

THE MAGAZINE FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS

PostScript

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2



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President's Message

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5

Each year in the spring the BC Teachers' Federation invites our President to bring greetings to its Annual General Meeting from the BC Retired Teachers' Association. And we reciprocate in the fall by inviting the BCTF President to our Annual Conference and AGM.

While thinking about what I could say in my remarks this year, I wondered whether it would be good to tell those active teacher delegates about the work the BCRTA does: studying issues of real or potential concern to our members; collecting data to help us determine the seriousness of those issues and concerns; hopefully coming up with possible solutions to the problems we identify; and visiting politicians to advocate for the changes in legislation, regulations and/or government policies that we'd like to see.

Or, I wondered, should I tell them about the pleasures we enjoy in retirement?

Given the awful year that BCTF members went through in 2014, and the continued under funding of the public school system that teachers must struggle through again this year, I decided that the delegates didn't need to hear about the problems we've been dealing with, on top of those they were addressing at their AGM. So I told them that there was light at the end of the tunnel, that retirement awaited them, and that it was truly something for them to look forward to.

I told them about the travels my wife and I had been able to enjoy over our thirteen years of retirement: to eleven different countries, some more than once, and all over BC and southern Alberta. What a pleasure it was to be

free from the school calendar, so that we could travel at whatever time of year best suited us.

I told them what a relief it was to no longer be stuck in a system at the mercy of uncaring, arrogant, grandstanding and sometimes downright sleazy politicians, most of them with the educational knowledge and expertise of a newt (sorry newts!). And how nice it was to be able to engage in volunteer work in your community, work that's the more pleasurable because you're not under the thumb of an employer, and you always have the freedom to say "no".

There's so much more time, I told them, to work on projects around the house, or in your basement, or in your garage. To develop and care for a beautiful garden, if you're so inclined.

And, oh, how great it is to be able to look out of your window on a cold and miserable Monday morning, and not get out of bed if you don't feel like it.

And all this, I reminded them, is because we have such a good employee pension plan--one of the best in North America, indeed in the world. Yes, of course it's a pain to pay into while you're working, but it all turns out to be worthwhile when you retire.

I think I was able to inject a little hope amidst the gloom of their AGM. And I reminded myself how lucky we are.

Bob Taverner

President, BCRTA





ROUND TABLE

Round Up

I'd like to start off this column by reminding my readers that the actual minutes of the meeting are routinely sent to every branch president. If more detail is needed, check for the particular committee chair and ask for the minutes of their meetings. That said, many of the 'reports' mentioned in the official minutes as 'oral report' won't help you at all! In fact my spot on the agenda states just that. I mentioned to the group that I had not been aware that my BCAA annual travel medical insurance could be claimed with other medical expenses with my income tax – something I didn't know, and which had been reported to me by another member, via email. Well, that's not exactly a report!

This meeting had a different feel to it, perhaps because four of the board members were unable to attend, and before the day ended another three had left, having legitimate reasons for doing so. One member apologized for leaving in time for her flight, and was told that in future she could stay an extra night and her cancellation and rebooking fee would also be covered. This is a real about face from the tight purse strings of previous years.

Another significant change was in the wings as well. When I was president we had the morning filled with committee reports, and other business was relegated to the afternoons. Because some of our members at that time would take an hour – or more sometimes – to deliver a blow-by-blow account of their committee work, we gradually worked our way to “no reports” but just motions arising out of committee work. And these now moved to after lunch. We put the information from other organizations (RR Smith, ACER-CART, COSCO, etc.) into the morning slot.

We have now found ourselves with eight affiliated groups, each having a BCRTA board member as a representative and each producing a rather large report! From that situation we moved to who should be a representative, and for how many of these groups, and what should our budget be for their expenses, and how much money should we be handing over as membership fees or donations? (I


don't suppose you would be surprised to find that almost all of these organizations are short on cash and request funds from us.)

So how did we pass the hours from eight thirty to two thirty?

We did the usual agenda, announcements and minutes of the last meeting. The President had more or less settled himself in his new abode, and had attended the BCTF AGM where he spoke on the joys of retirement. Zone meeting dates were mentioned if they had been set and our dates for next year were tentatively agreed to. The Office Administrator stated that some new furniture had arrived, with more shelving to come, and the office was being decluttered. She passed around the bank figures – we are solvent! Our investment portfolio is healthy, and we were reminded to get our expenses in before the end of June. We have lost income from the 255 members of the College Instructor retirees who left us, and many new retirees were delayed by the strikes of last year, when some retirement dinners were not held and retirement packages were not distributed.

In the debriefing of the BCTF AGM it was noted that many delegates there were younger, and that there were small children and babies present. Pensions are an issue for those who only have TTOC, part-time and/or temporary jobs, and some changes to the pension plan to benefit them are being considered. We will have BCTF President Jim Iker come to our September AGM with some details, but we are assured that if changes are made, they will not impact those of us already retired. The “pension promise” to us will be kept! The Teachers' Pension Plan Board of Trustees has been asked to look into what would be the effects if our pension fund's investments in fossil fuels were to be “divested”.

ACER-CART has been busy and there is an advocacy pamphlet to be finalized before we publish it. We are now members of the Canadian Coalition of Retirement Security



and we joined the Canadian Medical Association Alliance for a National Seniors' Strategy. We are supporting JoAnn Lauber in her run for a second term as the president of ACER-CART.

First Call has been made aware of the apparent lack of concern by our ministries in the areas of poverty, especially poverty among Aboriginal children. There is a lack of accountability regarding the allocation of federal funds, and some money meant to alleviate poverty has gone to tourism! The living wage is a focus in Vancouver, as is the public versus private school funding. The cuts to adult education are being looked into and the Integrated Care Advocacy group has met on the issue of Seniors' Agencies. A report is expected from their focus groups.

The RR Smith Memorial Fund will have its grants listed in this issue and is pleased to be able to report a balance between local and foreign requests. A new affinity plan member will make donations to the fund when our members use its services. BC Forum has a publication on Seniors' Care and the Cross Cultural Seniors have received funding for a DVD in Punjabi for their members. COSCO now has 42 workshops available – the two latest on COPD and Diabetes. These make use of medical students' research. The Seniors' Health and Wellness Institute Society is now headed by Annette O'Connor.

As part of their report COSCO mentioned their plans for a conference to follow our AGM in the fall of 2016, and the National Pensioners' Federation is organizing its conference to follow COSCO's, all to be held in Richmond. COSCO has requested a BCRTA donation of \$10,000 towards their conference start-up funds.

During a discussion regarding BCRTA's membership and representation in other organizations, and of how we make decisions on making donations, a group of four directors were appointed to an ad hoc BCRTA committee charged with bringing policy suggestions to our next meeting. A decision on COSCO's request has therefore been held over until after we hear this committee's report and recommendations.

Our 2015 AGM and Delegates' Day are in the planning stages – Is this our 60th anniversary since incorporation

under the Society Act? We talked about display set-up, the Northern Zone meeting, the hotel accommodations, registration and the meet and greet, topics for speakers, times of events, the RR Smith portion, a possible wine tasting, Golden star awards, a keynote speaker and a budget. There will be some Handbook changes re the voting at the AGM – to be published in the Summary of Reports, and in the copy of the Handbook on the website.

Committee "reports" versus "motions-only" came up, and the President announced that, as chair, he would allow some leeway. (But let's have short reports.)

Health and Housing asked for publication of information about the March 31st National Day of Action marking the expiry of the Canada Health Accord. Facebook will have a posting. The BCRTA endorsed ACER-CART's actions directed at obtaining a national housing strategy, and an election information package from ACER-CART, and from our own Health & Housing Committee, will be available to all branch presidents. Cotala Publishing will professionally assemble this package for us at reasonable cost.

Excellence in Education had five applications for the Golden Star awards, and these are to be adjudicated in April. We are looking at making more use of email for providing information to those of our members who have provided us with their email addresses, and will use the Vertical Response Company to help us set up a system. We will add First Memorial Services to our Affinity programs.

Letters have gone to the leaders of the four Federal parties and replies are hoped for and will be published. PostScript and Liaison Priorities will be on the website and we wondered about a Delegates' Day workshop for presidents re all the changes. Our organizational chart has been reformatted, and will be discussed again next meeting.

Please make an effort to check the website and explore what is there. We are handed so many reports and informative pamphlets it's hard to keep track, so a second reading helps! We adjourned at 2.40 – and I was ready to get home and put my feet up!

Sheila Gair, Editor

NOTICE OF - 2015 AGM -

70th Annual BCRTA Annual General Meeting (9:30am)

14th Annual General Meeting of the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation (9:00am)

are called for Saturday, September 19th, 2015

at the Vancouver Hilton Airport Hotel

5911 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC

BCRTA Positions for Election

President - 1 year term

1st VP - 1 year term

2nd VP - 1 year term

Treasurer (2 year term)

2 Directors (2 yrs) from outside the Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley Regions

2 Directors (2 yrs) from inside the Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley Regions

RR Smith Positions for Election

5 Directors - 1 year terms

**THOSE MEMBERS WHO
WISH TO BE CONSIDERED
AS BCRTA DELEGATES TO
THE 2016 BCTF AGM PLEASE
CALL THE OFFICE FOR
AN APPLICATION FORM
BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2015**

Membership Stats

@ APRIL 30, 2015

ACTIVE: 13,922

LIFE MEMBERS: 1,408

ASSOCIATE: 27

TOTAL: 15,357



Here comes your payment!

TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN

June 29

July 30

August 28

September 29

October 29

November 27

December 23

CANADA PENSION PLAN

June 26

July 29

August 27

September 28

October 28

November 26

December 22

Alternative EHC *and* Travel Plan

NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH JOHNSON'S INSURANCE

RTA members will soon be receiving a package for a new, alternative Extended Care Plan (EHC) and Travel Insurance Plan. This does not replace the current EHC plan available through the Teachers' Pension Plan or the MEDOC Plan provided by Johnson's. The new option is a combined plan; the EHC coverage and the travel coverage must be taken together.

This new option is not necessarily better or for everyone; if you do not travel you do not need travel insurance. But if you travel, especially if you are out of the province for more than 35 days or have pre-existing conditions I encourage you to carefully consider this new product as you may see significant savings.

While many of the coverage details are similar, here is a list of the most significant differences that you will want to consider when you receive your information package in the mail:

Key Extended Health Care differences:

- Johnson's begins to pay 80% of costs from the first dollar billed while the PBC plan has a \$200 deductible.
- The Johnson's plan has a \$250,000 lifetime limit compared to PBC's \$200,000
- The PBC plan pays 100% of prescription costs after the first \$1000 has been paid at the 80% rate and following the deductible. The Johnson's plan is more complicated with limits on prescription claims and with two options available.
- The PBC plan covers some drugs that are not on the Pharmacare drug formulary while the Johnson's plan is restricted to the BC Pharmacare formulary. This is a significant difference that may affect you now or in the future. To check if your prescription drugs would be eligible for coverage under the new plan visit the Pharmacare website at <https://pcbl.hlth.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/benefitslookup/> and enter your prescription in the search. If your drug is not covered by Pharmacare, it won't be covered under the Johnson's EHC plan.

Key travel plan differences:

- The Prestige plan offers any number of trips up to a maximum of 62 days each while MEDOC trips are limited to 35 days. This may lead to significant savings.
- There is no Health Option questionnaire with the Prestige Plan so pre-existing conditions do not affect your premiums or restrict your travel. However, eligible claims must be due to sudden and unforeseen emergencies.

When you receive your mailing, I would encourage you to read the information, compare it with your current coverage and premiums and contact Johnson's Insurance at 604.881.8840 or 1.866.799.0000, or via email at pbservicewest@johnson.ca for detailed comparison information before making a decision to choose this option. Johnson's provides 'best friend' advice; if you are better served with your current coverage, they will tell you. Full details on this plan will soon be available at www.johnson.ca/bcrtta.

MEDOC Travel Insurance will remain available for those who want to continue their coverage under this plan. However, if you are interested in joining the new plan as an alternative you may want to consider doing this before October 5th as this is your last day to cancel a current MEDOC policy before it renews for another year.

Note: If you join the Johnson's EHC Plan with Prestige Travel Insurance and find that it does not meet your needs you are permitted to return to the Teachers' EHC plan according to the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association guidelines. While dual coverage is permitted, you will likely want to cancel your PBC coverage effective when you begin this new policy.

Please Note: BCRTA cannot make insurance recommendations for individuals. This is an individual decision based upon your specific situation regarding health, finances, frequency of travel, risk tolerance, etc.

2015-2016 BCRTA Committees Application Form
DEADLINE for receipt of Applications: September 19th, 2015

BCRTA committees usually meet 6 times a year during a 2-day period prior to each Board of Directors meeting. Meetings are held in the BCTF Building, at 100-West 6th Avenue, Vancouver. **Appointments are made at the October Board meeting**, and are generally for 2 years, with half of the positions becoming vacant each year. You may normally only serve on a given committee for a maximum of 4 consecutive years. Travel and accommodation expenses are reimbursed.

Members are expected to sit on two committees. For further information see the **Handbook** on our website (www.bcrta.ca), and look in "Section C–Procedures", parts 6 and 7.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Branch, if any: _____ Signed: _____

Nominated by 2 BCRTA members in good standing:

Nominator (please print): _____ Signed: _____

Nominator (please print): _____ Signed: _____

The BCRTA Committees are:

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION HEALTH & HOUSING HERITAGE MEMBERSHIP
COMMUNICATIONS RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS SOCIAL CONCERNS
PENSIONS & BENEFITS (A Pensions background, e.g in the BCTF or a local, is **required**.)
[ADVOCACY (directors only)] [FINANCE (directors only)] [PERSONNEL (table officers only)]

Please list in order of preference:

Committee Applying for: #1 _____

Why would you be a good choice for this committee? _____

Committee Applying for: #2 _____

Why would you be a good choice for this committee? _____

Committee Applying for: #3 _____

Why would you be a good choice for this committee? _____

Outline positions held and/or the work you have done in your branch: _____

Note: Applicants will all be informed of the Directors' decisions concerning appointments.

Mail to BCRTA, 100 – 550 W 6th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4P2, or email to pat@bcrta.com

NOMINATION FORM for 2015-2016 BCRTA DIRECTOR POSITIONS (September 19th, 2015 AGM elections)

Note that the President and the two Vice-President positions have one-year terms. All other directors serve for two years.

Information about directors' nomination and election procedures is summarized on the back of this form, along with a guide to related information contained in the *BCRTA Handbook* (www.bcrta.ca).

Nominators: (Two required. Must be active BCRTA members in good standing.)

Name: _____ Sign: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Sign: _____ Phone: _____

We nominate (please print clearly): _____

for the position of (circle):

President	First Vice-President	Second Vice-President	Treasurer
Director (Lower Mainland)	Director (outside the Lower Mainland)	ACER-CART Rep.	

Nominee: (Must be an active BCRTA member in good standing)

By signing here I affirm that I accept this nomination: _____

Please fill in the blanks below **and attach item #4** to this form.

1. Address: _____

2. Phone: _____ Email: _____

3. Branch affiliation (if applicable): _____

4. A curriculum vitae, preferably in item form - not to exceed 200 words - for publication in the *Summary of Reports* booklet (**publication deadline July 15th**).

Summarize educator positions held, experience on executive and other committees, and why you would like to serve on the BCRTA Board of Directors.

Please note: Candidates do not have their expenses paid to attend the AGM unless they are delegates. There are not usually any candidates' speeches at the AGM. You will be asked to stand so members can match vitae with faces.

Acknowledgement of receipt of your nomination will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Return this form by July 15th to:

Cliff Boldt, Nominations Chair,

c/- BCRTA, 100-550 W. 6th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4P2,

or fax to (604) 871-2265, or email a scanned attachment to pat@bcrta.com

THE BCRTA SENT 3 QUESTIONS TO THE 4 FEDERAL PARTY LEADERS IN JANUARY 2015.

The 15,000 member BC Retired Teachers' Association is gathering information regarding federal political party platforms in anticipation of a federal election this year.

Would you please provide us with answers to the following questions. Your answers, along with those of the other parties, will be published in a booklet to be distributed to our members.

1. What is your party's platform and position with regard to a Canada-wide, single tier universal health care system? Does your party favour the establishment of private, user-pay medical clinics such as that operated by Dr. Brian Day?
2. What is your party's platform and position with regard to a National Seniors' Continuing Health Care Plan, designed to improve upon current provincial plans, and to remove the inconsistencies among them?

3. What is your party's platform and position with regard to a universal pharmacare program, aimed at reducing drug purchase costs through a national purchasing agency, and at removing inconsistencies among provincial programs?

We have only received an answer from Mr. Mulcair (by date of publication). Hopefully we will receive responses from the other Federal Party Leaders.

The response to our letter from Mr. Mulcair took the form of definitions of the platforms prepared for the universal health care system, the National Seniors Continuing Health Care plan and the Pharmacare program. A Booklet entitled Aging in Canada was also in the package and is probably available to anyone who cares to ask for it. There was no personal note from Mr. Mulcair himself.

Editor

EXPIRY OF THE HEALTH ACCORD RALLY

JoAnn Lauber (ACER-CART President) and Dale Lauber (New Westminster Branch), and Patricia Wright (Vancouver Branch) carry the BCRTA banner at the rally in Vancouver.



AMBULANCE COSTS IN CANADA



While doing research into a Universal Pharmacare Program for Canada I came across some very interesting costs for each province when you call for ambulance service. As you can see the costs in some provinces are prohibitive and in particular for seniors who may be on a limited and fixed income.

Here are the costs per province:

Alberta: The cost for Ambulance service if treated on site is \$250. If transported to a hospital it is \$385. Seniors enrolled in a "Coverage for Seniors" program are FREE.

Saskatchewan: The cost is \$325 for transport to hospital plus a per km. cost for 'rural residents'. The cost for transport between hospitals is also \$325. The basic for seniors is \$275.

Manitoba: The cost in Manitoba is \$530. However transport to hospital within the Winnipeg area is \$512. There is also a \$530 charge for transport between hospitals.

Ontario: Ambulance cost in Ontario is \$45.

Quebec: The present cost is \$125 plus \$1.75/km. It is planned to raise these costs to \$175 for ambulance plus \$2.95/km. At present seniors are free but the plan is to also charge ambulance costs for seniors.

Nova Scotia: The charge for transport to a hospital is \$142.30 but there is no charge for transport between hospitals.

Newfoundland: Ambulance costs here are \$115.

Prince Edward Island: The cost for residents of PEI is \$150 with no inter hospital fees. Seniors are free in PEI.

This brings us to British Columbia. The cost for transport by ambulance in BC is \$80.

Lastly, the province we left to the end is... New Brunswick. Here the cost of ambulance to hospital is \$0 --- nada, zilch, ne rien. Yes it is FREE in New Brunswick.

* Ambulance costs are not covered under the Canada Health Act.

In a National Survey conducted by CBC:

* 75% of Canadians said that we should NOT have to pay for ambulance costs.

* As part of that survey 20% of people said they were 'deterred' from calling for an ambulance due to the costs.

* 42% said they might 'delay' calling an ambulance because of the cost. This delay apparently has resulted in cardiac arrest and 'dying in a vehicle' driven by someone else (friend or relative).

*Submitted by
Tom Hastie, Health and Housing Committee*

TACKLE BOX

SENT IN BY DALE BRANDT, KAMLOOPS RTA

Memories of a troubled student - kept in a tackle box and shared at his last meeting with his teacher.

Tackle Box: What lures are inside?

a space retainer, an ornament, a case for glasses, bits and pieces, baggage from the past once important - no longer so.

The family connection:

a small pin from his Mother,
a leather-bound pocket dictionary from Dad;
from Grandpa, a silver pocket watch
still ticking in its safe place.

The sports connection:

swimming badges - one blue, one green;
a rumpled track-meet ribbon;
and then, oh then, soccer awards.

So many soccer awards;

a silver medal, a tiny jacket pin, a tournament badge, a Mexican coat of arms on a crest, a newspaper clipping, carefully folded headlined Valley East Victory, and best of all, a small soccer shield engraved with his name, Mike, and the year he won it. What marvelously intriguing lures are inside this tackle box!

And each one holds me a little more and each one tells me some part of the person who so carefully collected these lures.

Caught!

Nov. 22, 1986

Have you ever thought of living in a senior housing society complex?

There are a variety of senior housing living accommodations but to find out information about them is not necessarily easy. My husband and I live in one in the Abbotsford area and when we tell people about the complex most people are not aware of this type of accommodation. The complex is non-smoking and pet free, one member needs to be 55 years or more.

The units themselves are approximately 1000 square feet and have two bedrooms, living room/dining room combination, galley kitchen, bathroom, laundry room and a storage room. The complex we live in has both a front and back sun deck.

You purchase a membership that is a set price, unlike subsidized or co-operative housing that determines your

rental price based on your income. In our complex the purchase price for a membership is approximately \$70,000. Your monthly dues of \$175.00 covers electrical, water and heat, the member pays for their own telephone and t.v. Property tax for over 65 years is \$100 per year and 55 to 64 years old is \$350 per year. Members are guaranteed only one parking space.

When you decide to leave the complex you get your purchase price back minus the cost to repaint your unit and also to have the carpets cleaned.

There are 5 complexes in Abbotsford, and I believe one each in Delta, Langley and Surrey.

To become a member you must fill out an application and go through an interview. Each owner is expected to help out in some way to help keep costs down and allow us to continue to live at a reasonable rate.

If you are interested in more information email me and I will forward the addresses to you.

Bgrundy47@shaw.ca

RETIRED BUT NOT RETICENT

BY PETER WARLAND, CRANBROOK LIFE MEMBER

"If you obey all the rules you miss all the fun." Katharine Hepburn.

The fact that it happened at all surprised me; the fact that it happened on two separate occasions this spring amazed me. Twice since the new year flung itself at us, I have been stopped and praised, lauded even, by young men, one of whom I actually remembered, for the fondness they'd had for my classes way back when.

Female ex-students over the years have been pleasant enough when we've met but males are inclined to joke with me, hip-check me in a store, or ignore me completely, so the two men really set me back on my heels.

It was not Social Studies nor English, nor even Geography 12 that had excited either one of them. In each case it had been that Anthropology course that I'd invented for grade 11 students, and had taught for so many years.

Why, even I look back on those halcyon days when, although I was already long in the tooth, jaded perhaps, I tottered off to school knowing that another adventurous class, walking where angels fear to tread, might be forthcoming.

It all began, I believe, whilst I was taking summer school classes in order to complete my degree. I had been stuck for 'an elective' and stumbled in desperation into Anthropology 100.

There were about twenty-five of us registered for that course but, if I wanted a seat in the room, I had to be there early. That professor could teach. He managed to get everyone so excited that dozens of 'casuals' sat in on each lecture. I was so impressed by him and by his subject matter that I pestered my school principal and the local school board to allow me to create an anthropology class.

Those classes ran for several years, were always filled to overflowing and kept me excited and on my toes for the whole time until I retired from teaching.

I read the subject constantly, took a couple more courses as electives and thoroughly enjoyed those lessons and so,

apparently, the kids, enjoyed themselves too.

I'd start the first lesson by warning that I might be venturing into topics where their parents might not appreciate them being led, but no kid dropped out. Then I asked, "Why would an alien, visiting earth for the first time, select humans as interesting topic to study? Why not elephants or giant Redwoods?" Some kids gave a great deal of thought to that one.

Later in the course, I'd ask the students to imagine a class of twenty kids, roughly of their own age, in roughly equal numbers of girls and boys, then give characters to each. Some enthusiasts wrote lengthy biographies of their subjects, but then I introduced a plane crash such as in 'Lord of the Flies'. This bit was traumatic when some of the lovingly invented characters had to be killed and a few injured. Some kids couldn't do this and had to ask someone else to do the killing and then, probably, resurrected those they didn't want dead.

Anyway, each student ended up with a few youths stranded on an island and then I asked what I believed to be pertinent questions: Who led? What rules were followed? What happened to those who broke those rules? Who sinned? What is sin?

We ventured into social and sexual behavior, into religious beliefs and why people act the way they do.

I was able, fortunately, to bring into the classes some incredible films in order to enliven things should I become tedious.

Over the years I had no protests whatsoever from any parents directly nor from the School Board who, in those years, seemed to have trusted me.

The end came, I believe, because no credit for the course was permitted for graduation requirements and students just could not afford the class time.

Requiescat in pace.



SACKED *then* SOARED

BY KERRY DAVIS, DUNCAN, RETIRED 1997

Bob Taverner was one teacher in SD #1 when I taught there. John Riley was another. John and I were at Elkford Elementary School. One morning I arrived at school with a gunny sack. John peeked in at the contents of that sack and identified the critter and confirmed his conclusion when the creature, a bird, was taken out of the sack. That bird is the nudge that has me make an effort to respond to Sheila Gair's invitation to "spread their wings." I believe that I am the only Canadian who has captured that species of bird by making a rugby flying tackle.

My wife Ruth and our three daughters lived on an acreage. We had our menagerie of farm animals. One of my morning jobs was to go out to the 'barn' to feed and water our livestock. On this particular wintery morning I stepped around one side of the barn and saw a hunched over, wings spread-eagled, blue grey bird wrestling with one of our laying chickens in a snow bank. That sight infuriated me. Without any hesitation I launched myself and dove at the killer bird and landed on top of it and our hen. Then I reached under my belly, felt for the bird of prey, found it's legs, grabbed them and its wings, rolled about in the snow to get to a standing position and then walked back

to our house to show wife and daughters the chicken killer I had captured.

After a time the bird was shoved into the gunny sack which was then tied with twine.

The sack and my welding gloves were tossed into the cab of the Datsun pickup ready for the ride to school where Gr. 5, 6 & 7 students could get a close look at that bird of prey.

At school Riley did his trick and I took the bird into three classrooms. All went well in classrooms one and two. Then things went amok in the Gr. 7 class. Whatever happened the bird escaped from my welding glove clutches and flew in circles around the classroom. Students were screaming, furniture was knocked over and the onset of total panic loomed. Fortunately I had the presence of mind to switch off lights. The bird now in semi darkness lit on a piece of furniture. I with my welding gloved hand captured it and returned it to the gunny sack.

Recess time came and probably 60 or so students oohed and aahed as I released the bird. We all delighted in seeing that magnificent soaring peregrine falcon.



THE FLAVOR OF CANADA

WRITTEN BY LIN WEICH, QUESNEL RTA

In Prosser Brook, time slows as the Beamans bottle this spring's bounty using old methods and pride to produce their famous maple syrup.

After a drive throughout the countryside to Prosser Brook in Albert county New Brunswick, you arrive at their cabin which has served as a bottling facility for generations. Their son Stephen runs the business but Paul and Helen Beaman, now retired, still work during the busy season. As we enter the cabin, we are welcomed by wood smoke mingling with the sweet odor of hot maple syrup.

While Helen heats, strains, pours and then captures golden liquid in plain glass bottles, she carries on an unhurried conversation with this visitor from "away". As she explains the time-worn labour intensive steps, she never ceases to move. Paul, her husband, waits patiently to fix labels to each capped bottle.

Pausing to wipe her hands on a well-used towel, Helen bangs a sample block of maple cream against the side of the wooden counter. She passes around chunks of this unbelievable treat. It is simply wonderful.



"Oh," I say as I glance at a price list tacked to the cabin wall. "These must be your prices from a long time ago."

Helen chuckles and points to the bottom of the paper. "No, see here, 2013." She has no trouble selling me six half-pound bars of this maple cream. I will be very popular back home.

Maple syrup has to be heated before it is bottled in order to raise the % of sugar (should be 66.6%), enable it to keep on store shelves without refrigeration and to seal the bottle caps.

Syrup runs through a spigot into the transfer bucket and the hot maple syrup is filtered through layers of cheesecloth. Each bottle has to be filled to the brim since the syrup settles as it cools. Paul then applies the labels.

I take a few more pictures of golden bottles highlighted by the spring sunshine. Reluctantly, clutching my treats, I get set to leave...to leave this piece of working history, the wood smoke, maple odors, and the warmth of true Maritime hospitality.



**CANADIAN SNOWBIRD
ASSOCIATION**

The letter in the winter edition of Postscript regarding length of stays out of country and what coverage is available has caused some concerns.

Suggestion was made that all snowbirds and prospective snowbirds check the Canadian Snowbird Association website for details and information to keep informed.

www.snowbirds.org



By Arnie Walters, Burnaby RTA



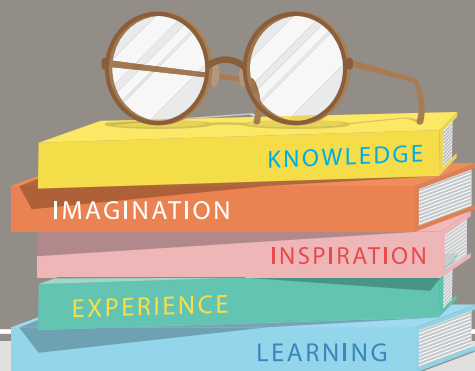
Weathered Barn – Gillian Krantz, Abbotsford RTA

Stonehenge – Joannell Clarke, Shuswap & District RTA



Lone Pine – Gillian Krantz, Abbotsford RTA

THE PAUSE THAT *Refreshes*



RETIRED TEACHERS *write books*

Covert Danger *by Jo-Ann Carson*

The Mata Hari Suspense Series, Book #1

A single woman — A double life

High fashion model, Sadie Stewart, is a dedicated undercover CIA agent used to getting her man. But this time she's chasing a power-hungry international arms dealer stealing ancient Egyptian amulets. Brilliant, ruthless and slightly wacko, he's a hard catch. She's willing to risk everything to stop him, but the handsome Sebastian Wilde, who looks like a modern Viking, keeps getting in her way. Her independence is shaken as he stirs feelings in her that she thought only existed in fairy tales. Can she put their attraction aside and get the job done?

When Sebastian sees Sadie in a high speed motor-boat flying down the Grand Canal in Venice, with the Italian military police hot on her tail, her beauty and courage intrigue him. He has a personal vendetta to stop the trading of looted art, and when it looks as though she's involved in that shady world, he decides to stop her. Could the femme fatale really be that evil?

Their adventure spans the globe with scenes in Venice, Florence, Amsterdam, Cairo and New York.

Can they work together and stop the heist planned for the Met Museum of Art? Protecting the relics becomes their shared goal, but it's not all about ancient magic and power. Love hangs in the balance.

A cross between Indiana Jones and Covert Affairs

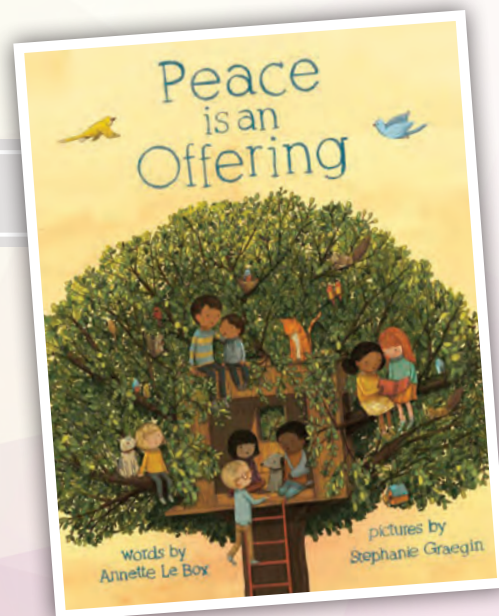
Award Winning — Smart, Sexy Suspense



Peace is an Offering *by Annette Le Box*

Peace is an offering/a muffin or a peach. A birthday invitation.
A trip to the beach.

Follow these neighbourhood children as they find love in everyday things—in sunlight shining through leaves and cookies shared with friends—and learn the peace is all around, if you just look for it. Kirkus calls it 'warm and affecting.' Available on Amazon or your local bookstore. For more info: go to www.annettelebox.com.



CLIFF BOLDT, BCRTA PRESIDENT 2012-2014

Cliff Boldt describes himself as an activist. It is an approach to life that he claims to have learned as a youngster, in rural Saskatchewan, listening to the adults at the typical Sunday afternoon potluck (faspa) and gathering in his home, where the conversation ranged from farming, to religion, to local and broader politics. No topics were out of bounds, and the kids would tag along to listen and learn. “You don’t get this stuff on an iPhone”

Throughout his life, Cliff has been very much involved in politics, believing strongly that it is one’s duty to become active in working to improve (or recently, with respect to Medicare to maintain) conditions, both locally, and for our country. He believes in the “collective”, where all participate and support one-another. During his career he has been an “activist” as president of his local teachers’ Association, on the executive of the BCTF, as president of the local BCTF organization, and lately, as president of the BCRTA. Throughout his career, Cliff has had his wife, Maureen, as his supporter. As he said, “Maureen has made it possible.”

When asked how and why he became a teacher, Cliff talks about the long history of teachers, in his family, where uncles, aunts and grandparents were teachers (his grandparents taught in one room schools in Russia). In his case, Cliff worked as a laborer for his father, who was a carpenter, for a while after graduation – not a line of work that Cliff really liked. Later, while driving a milk truck and delivering milk door to door in Saskatoon, he dropped into the Normal School and applied for admission. Soon he realized that he really enjoyed teaching – that he had found a calling where he could “make my living with my head”. Like many young people at the time, he was unable to take a few years off to attend university, so he completed much of his degree by summer school. The year after marrying

Maureen, though, he was able to take a year off to complete his degree because he had won a bursary.

In Cliff’s career, he taught everything from kindergarten to graduate studies. He found the 70’s and early 80’s to be the best of times – there were resources available, both in terms of materials and support staff. New reading programs were being introduced, and each August a truck would arrive full of new print and support material which he looked forward to with great anticipation. Staff resources were also plentiful, with counsellors and other support available to teachers and students in need. Also, it was a time, Cliff said, when teachers were encouraged to try new things.

As a teacher, Cliff said that he concluded that education should look like a triangle with the students at the apex, and with teachers and parents at the other two corners. “That is what education is all about.” “We should wake up each morning feeling, ‘what can I do today to make things better for the kids in my classes’”. Cliff believes that the whole system (trustees, administration, etc.,) should be focused on supporting the teacher and students in the classroom.

When Cliff retired from North Vancouver to the Comox Valley area, he joined the BCRTA (an uncle in Saskatchewan had impressed on him the need for retired teachers to join their RTA’s) but he didn’t become actively involved in the BCRTA for the next 7 years. His first involvement with the RTA saw him as a member of the Advocacy Committee – he had seen Glen Pinch’s advertisement for openings on the committee and felt that he might have something to offer. Over the next few years, he added other committees to his resume (e.g. Health and Housing). During this time, he became concerned that the RTA was being run as an Old Boys’ and Old Girls’ club. When Owen Corcoran suggested that he run for the position of 2nd Vice President of the





organization, he decided to give it a try, not entirely aware that he had made an eight year commitment (2nd V.P., 1st V.P., President, Past-President). As he says, “the rest is history”.

As president, Cliff travelled extensively, visiting 26 branches throughout the province – everywhere from Creston to Fort St. John to Campbell River, and places in-between. Many of the branches were entirely surprised, and delighted, that he would come and visit with them, providing a direct connection to the provincial body. In the future, he would like to see more of the committee chairs visiting with local branches, as the committee chairs spend huge amounts of time and effort working on their committee foci, and have valuable knowledge to be shared.

Cliff would also like to see the branches take more responsibility for their political lives, becoming more active to defend things that matter to seniors. “I think that Stephen Harper would like to repeal the 20th Century.” Cliff says, “What is the matter with us is that we don’t say enough is enough. We are all busy, but are we so busy that we won’t defend ourselves against cuts in Medicare, for instance? I am so damn angry when people don’t see that. Medicare, transportation, education for your grandchildren – find out what is going on out there.”

Cliff is a strong believer in the power of stories to educate and to convey messages. He feels that there are a multitude of stories held by those in the RTA that we would all benefit from those stories being shared. One of his favorites is from his teaching career in North Vancouver. A family in the school was in desperate need of help from the Ministry of Children and Families; the children needed to be removed from their home for their own safety. Cliff and the school

counsellor contacted the Ministry Manager and were told that there was no place for the children to go, so the ministry could not help. Cliff phoned back a while later, to tell the Ministry official that he had booked a plane to Victoria for himself, the counsellor and the children, and that he had arranged a meeting with Grace McCarthy. He also said that he had contacted BCTV to meet him at the steps of the legislature. The entire threat was a bluff on Cliff’s part. Thirty minutes later, the Ministry official phoned back to inform Cliff that a place had been found for the children.

At the time this is being written (Fall 2014) Cliff is engaged in running for a position as school trustee – his first attempt at elected political office. He hopes to bring a lifetime of activism to the position. If elected, he says that his focus will be on helping to harness the passion of those who want to see their children served better by our educational system.

When asked to describe himself in a few words, Cliff first says “blessed”; a word that he uses to encompass his family, friends and colleagues. Then he mentions “secure” and talks about Maslow’s needs hierarchy, in which, if you are secure, everything else falls into place. His final word is “comfortable”. He says that he is comfortable with his wife and children, comfortable with himself, and, most importantly, comfortable in his own skin.

Cliff’s concluded the interview with, “Life is so bloody interesting. I feel sorry for those who are not activists, those who don’t mix up their lives.”

Footnote – This commentary on Cliff Boldt comes as the result of an extended interview conducted by Excellence in Public Education Committee member, Lynne Rodier in a hotel coffee shop in the late afternoon during BCRTA Committee Meetings held in Vancouver in mid-October, 2014. Since the writing of this article, Cliff has been elected to the Board of School Trustees, School District #71 (Comox Valley).



letters TO THE EDITOR

Please alert all retired teachers that glasses bought out of country are not claimable on our plan. They may have been paid out before, as I was, but the system has now been upgraded to catch this glitch and all claims will be rejected.

It would be nice if this whoops, could be remedied. However it is something that would have to be renegotiated!!!

Thank you for letting me vent.

– Marilyn Garrett, a happily retired teacher.

RESPONSE: "Yes, it's true. Under the TPP Voluntary EHC plan there is no provision for coverage for any expenses incurred outside Canada."

– Gerry Tiede, Pension and Benefits Committee Chair

Hi Sheila Just a few comments re education as I see it.

A WORLD OF CHANGES!

When I started teaching in 1954 with just grade 12 and one year of Normal School (in Victoria, B.C.), I went to the Cassiar Asbestos Mine in Northern BC. I taught Grade 1,2,3 in a two-room school. My classroom was partitioned off at one end of the Recreation Hall. I had to ask the mine superintendent to close the hall during school hours as my students and I were learning some very non-instructional language.

I then taught at mile 1202 of the Alaska Highway in the Yukon in a one-room school. My grade eight male student kept feeding the pot-bellied stove so we could keep warm (up to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit at times). I even made my own jelly pads so I could do a few copies at a time.

In 1957, my husband, son and I moved to Prince Rupert, BC, where I taught until 1970. I started in elementary Gr.5, 6, then Junior High Gr.8, 9 French, then Senior High Gr. 10,11,12, and 13 French.

My husband having decided to become a teacher too, at the age of 37, we moved to Richmond, BC. While he attended the UBC's shop teachers program at BCIT I taught Fr.8, 9, then went into counselling. In 1974 I switched to the Delta School District as we had bought property in South Surrey and the tunnel traffic was becoming impossible. I was counselling at Delta Junior then Delta Secondary when we amalgamated. In 1981 I transferred to Seaquam Secondary where I counselled till December of 1994 when I retired after 35 years of teaching. Being only 57 years old and having both a French Master of Education and a Counselling Psychology Master, I was able to go on the TTOC list right away with French Immersion, counselling, Learning Assistance and Resource Rooms.

Now on June 30, 2015, I will retire again after 55 years of teaching and counselling a tremendously varied group of students. Whether they be a kindergarten class or a grade 12 French immersion class. I found students eager to work if it interests them, and to learn all about this world we are lucky to live in.

It is a world of fantastic changes from a world of IQs to mixed groupings, from rote learning to group inquiry, from phonetics to sight reading and back again, from memorizing times tables to discovering how math principles work and of course lap tops, iPads, etc... for research purposes.

My one regret is the amount of trees we cut now to photocopy materials because of the lack of classroom sets of school books.

I found the students (mostly), parents, teachers, and administrators very helpful and cooperative, although I had to administer the strap once back in 1959.

New teachers today have a more difficult row to hoe.

I will always appreciate and never regret my wonderful years aiding young minds to develop to the best of their abilities.

Sincerely,
Armida Hutt, Delta RTA

Dear Sheila,

Seeing the article about Lorill Hanney in the Spring issue of PostScript brought back a memory from almost 40 years ago. As a 21 year old teacher who had been “substituting” in Burnaby for a couple of months, I was called to the School District Office for a meeting with Lorill Hanney. I turned up with trepidation, wondering who Lorill Hanney was and why I was called to meet with her. Lorill ushered me into her office and invited me to sit beside her desk on a very distinctive side chair. As I recall, it was a roomy rocking chair covered in a

brightly coloured, handcrafted afghan. Lorill introduced herself warmly and told me she was meeting the substitute teachers who were getting frequent requests by teachers calling the absence reporting line, according to the district dispatcher. The outcome of the meeting was a temporary job for the balance of the school year. I never met Lorill again but I will always be grateful for that meeting. It was definitely a turning point in a public school career that lasted for almost 35 years.

*With best regards,
Sandra Sellick, Central Okanagan RTA*

Where have all the flowers gone, long time passing . . .

In the last 5 months, I have landed in two new jobs, both of which have proven to be a challenge. I have taken on the role of Past President of the BCRTA and I was elected as a school trustee in November. The learning curve for both has been significant. What does a past president do? I thought I knew what a school trustee did and I missed the mark there too. Oh, I know what a school trustee does, but I had no idea how thoroughly the Ministry of Education has enhanced its powers at the expense of compliant local school boards over the last 30 years.

Which brings me to the reason for writing this column to please your editor.

Like many of you, I was born at the end of the depression or during WW 2. The end of the war saw a phenomenal change in Canadian society. Canada had stood shoulder to shoulder with the British Empire and the emerging American empire during the war. Many of our brightest and best young women and men died during the war or came home as damaged goods – physically and mentally.

Canada as a nation, thanks in large part to the likes of Lester B. Pearson and his colleagues, was there at the beginning of the United Nations. We were junior partners, but we made a difference. Everywhere you looked in Canada happy days were here again.

At home, Canada was starting to build new social infrastructure. Highways, roads, sewer and water became a priority. New schools, hospitals and universities were built at breath taking speed. Young people left small urban or rural high schools and went to the city to attend normal school or university or both. It was easy and relatively cheap to go to a post secondary facility.

Some of our high school friends quit in grade 10 to go to work in the city or the bush. Many young men on the Island would work in the bush on the weekend and make more money there than their teachers made in a month. Why sit at a desk when you could earn big money, buy a new half ton.

These were exciting times.

Many of us remember the culture shock of that first month on a university campus. Men and women met people other than

those they had gone to school with for 12 years back home. New relationships developed, new friendships and of course new partners in marriage.

Those were exciting times when society was building and there was money for new programs created to meet new needs. Unions were tolerated and encouraged. There was money for all these things and even the corporations were doing well. Hospital insurance was created, as was Medicare. Schools had equipment, supplies, and staff of all kinds.

Fast forward to today. Political parties of all stripes have slowly dismantled all that. In Canada that really started with the Chretien government in 1994-95 when their budget started to cut transfers to the provinces for the infrastructure that had been created. And then we got Harper who was Chretien on steroids.

I am learning how to be a past president and a school trustee. It isn't easy, but it has to be done. For example, I won't be supporting a balanced school district budget because that only enables our Premier.

What about you? Can you and your grandchildren live without Medicare? Or live with a public school system that is a shell of what it once was? Only you can answer these questions and act on your answers as we approach the 2015 federal election.

The BCRTA committees have done an excellent job of highlighting the issues facing BCRTA members and seniors generally. You have been provided with quality information you can use to challenge candidates and parties in the 2015 election.

Only you can make a difference for the future of Canada by challenging candidates in the election and voting to support yourself and your grandchildren. Only you can vote for a positive and challenging future for Canada.

What will you do?

Cliff Boldt,
Past President, BCRTA
Rookie Trustee, Comox Valley School District

R.R. Smith

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT FUNDS UPDATE

≈ MARCH 2015 ≈

Dear R.R. Smith Members,

In 2006, the R.R. Smith Board of Directors established Endowment Funds in each of the public universities. R.R. Smith Bursaries in Education are awarded annually to students training to be teachers at the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, University of Northern B.C., Thompson Rivers University and Malaspina College-University.

With the aid of R.R. Smith bursary funding, at this time there are three students who are studying at the University of Victoria; seven students at the University of B.C.; one at the University of Northern B.C.; one student at Thompson Rivers University; and one student at Simon Fraser University. We have not yet heard from Malaspina College-University.

Here are just a few quotes from the students themselves.

"... I am a mother of two, a student teacher who is hoping to start teaching French next September... By receiving this bursary I can pay part of my tuition fee which is a huge relief..."

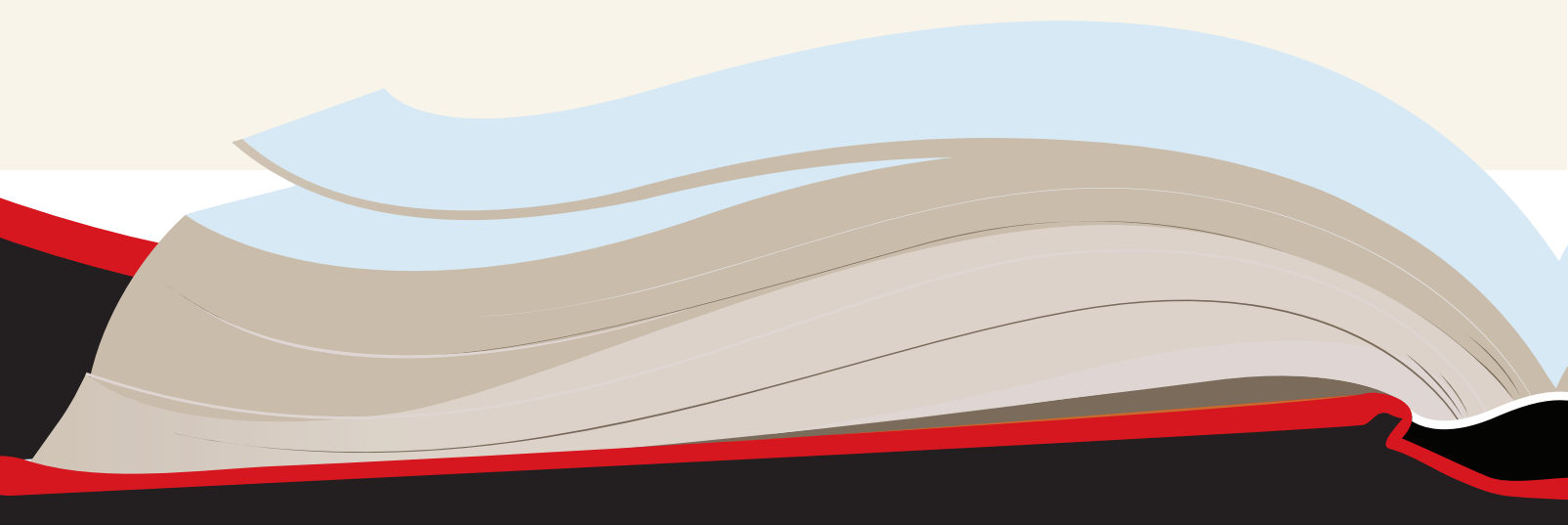
"...I am currently enrolled in my second year of the Bachelor of Education program with hopes of becoming an elementary teacher. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying. Thank you again for your generosity and support..."

"... Thank you for your help in making my career possible!"

"...I love teaching, and I love students, and I love my family. Your contribution puts me in a position to pursue what I love, in a career that is challenging, rewarding, and allows me a calendar year that leaves time to invest heavily in my young family. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Bursaries are given on the basis of need. They are very much appreciated.

Sincerely, Judy de Vries, President,
R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation



R.R. Smith

MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION

R E P O R T



Directors - Dave Carter,
Bev Anderson, Steve Bailey,
Barb Mikulec, Andy Hattrick,
Judy de Vries, Sheila Pither

The Directors wish to express their appreciation for the donations from individuals and local BCRTA branches and the \$1.00 per member grant from the BCRTA. These funds made it possible for the Directors to award \$14,500 in grants to 11 applications.

2015 Grants have been approved for:

KEEF-Kenya	\$1500
– for secondary students tuition	
Vancouver Opera Guild	\$1000
– for children tuition at Opera camp	
Families for Children-Bangladesh	\$2500
– for supplies for deaf students	
Communities Embracing Restorative Action	\$1000
– restorative justice program	
Into All the World-Uganda	\$2500
– secondary students tuition	
Children's Care International-India	\$2315
– tuition for nursing students	
Focus Foundation of BC	\$500
– Fresh Start Program supplies	



R.R. Smith
MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION

AN EDUCATIONAL LEGACY
THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE BCRTA

Burnaby Food First	\$500
– four workshops on meal planning, recipes, printing costs	
Boys and Girls Club of Kamloops	\$1000
– books for summer program	
Dewdney Elementary Outdoor Education Program	\$1085
– outdoor-focused program	
Start Up	\$600
– resources, shipping booklets	

Total = \$14,500

2015 GOLDEN STAR AWARDS

GULF ISLANDS

Gulf Islands, School District 64, Salt Spring Island, BC *Connecting Generations*

The object of the program is to bring together youth and seniors, whose paths might not otherwise cross, together for conversations about skills, interests and life experience. Teachers and students are able to access a database of participants, meet individually and in small groups to share/learn about a variety of topics. Examples include first-hand accounts from seniors who fought in World War II, or from those who experienced internment during the War. The expertise seniors bring to the program are wide and varied, for example music, ESL, genetics, astronomy, photography. The prize money will be used towards a program planned for the Fall of 2014 promoting volunteerism in the community, and for an intergenerational forum in December.

VALLEY VIEW

Valley View Elementary School, Courtenay, BC *Berwick/Valley View Intergenerational Program*

Kindergarten students visit with residents of the Berwick Retirement Community and work with local community artists on a variety of projects linking literature and fine arts. The seniors and the students have an opportunity to share their stories, ask questions and communicate through oral language. Examples of

the art work is displayed in the retirement complex and in the classroom. At the end of the year, a video diary of the shared intergenerational experiences will be given to the students. The prize money will be used to purchase books, art and educational supplies to enrich the intergenerational project.

VAST

Step-Up Program

Students from the Senior Skills Training Education Program met and interviewed veterans from Legion Branch #293 about their experiences in WW2 and the Korean War. This was an opportunity for the students to learn how to work as part of a team, practice their communication skills, develop employment skills, to understand the sacrifices made by the veterans. The students learned how different were the lives of veterans from theirs, but more importantly, to understand that individuals and society can move forward in peaceful ways. Students followed this up with articles for the local paper, Alberni Valley Times, and with visits to the Field of Honour and the Hupacasath War Memorial site. One of the students won the local Remembrance Day Art contest.

The prize money will be used to help with ongoing transportation costs for clean-up at the Field of Honour and the Memorial sites.



Valleyview



VAST



Gulf Islands



last word *for the* **crossword** not forgetting the sudoku

The important stuff first – Crossword puzzle winners are David Grace, Burnaby, Lois Marleau, Kitimat, and J L Grantham from Powell River. The Sudoku champs are Pam Hand, Merritt, Ardelle Cates from Winfield and Jan Ghmelyk from Chetwynd. We covered quite a bit of territory there.

My morning at the office to pull and check the envelopes is always made more pleasant by the notes and letters you have sent – so here is some FEEDBACK.

I write letters, always have. I have written to my in-laws in the UK for over 55 years now and never forgot birthdays and Christmas cards with letters. Even after divorce, some twenty or more years ago, I still wrote. We were still family and linked by a name. This Christmas I had a bit of an epiphany, and with perhaps two dozen letters in total from that side of the pond over the years, I decided to throw in the sponge, stop banging my head against that brick wall and let them know there would be no more. The sky has not fallen. People who write deserve to know they've been read!

I'll start by thanking those of you who managed a few lines of thanks and praise for the magazine and those included Maurin P, Susan B who shared her copy with a friend, Barb C and Carol Mc. Sally asked about Postscript via email and I would assume you could print off the page with the puzzles and send them in by mail. Those who want the answers will find them on the website from now on!

People learning new words include Joan and John V, and Bea said that her computer helped with finding answers to fit. David found he has been spelling Parchesi incorrectly for years! (but my dictionary has several versions!). Harumi B is finding routines take time and while she needs two hours for the daily paper (I do too) she can move more quickly now on the Sudoku. Linda L enjoyed the puzzle but still had time to visit the art exhibit of Cezanne works, took in the Canucks game

and then headed to Whistler for some skiing. Mary B complimented us on the photographs in this issue, and is a reader who will appreciate the answers on the website. Ron and Linda N seem to be a bit competitive, and there is a race to get to the puzzle first, so they have worked together on this one. Why not run off two copies and get really competitive?

Bhree Y mentioned procrastination with her puzzles, but was interested in the article on the seniors' games. She is a member of a dragon boat team and will race in North Vancouver in August. Good luck, and how about telling us all about it via the pages of Postscript? Gene B had his wife check his entry but seems happy enough with my output as editor! Joe sent in a photo of a bird feeder with his puzzle but the bird was a squirrel. I have the same problem with a half dozen pesky animals who beat the birds to the feed each time. Anne T was thankful for her puzzle having been unfortunate enough to take a tumble in her back yard and break an ankle. I fell three times in mine but each time ended flat on my back, undignified but with no broken bones.

Merilyn L mentions the perennial 'what I prefer and what is good for the ecosystem' in wanting to retain her paper magazine and not go to the emailed version. And I am with her all the way. There will be no pressure at all – it is your choice. I simply cannot imagine my day without two daily papers and the half dozen library books I get out each week. Sitting reading from a screen just doesn't do it for me. Merilyn also expressed interest in the Livingstone school article and said Lorill Hannay was a mentor to her in her early teaching days.

That's your feedback for this issue! Til next time.

Sheila Gair, Editor

PS - You are more than welcome to donate your winnings to the RR Smith Fund. Bank our cheque, write your own and mail to RR Smith at this address. Simple.

5			8		4			6
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	2			1			3	
9			3		6			1
		7				4		
	4			6			9	
2			1		3			8

TO SOLVE SUDOKU PUZZLES:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

SEND COMPLETED PUZZLES TO:

100 – 550 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

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SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

www.fiendishsudoku.com

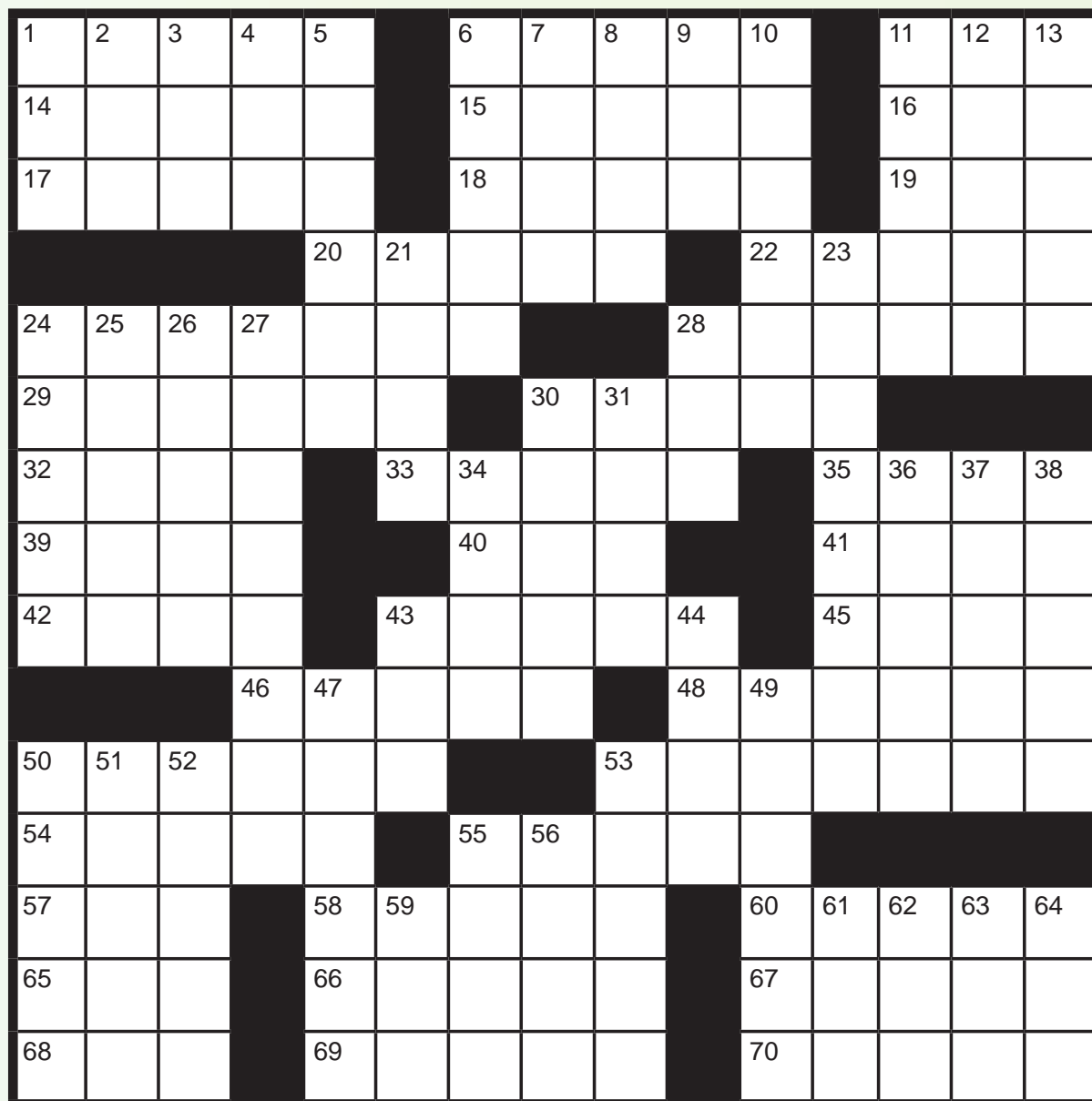
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS:

June 30, 2015



**POSTSCRIPT IS NOW
AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL.
SEND YOUR EMAIL TO
KRISTI@BCRTA.COM**

Crossword



► ACROSS

1. LIKE CIRCUS LIONS
6. WOODWINDS
11. GOLF TERM
14. FR. CHEERIO
15. TERRA ____
16. THE ____ & THE ID
17. BRITISH PEER
18. ORGANIC COMPOUND
19. FILLS A PAUSE
20. ____ MALFOY
22. SULU OF STAR WARS
24. DOCTOR WITH SCALPEL
28. OUT OF BED
29. RATS!
30. DARTH ____
32. VEHICLE
33. FENCE CROSSOVER
35. CRAWL WITH

39. WALKED A PATH

40. LINKS ORG
41. CAR RACE
42. HUSBAND OF COUNTESS
43. ____ MUTINY
45. PLEDGE OR WAGER
46. MOVER'S RENTAL
48. 1987 FILM
50. LOBSTER CLAW
53. KITCHEN GADGETS
54. QUENCH THIRST
55. DRIVE FAST
57. ENDEARMENT
58. GETS BETTER
60. MUSCLES
65. MANDELA'S ORG
66. SLANG
67. COMPUTER LETTER
68. THE APPIAN ____
69. NUISANCE PLANTS
70. CARD GAME

▼ DOWN

1. FILE LABEL
2. BYRON'S DAUGHTER
3. RUSSIAN PEACE
4. WANT AD LETTER
5. PLAIN CAKE
6. INDIAN OR PACIFIC
7. VARIETY OF PEAR
8. MR. PREMINGER
9. FRENCH SUMMER
10. PLAYWRIGHT
11. SNEAKED LOOKS
12. ACCEPT
13. FOR BOWSTRINGS
21. ORBISON & ROGERS
23. SEALED
24. FLASH FLOOD
25. LT UNDER CAPT. KIRK
26. ENGINE PART
27. BEST WISHES
28. CITRUS COOLER

30. WATCH

31. ____ A'DALE
34. HEART AND SOUL BAND
36. RELATED TO MOTHER
37. ____ HOOVER
38. CARTOONIST
43. FORD OR MAZDA
44. IRELAND
47. BRAY
49. UNHAPPIER
50. BALONEY
51. ____ MASSEY
52. SINATRA DAUGHTER
53. MEDIEVAL TALE
55. HERB
56. TRAMP ALONG
59. POETIC WORD
61. AUSSIE BIRD
62. RUN AWAY ON THE ____
63. TINY DICKEN'S LAD
64. SNEAKY

- CLASSIFIEDS -

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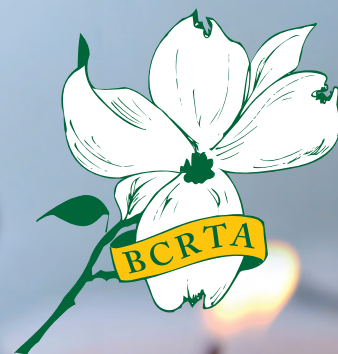
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LAUSTRUP, Diana
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