



# 2022 Spring Newsletter



**Chair Report**  
Page 3

## Our Fabulous Fundraising Committee Never Stops!

We participated in the St. John's Church Sale on November 27th, 2021. It was a very successful event and our first 'in person' event' in almost 2 years. The sales of masks, bags, and fabulous jewellery netted us **\$939** after our expenses. The in-person traffic was slow but steady and the Fundraising Committee were very pleased with the results.

**Donate to the Stride Halton/Peel Team!**



Check out our progress online  
[oomama.org](http://oomama.org)  
and on Page 2




Mask production has slowed to barely a trickle of requests. We will certainly keep on making them should there be people wanting them. There have been some 'Custom Orders' for Laundry bags, Jewellery Bags, wine bags and of course there have also been some Jewellery Repairs as well as the sale of some vintage and netted Jewellery.



**Upcoming Events**  
Page 2

Looking for a speaker for your organization?  
See page 4




Barb Podgorski, Melanie Burns, Anne Mackenzie Thompson, Dell Langham



Check out everything we have to offer at:  
[oomama.org/marketplace](http://oomama.org/marketplace)

*Fundraising Report by Leslie Kulokas*



**Stride to Turn the Tide 2022**

The Halton/Peel Virtual Stride Team is over the halfway point in their fundraising goal for our four-month virtual stride through sub-Saharan Africa. **A total of 3824 kilometres have been accounted for after the first month, and \$8020 has been collected by the fundraising striders...What a team!** By the end of June, we will have completed our virtual trek, learned about some of the projects in Africa that SLF is supporting, and maybe even surpass the \$15,000 fundraising goal. Then it will be time to have a Celebration Party - more about that later.

**In-Person Event - Save the date  
- November 4, 2022, 6 pm**

The Fundraising committee is hard at work planning our 'Resilience' Event with authors and speakers presenting stories about unsung heroes. Stay tuned for further details but mark your calendars now. This is a big event and we will need support from all of Oomama and Super friends.



**Virtual Fundraiser Monarch  
Butterflies June 23, 1 pm**

Save the date for a Virtual Presentation *Raising Monarchs: How I became a Monarch Momma!* Stay tuned for more information!



**Speakers/Education Committee,  
Rita Hutton, Chair**



The members of the Speakers group have continued to meet either through Zoom or in person since the last newsletter. Our "business" conversation during these meetings is often peppered with current events and personal anecdotes, bringing our relationship even closer. Needless to say, Covid has thrown a monkey wrench into life and as a consequence, the opportunity to do presentations has reduced significantly. We do have an in-person (if all goes well) **presentation to the Sheridan Probus group on June 14 at the Meeting House (2700 Bristol Circle, Oakville).** Rita and Pat will do the presenting, and Bev was pivotal in helping to organize the PowerPoint slides and video clips.

Probus is a volunteer-based, non-profit, non-political, non-sectarian fellowship organization with over 4,000 clubs worldwide, 255 being Canadian clubs made up of over 38,000 men and women members. They encourage healthy minds and bodies and socializing with other retirees in the community.

They are making a \$200.00 donation to Oomama. We hope to sell items from our marketplace and maybe even get new members.





**Pat McKee,  
Chair of Oomama**

In my message for the fall newsletter, I wrote “We seem to have weathered the worst part of the COVID storm and Oomama continues to do good work. After 18 months of Zoom meetings for our monthly gatherings as well as our sub-committees, we have decided that we need to be together, especially since we are all fully vaccinated.”

I was correct in writing that Oomama continues to do good work but perhaps we have not yet weathered the worst part of the COVID storm. As I write, we are in our 6<sup>th</sup> wave in Ontario, with more daily infections than ever before due to new variants and the removal of the mask mandate. We had not yet heard of “Omicron” when I last wrote. And we could not have foreseen the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. I hope to write more optimistic news in our next newsletter!

The question has changed from “Do you know anyone who got COVID?” to “How many people in your circle now have COVID?” Because it is a lot. We are constantly challenged with weighing the risks of social encounters and interacting with our children and grandchildren and even great grandchildren. In the new year, we returned to Zoom meetings for our Oomama Monthly Gatherings as well as our sub-committee meetings. However, in April, the Speakers group said “the heck with it” and most of us decided to take the risk and gather together, and it felt so good.

But think about it. We have *only* one pandemic to deal with. We have the privilege of having access to sufficient vaccines. In contrast, the African grandmothers have two concurrent pandemics, inadequate access to COVID vaccines, as well as the climate crisis. And there is still no vaccine for HIV.

Much has changed for Oomama in the 16 years since its inception. When I joined Oomama in 2014, we were a much larger group and we were all 8 years younger! Our active membership is about 14 members at the moment. Over the past few years, many past (and present) members have joined GASP (Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet). This energetic group of women (and some men) led by Carole Holmes and Lorraine Green, are doing vital work addressing the climate crisis. That is a worldwide issue that may indeed be even more urgent for the African grandmothers. In addition, we have past and present members as part of GRAN (Grandmothers Advocacy Network), WHAM (Women of Halton Action Movement), SAVIS (Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services) and CW4AFGAN (Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan).

I am proud of, and grateful to, the women of Oomama and the other women’s groups for the local and global issues that they work to improve.



GRAND(M)OTHERS ACT  
TO SAVE THE PLANET

This video from GASP tells their story well...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eODbBxjc6iI>

GASP is involved in several environmental issues, locally, provincially, and federally. The campaigns we are presently working on are Basic Income; getting Canadian Banks and Pension funds to stop investing in fossil fuels; and our Ontario Climate Watch Team who are working on sprawl; firm urban boundaries; saving farmland and wetlands; and protesting HWY 413. We are now focusing on the provincial election this June. GASP has produced 5 Election Priorities which we are sending to all Halton candidates, plus other candidates in the surrounding regions. We are asking for their feedback and where they stand on addressing the climate crisis and a green and ‘Just Transition.’

grandmothers  
Advocacy Network



Mouvement de soutien  
grands-mères

## GRAN Grandmothers Advocacy Network

<https://grandmothersadvocacy.org>

Living through COVID-19, we saw the curtain pulled back on another pandemic driven by ageism, age discrimination, neglect, and abuse of older persons. Across the globe, older persons have been subject to gross negligence, have been sequestered against their will, exposed to disease, denied access to health care, to essential services, and to social security. How did it come to this? While there are international treaties that protect the rights of other groups, the *International Declaration of Human Rights* does not have a word about age discrimination.





## Looking for a Speaker for your Club? Our Speakers/Education Committee is offering presentations....

Do you belong to a club that invites speakers to their meetings? Oomama can present an interesting PowerPoint presentation to them. We have presented to chapters of CARP, University Women, Rotary Clubs, and in June we will present to Sheridan Probus.

### **Resilience, African Grandmothers Facing Dual Pandemics and Climate Change**

The Climate Crisis has severely challenged the African grandmothers. Gardens they had nurtured, fell to floods and droughts. COVID-19 has added a second pandemic to their lives. Our presenters tell the inspirational stories of how the women have risen to their challenges of raising the orphaned children by caring for their health and providing them with a home.

Oomama members Rita Hutton, a retired high school science teacher, and Pat McKee, associate professor emeritus at UofT, present a beautifully illustrated powerpoint while telling the stories of the grandmothers. *For more information about booking a presentation, email Rita:*

[huttonrita@gmail.com](mailto:huttonrita@gmail.com)

! Remember to forward Oomama Facebook posts to your friends.



and [Oomama.org](http://Oomama.org)



Beverly Carr, Editor; Judy Pearsall, Copy Editor