contact Carole at: caroleanderson@me.com if you'd like to be included on the email list and receive information about the weekly fall, winter, and spring walks.



As the year winds down for **Book Club #8,** their convenor, **Joanne K**, says that they will begin to turn their attention to the year ahead and what we will read next year. Sometimes we revisit favourite authors, sometimes favourite themes, some books are prize winners, and many are recommendations from other book clubs. Choosing our books for the upcoming year is always a group activity that we've managed to streamline over time, and like all our meetings, it happens over food and wine. We look for books that will generate discussion; some of our best discussions have happened when not everyone enjoyed the book. We aim for a slate of books that is varied in theme and genre.

Although, not by design, three of the books we read this year were connected in theme by the strong women portrayed in each of them. **The Island of Sea Women** was a group of women in Korea known as 'haenyeo' who free dive off the island of Jeju in order to harvest from the sea. These women find strength and courage and the power of female friendship within their community of divers.

Women scientists were at the centre of two other books they read. **Lessons in Chemistry** was a work of fiction and portrayed the struggles of a very bright woman, Elizabeth Zott, who tried to secure work in a man's field in a man's world. It depicted the patriarchal society of the 1950's and 60's. As women of a certain age, many of us could relate to the societal norms of the time when women were expected to stay at home and raise children.

In the biography **Rosalind Franklin: The Dark Lady of DNA,** author Brenda Maddox strove to provide fresh details of the life and work of this scientist. She revealed a portrait of a young Jewish woman committed to a life of scientific research and whose work was instrumental in leading to the discovery of DNA. Her early death and the male culture of the scientific community ensured Rosalind remained an outsider and was not recognized for her work at the time. Nevertheless, she persisted.

We applaud the strength and the courage of all these women and reflect on the strength and courage of the women who are a part of our lives on a daily basis. Next year's books await!

The RWTO Trillium Garden Group kicked off the gardening season with a fun get together in early April at Clarkson Bistro. After a long and lingering winter, it was a joy to reconnect and start planning an exciting lineup of garden-themed adventures.

Nermin F. let us know that their first outing took them to the stunning TASC Tulip Farm in Niagara. Despite the less-than-ideal weather, the breathtaking tulip displays more than made up for the chill and the walk through muddy fields.

Looking ahead, they have a full season of colourful destinations planned, including visits to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Whistling Gardens, a charming lavender farm, and several lovely local gardens.

“We’re a warm, welcoming group of gardening enthusiasts who love to share tips, ideas, and laughter.”

New members are always welcome to join in the fun activities and get togethers.











Scrabble Group



Linda M. tells us that her **Scrabble Group** looks forward to “our meetings on the 3rd Friday of the month. We enjoy chatting and socializing before we play; while also enjoy the tea and many treats that our hosts provide. We are a group that gets along well with each other, and our laughter is ever present, as someone is sure to say something funny. Our players keep improving at the game, and we all just have a great time when we get together. Lucky them!

Bridge Group #8



Many of the group’s members have been together since their beginner bridge classes. **Anne D.** tells us that, “There are nine of us now, but we still meet every other Thursday morning for long, sometimes noisy, chats before the cards are dealt.” Recently, they were happy to see Marjorie S., who hasn’t been able to play very often, as she’s been caring for her husband. They will meet until the end of June and then take a break for the summer.





Craft Club







April 30th Luncheon



Members came together at Renaissance by the Creek to enjoy a fabulous day. The event began with some socializing, a toonie wager on a 100-square raffle board, and voting on key AGM motions. A buffet lunch began with wonderful appetizers and a non-alcoholic aperitif, followed by a varied array of delicious foods. Someone aptly said that the salmon was to "die for". Following this, we heard from Lianne Harris who spoke about Hedy Lamarr, a Golden Age Actress and inventor. We thoroughly enjoyed Liane's presentation! To top off the day, members were also able to take food home for dinner! What a memorable day!



























Donations to charities & Memorials:
$3,565.00

Current Membership:
278

MANDARIN LUNCH





March 2025

Cora Bailey Award Winners







Credit Valley Golf Course May Luncheon: Members braved the inclement weather to attend a delicious lunch complete with awards, Provincial business, installation of the Executive, In Memoriam tribute, jewellery shopping, two raffles and a fascinating talk given by Barbara Dickson about her book and research on World War II **Bomb Girls**.














The Feather in Your Hat Award winner Patricia



In Memoriam







Mississauga's Dignified Ladies














Mississauga's Dignified Ladies








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Upcoming Events:

- **Volunteer Appreciation Social for convenors**. (Refer to Clara's email): June 10th @ 2-4pm
- **Meet & Greet** event for new and potential members: Sept 11th @ 1pm
  More details to come.

$65 fee is due by August 1st

Cheque payable to:

RWTO MISSISSAUGA BRANCH

Mail, or drop off cheque at Margo Bennett's house:

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Mississauga ON,
L5N 3G4

OR

By e-TRANSFER:

rwtotreasurer@gmail.com