

THE MAGAZINE FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS

PostScript

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2012

Pub No. 40062724





1 On the Cover

Cover photo by Arnie Walters, Burnaby RTA

3 President's Message

4 Roundtable Roundup

Latest board meeting update

6 If Seniors don't advocate for seniors, Who will?

10 Bruce Watson

by Carolyn Prellwitz, BCRTA Director

12 Extended Healthcare Updates

13 Caring for the Elderly

by Valerie Dyer, BCRTA Health and Housing Committee Member

20 Pickleball & Spanish in Cuba

by Georgia Hunter

22 Faith and the DriveAble Dragon

by Diane Gorton, Chair, Social Concerns Committee

23 The Spaniard's Treasure

24 The Journey to Publication

by Ben Nuttall Smith

26 Fly Cemeteries, Black Beaches, and Rellies

by Bonnie Chapman

29 Failing Retirement 101

by Patricia Porter

14 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

16 MEMBERS' PHOTOS

30 PUZZLE PAGES

33 CLASSIFIEDS

35 OBITUARIES

EDITOR Sheila Gair

sscribe@telus.net

**PRODUCTION
CO-ORDINATOR**

Kristi Josephson

PUBLISHING

Cotala Marketing

BCRTA - Head Office
100-550 W. 6th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

Phone 604-871-2260/62
Toll Free 1-877-683-2243
Fax: 604-871-2265

Website: www.bcrta.ca
Email: kristi@bcrta.com OR
pat@bcrta.com

Apologies to Carol Baird-Krul for not giving her credit for authorship of 'A do it yourself Safari through South-Western Africa' printed on page 28 of Spring 2012.

The BCRTA is a Member of ACER-CART & COSCO The Postscripts are mailed to BCRTA members in Feb., May, Aug., and November of each year. DEADLINES for receipt of material for publications are Oct. 31, Jan. 31, April 30 and July 15. Submission of material directed to kristi@bcrta.com JULY 15 is the DEADLINE for Committee and Branch Reports to be submitted for the Summary of Reports and the year end audit. Items published reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily express the policy or imply endorsement by the BCRTA The Editor reserves the right to edit material for publication. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 40062724 Return undelivered Canadian addresses to Circulation Department.



This magazine is printed
on paper with recycled
content and that comes
from a well managed,
renewable resource.



President's Message

S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

Working For You Working With You

In April I had the opportunity to visit some of our northern branches, as well as to attend the Thompson – Okanagan zone meeting in Penticton. Earlier, I had attended the Metro West zone meeting in Vancouver. It is really beneficial to hear firsthand the concerns of our members. I came away from these discussions with a deeper appreciation of the dedication of our branch executives. These are the people who hold our branches together, who organize the activities and meetings, and who distribute the information coming from the provincial body. It is interesting to note how similar big-city branches and smaller rural branches are in their outlooks. Generally, around the province, branches focus on the social aspects of uniting colleagues around a meal and keeping the 'business meeting' to a minimum. Both large and small branches work hard at maintaining their membership levels and in trying to convince people to serve on the local executive. Recruiting and retaining members is a focus in and of itself; convincing people to take on any organizational position is an equally demanding task. Sharing techniques that lead to success in either of these areas will be beneficial to us all. It may be as simple as stating the time limit at the start. A fellow I know has an Exit Strategy for all his volunteer work, with nothing longer than three years.

The BCRTA Board continues to work on its many projects. A new focus on the elimination of the MSP premium is to recognize it for what it is — a Tax. Whether your income is \$30,000 or \$130,000 the MSP tax is the same. The UBCM resolution on the MSP tax doesn't seem to be progressing, but we are still working on its elimination. Our concerns about the DriveAble program have helped bring its faults to the public's attention. We plan to meet with the newly-established Teachers' Council to present our desire to maintain our non-practising status. Bill 12 and Bill 22 have demanded a great deal of our attention. The individual letters to the ministry about Bill 12 certainly changed the government's view of retired teachers. That was a decisive action and worth remembering. A number of sincere letters can be more influential in shaping opinion than a raucous rally. Our local branches showed great support for active

teachers during the recent dispute by writing letters and standing side by side with them.

ACER-CART, our national body, is redesigning its structure as a result of membership changes. There may soon be just an East, a Central, and a West division; each with an elected representative. The work, of course, will continue as we add the collective voice of retired teachers to national issues.

Also on the national scene is our membership in the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation. In this forum we can share with our colleagues across the country our concerns about pharmacare and housing issues, and medical concerns. One element of irony that enters into our fighting for the benefits and dignity of seniors is that the opposing force is usually the government, a federal or provincial body elected to look after us. Give us your thoughts on the changes to the Old Age Supplement going from age 65 to 67. Many of our members, and other seniors as well, do not have full pensions. More pensioners will be slipping – plummeting – past the poverty line. The BCRTA, COSCO, ACER-CART, and NPSCF are united in their desire to get increased support for seniors.

Over the years we have found that our members benefit greatly from the stimulation of our annual conference and AGM. This year we offer a triple treat: the BCRTA conference, the COSCO Conference, and the NPSCF Conference, September 28 to October 5, 2012.

Above? Just striking a pose at our Digital Scavenger Hunt.

If you have to choose between your health and your wealth, choose your health, the government already has your wealth.

Douglas Edgar

Douglas Edgar
President, BCRTA



ROUND TABLE

Round Up

March 22, 2012

We met at eight forty five on the morning of March 22nd – a wet and dreary day with no sunshine to distract us. We read, we had announcements, we had birthday cards passed around and gave thanks to Tom who had prepared a dinner for those staying over Tuesday evening. A recipe was also handed around!

Doug Edgar shared a list of his engagements since January 12th, and an even longer list of letters he had written on our behalf. We have nominated JoAnn Lauber for the position of Western Representative to ACER/CART and wish her luck. Doug had compiled the statistics garnered from the Board Self Evaluation forms and areas where comments and 'needs improvement' were noted will be worked upon.

The Office Administrator's report mentioned changes to the membership form as many branches had increased their fees. Provincial fees will continue to be collected until June, but no more branch fee collection after April 15. A computer is to be purchased for the office, and two will come out of next years' capital budget.

Tom Bruner our Treasurer gave us the statement to cover our BCRTA funds and investments. We have spent \$1300 on office equipment, paid a deposit for our entertainment at the AGM and made a donation of \$3000 to the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

JoAnn gave us her ACER/CART report. A position paper is in the works for their next meeting and

what they should be lobbying for. Pension enhancement was suggested. Quebec has pulled out of the organisation, and perhaps it is time to re-organise zones. We pay 25 cents per member per year, and the directors felt that 50 cents would be more appropriate. Doug Edgar will attend the next ACER/CART meeting with JoAnn.

Pat Brady spoke for COSCO and passed around a list of workshops currently offered by them. A hand-out "Secure the Future of Medicare: A call to Care" was endorsed by the directors and a reminder that October 1st is Seniors' Day – falling at our conference time. At the end of our meeting the COSCO workshops (COSCO Seniors' Health and Wellness Society) were nominated for the Prime Minister's National/Regional award.

Under old business we revisited the MSP premiums issue and have met a brick wall. The CCPA (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives) is working towards more equitable taxation and Cliff Boldt is a member of its taxation committee. Committee applications were clarified and a page of Postscript is a form to be used. We need to meet with Ministry Officials again, and make contact with the new Teachers' Council to work on establishing our non practising credential. Those who missed deadlines need an avenue to be reinstated with no penalty. Special categories can be created by this council.

Plans for the Annual Conference and AGM were circulated. We plan a meet and greet and registration on Friday September 28 and will have more groups of chairs and hope that Lower Mainlanders will attend, even if they don't stay overnight Friday. Speak-

ers are planned for morning and afternoon sessions on the 29th, with updates from committees. A dinner will be held and entertainment to follow. The RR Smith group will meet ahead of us as always on the 30th. Tickets for non delegate meals will be available and enforced. There will be some zone meetings, so make sure you let your zone know. I asked for photographs during our sessions and 'down' times, hoping to have a page or two of candid snapshots for the next Postscript! For all other photo sessions involving non members, we have a form you need to fill out and sign.(will be on the website).

Membership will continue to have retired teachers at Pension Seminars to hand out information about the BCRTA, at least until the end of June. A five page list of suggested branch activities can be had by calling the office and requesting it. There have been some questions regarding how a branch may fold up if membership simply disappears and some suggested additions have been made to the by-laws covering this issue. There is a plan 2 for our EHC. (I received my new card, put it into my wallet and completely forgot to hand it in to the pharmacy – three prescriptions later, the pharmacist asked for it!)

Bill 22 came up for discussion, and dismay expressed that none of our letters had reached the print medium anywhere. We need to get a dialogue going with the active teachers and perhaps have our directors meet with theirs.

The RR Smith report was given by chair Judy DeVries. Because donations now come from each of our members RR Smith lost our operating audit grant. Because the audit will be \$1800 the foundation will need to fundraise. There will be a province wide raffle drawn at the AGM. \$17,000 was available this year for grants, and it was noted that some former recipients are now able to fund themselves.

The Build a better BC Coalition was discussed.

What are the prospects? If a Fair Taxation campaign is launched, we will support it. Sylvia MacLeay is a co chair.

Advocacy will continue to meet with the ministry and was in favour of the brief re health care from ACER/CART. We should take greetings to the BCTF meetings as other do. We need to meet with the new Teacher Council. The new plan 2 EHC will be written up for Postscript and the web site. Pension and Benefits has more details. Excellence handed out a fact sheet "A new deal for Families" and mentioned Paul Kershaw and his intergenerational connections articles. The deadlines for the Golden Star award are published.

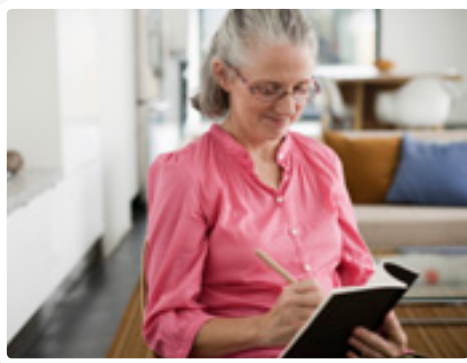
The DriveAble issue came up in the Social Concerns committee report and a follow up article will be in Postscript. COSCO and the BCRTA met with ICBC and the BCAA, and COSCO will take over the senior driver workshop.

Health and Housing had the Ombudsperson's report with 176 recommendations. Eight motions were passed by the directors, many mentioning Seniors' care, Home care, the appointment of a seniors' advocate and the new ICA (Integrated Care Advocacy) Coalition, where other groups will join us and COSCO to work on seniors' concerns. Request a copy from the office.

The volunteerism committee mentioned Volunteer week April 15th to 21st and encourages local branches to feature a retired teacher in the local paper, working as a volunteer. A Code of Ethics for volunteers is in the planning stage. The Heritage committee has one request for funding.

There will be a budget review at the next meeting. We skimmed three pages of the comparative income statement, and we are in the black. That's it until May.

Sheila Gair, Editor





IF SENIORS DON'T ADVOCATE FOR SENIORS, WHO WILL?

Canada's population is aging rapidly and policy makers are looking at ways for government to deal with this issue. **THE BEST OF CARE: Getting it right for seniors in BC (Part 2)** contains 176 recommendations – this suggests there are systemic issues related to senior's care BC that need addressing. Who better to comment than seniors?

If seniors don't advocate on behalf of seniors, who will?

The BCRTA has endorsed the recommendations of the Ombudsperson's recent report: **THE BEST OF CARE: Getting it right for seniors in BC (Part 2)**. The BCRTA has taken the position that the central relationship in seniors' care is that between the senior, the family and caregiver – any changes to the BC system has to support that relationship.

The issue of quality integrated community care for seniors is now out there – it is important that BCRTA members take up the challenge. A major concern to BCRTA members is the need for this report to get serious attention from all political parties in Victoria if we don't want this report to be shelved and ignored. It is critical for members to tell Health Minister deJong and others about your concerns – tell your story.

A critical recommendation, and one on which the government has promised to act, is the creation of a position of Seniors' Advocate – an official to whom seniors, family members and caregivers can go when they face specific concerns about senior's issues. This has been promised be-

fore, now is the time to apply pressure to your MLA and others in government to ensure that the appointment is finally made.

For a copy of the Report go to www.bcrt.ca or contact your MLA.

Who should get a letter from me?

Hon. Michael de Jong, Minister of Health, Room 337, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

And "cc" (copy) the following people: Kim Carter BC Ombudsperson, PO Box 9039 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC V8W 9A5 www.ombudsman.bc.ca ; Adrian Dix; Your MLA - Look up by postal code at: www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm

Mike Farnworth, Opposition Critic for Health Room 201, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Katrine Conroy, Opposition Critic for Seniors and Long-Term Care Room 201, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Silas Brownsey, Executive Director, Seniors' Healthy Living Secretariat PO Box 9825, Victoria, BC V8W 9W4

PLEASE FORWARD A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO:
BCRTA Office, #100 – 550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4P2, pat@bcrt.ca, 604-871-2260, 877-683-2243, Fax: 604-871-2265.

“CHEAT” SHEET

FOR THE OMBUDSPERSON’S REPORT “BEST OF CARE: GETTING IT RIGHT FOR SENIORS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA” (PART 2)

When health issues arise, such as the need for more care, each situation is different. While situations share many similarities, the context and people involved often demand an individualized response. When responding to the Minister of Health about the Ombudsperson’s report, here is a guide that you might find helpful in addressing those recommendations that affect your situation.

It is important that you write to the minister and others describing your situation and how the relevant recommendations would improve your situation. Your letter will help to focus the Minister’s awareness of what is needed to provide “The Best of Care” for seniors in British Columbia. (R: recommendation)

For a copy of the Report go to www.bcrta.ca or contact your MLA.

1. Having a hard time getting yourself or a loved one assessed for services? See R7 and R10 on page 148-149 of the report.

2. Confused about fees that need to be paid? See R11, page 148.

3. Confused about how to get information about ‘the system’? See R22, page 151.

4. Concerned about the qualifications of care aides? See R23, 24, 25, pages 151-152.

5. How should allegations of abuse and neglect be dealt with? See R27 – 31, pages 152-153.

6. Worried about protecting seniors in care from financial abuse? See R32 page 153.

7. Are home support services meeting your needs? See

R34, 35 page 154, R40 page 155; R42 page 156, R45 page 156, R49 page 157.

8. Worried about getting information about Assisted Living options? See R58 page 159, R63 and 66 page 160; R69 page 161, R72, R75 page 162, R82 page 163.

9. How are assisted living facilities monitored? See R85, R88 page 164.

10. Concerned about services and fees in residential care? See R94, R97 page 166.

11. Is your loved one in an appropriate residential care placement? See R101 page 167, R103 page 168.

12. Waiting for a placement? See R108 page 169, R115, R117 page 170.

13. What do seniors pay for subsidized residential care? See R121 page 171, R122 page 172.

14. What about quality of residential care? See R133, page 174.

15. Worried about use of restraints in residential care? See R135 page 175.

16. How about administering medication? See R139 page 176.

17. Services for residents with Dementia? See R145 page 177.

18. End of life care? See R146 page 178.

19. Monitoring complaints? See R151 page 179, R154 page 180.

20. What about closing, downsizing and renovating facilities? See R169 page 183, R172 page 184, R176 page 185.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL General Meetings



67th Annual General Meeting of the BCRTA (9:30 am)

and the

11th Annual General Meeting of the RR Smith

Memorial Fund Foundation (9:00 am)

are called for on

Sunday, September 30, 2012

To be held at the

Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel

5911 Minoru Boulevard, Richmond, BC

BCRTA Position for Election

President – 1 year term

1st VP – 1 year term

2nd VP – 1 year term

ACER-CART Representative – 2 year term

2 Directors from outside the Lower Mainland and
Fraser Valley Regions

2 Directors from inside the Lower Mainland and
Fraser Valley Regions

RR Smith Positions for Election

5 Directors – 1 year terms

Membership Stats

as of

April 30, 2012

Life: 1,739

Active: 12,413

Affiliate: 369

Associate: 8

TOTAL: 14,529

REMINDER

BCRTA Provincial & Branch membership
fees for 2012/13 will be deducted from your
Teachers' pension in September

School Calendar

Schools Closed - Friday, June 29th

NOMINATION FORM for BCRTA DIRECTOR POSITIONS September 2012 AGM

Note that the President and two Vice-President positions have one-year terms. All other directors serve for 2 years.

Information about director positions and their duties, and about nomination and election procedures are laid out in the *BCRTA Handbook* (www.bcrt.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: _____

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 #4 to this form.

1. Address: _____

2. Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

3. Branch affiliation (if applicable): _____

4. A vitae, preferably in item form - not to exceed 200 words - for publication in the *Summary of Reports* booklet and *Fall Postscript* (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 no 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 to:

*Sheila Pither, Nominations Chair,
c/- BCRTA, 100-550 W. 6th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4P2*



BRUCE WATSON

Early Years

Bruce was born in 1930 at Shoal Lake, Manitoba on Highway 16 south of Riding Mountain National Park. His mother was a teacher and his father was a United Church minister. In 1935 the family moved to Port Arthur, Ontario (now Thunder Bay) where he attended school up to grade 11. The family then moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba where Bruce completed his final year of high school.

In 1948 Bruce entered United College (now the University of Winnipeg) as a general arts student. He joined the University Reserve Officer Training Program (RCAF) in January 1949 and moved to Vancouver that fall where he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in geography, at the University of British Columbia in 1952. During the summers while he was a university student he was with the RCAF training program and was commissioned a Pilot Officer in September 1951.

RCAF Career

Bruce married Shirley Taylor, a teacher, in 1952 and in the fall of that year he was transferred to Aylmer, Ontario for supply officer training. Another transfer came in December 1952, this time to Ottawa to Air Material Command, where he was based until June 1956, and where their oldest daughter was born.

In June 1956 Bruce was promoted to Flt. Lieutenant and transferred with his family to the RCAF 4-Fighter Wing

in Baden-Soellingen, Germany to serve as Warehouse Officer. Their youngest daughter was born there. He was transferred in May 1958 to Metz, France, as the base Supply Officer at the Support Unit of No. 1 Air Division and then back to Ottawa to Air Force Headquarters in June 1960. The following June Bruce took his release from the active RCAF and transferred to the RCAF Reserve. It was time, he felt, for a career change and a home closer to parents and siblings, and so the Watson family settled in Burnaby, BC. With active and reserve service Bruce served for 12 years in the RCAF.

Teaching Career

In September 1961 Bruce returned to UBC for a year of teacher training. This was followed by employment in September 1962 with the Burnaby School District as a teacher at Edmonds Elementary Junior High School, where over the course of four years he taught grades 7-10 social studies, PE, science and English and was also the social studies department head. "It was a good time to be in teaching", says Bruce, "kids listened and had great respect for their teachers."

His principal at the school, Jack Davy, was of particular assistance to Bruce. "Mr. Davy's door was always open; he never said no, but gave suggestions and ideas instead." Bruce's other teaching mentor was his wife Shirley, "because she planned all my phys. ed. classes!"

One bit of advice that Bruce would give to a person entering the teaching profession today is "Decide what you are best capable of doing, and then do it well."

Bruce spent his summers between 1962 and 1966 back at UBC where he completed his Master of Education degree, with a major in education finance.

Involvement with the Burnaby Teachers' Association began almost immediately after Bruce was first hired as a

teacher in the school district. He had enjoyed a good salary and benefits with the RCAF but his salary as a teacher was less than satisfactory. This fact led to his involvement with salary bargaining at the district level and to his first connection with the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF). In the fall of 1966 Bruce was appointed to the staff of the BCTF, a position he held until he retired in 1989, working mainly in the economic welfare area—contract negotiations, education finance, grievances, benefits and pensions.

Following retirement Bruce did contract work with the BC Superannuation Commission and the BCTF. He had a lead role on behalf of the BCTF in the discussions which changed the governance of the Teachers' Pension Plan to a fully trustee plan. He then served as a Trustee of the Plan and as a Director on the Management Board of the Pension Corporation. He "fully retired" at the end of December 2003.

BCRTA and ACER-CART

Bruce's involvement with the British Columbia Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) began with his retirement from the BCTF in 1989 and was a natural flow-through as a result of his work at the BCTF in the area of pensions and benefits. He was a director on the BCRTA Executive for four years (1991-1995), the BCRTA representative to the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers/Association Canadienne des Enseignantes et des Enseignants Retraités (ACER-CART) for three years (1995-1998), Vice-President of ACER-CART for one year (1996-1997), President of ACER-CART for one year (1997-1998) and Past-President of ACER-CART for three years (1998-2001). Between 1996 and 2003 Bruce was also a member of BCRTA's Pension and Benefits committee, and its chairperson September 1998-September 2003.

"One reason a retired teacher should join the BCRTA,"

Bruce says," is that there will always be issues that affect members and the collective strength of the BCRTA is a real asset." Another reason is to maintain those relationships that began during one's teacher work years." Bruce is a former member of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association, and a current member of the Cowichan Valley Retired Teachers' Association and the BCTF retired staff group.

Career Highlights

Bruce is particularly proud of his work in salary bargaining, pensions and education finance while on staff with the BCTF. "One of the highlights in my career," he says, "was the achieving of joint trusteeship for the Teachers' Pension Plan."

Bruce was appointed an Honorary Life Member of the BCTF in March 2005. He was presented with a plaque from the BCRTA in recognition of his work on behalf of members, as well as an old-fashioned school bell memento from the Teachers' Pension Board of Trustees in recognition of his role as a trustee on the board.

Current Activities (2010)

Bruce and his wife Shirley moved from Burnaby, BC to Duncan, BC on Vancouver Island in June 2007 to be closer to their daughters, Sheila and Norma, both of whom had moved to the Island. While his primary interests are family, gardening and reading, he has joined Duncan United Church and is currently treasurer of PROBUS and treasurer of the local lawn bowling club.

Bruce and Shirley both look back with very fond memories of co-workers and other people they have met along the way and look to the future with optimism.

Written by Carolyn Prellwitz, BCRTA Director

TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN EXTENDED HEALTH CARE UPDATES

1. To submit a claim for our new Teachers' Pension Plan Voluntary EHC Plan you must have the new plan number. As our new enrollment cards for the EHC Plan still use our Social Insurance Number as our ID number, we recommend that members make a note of the plan number but do NOT carry their enrollment cards in their wallet.

2. Our new voluntary EHC Plan drug coverage pays 80% for: Up to \$10 for the dispensing fee; Maximum 8% markup over the cost to the pharmacist; the low cost alternative unless your doctor requires the original for medical reasons.

3. For all prescriptions: Ask your Doctor if there is a lower cost form of this medication. **If yes**, ask if that would be appropriate for you as your EHC plan pays for the low cost alternative. **If not**, contact Pacific Blue Cross to see if you need a Doctor's note or special authority.

1 888 275-4672

NOTE: It is important to know that changing from a brand name medication to a generic form of the medication MAY be considered a new medication affecting the stability clause in your travel insurance especially if the dosage is modified.

BCRTA Extended Health Care "Plan 2":

The BCRTA offers a Pacific Blue Cross EHC plan for those BCRTA members who do not receive a pension from the Teachers' Pension Plan. It is a group plan called "Plan 2". Current rates: Single \$91.26/monthly Family \$177.38/monthly

Most individual EHC plans are in fact more expensive for anyone over age 65 so the BCRTA "Plan 2" is a better deal if the insurance coverage is appropriate for the members needs. The purpose of a group plan is to ensure that the association receives a better option for their members than just offering an individual plan.

The details of the plan are on the BCRTA website

BCRTA Affinity Program

An affinity program is defined as valuable external partnerships for the benefit and well being of groups and their members.

Affinity Opportunities currently available:

For all BCRTA members: CPEAC - Canadian Public Employee Acquisition Club, Insurance programs through Johnson, Johnson scholarship program

For retired BCTF members: BCTF advantage program - marketplace, BCTF Assistance Society

For retired BCPVPA members: BCRPVPA affinity plan

For BCRTA members who purchase a PBC plan: Blue Advantage - medical supplies

There are links to these programs on the BCRTA website www.bcrta.ca

Annette O'Connor, Chair, Pensions & Benefits Committee

PUSHED *to the* EDGE

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

(Excerpted and adapted from article by Lori Johnston of April 9, 2012)

Many of today's seniors find themselves caring for elderly parents oftentimes, coupled, with their own health needs and/or providing some kind of support for children and/or grandchildren. Caregivers can easily find themselves over extended emotionally, physically and/or financially. Research, cited by the National Center for Elder Abuse, shows that 20 percent of caregivers "live in fear that they will become violent."

Dr. Diana Denholm, a board-certified psychotherapist and author of *The Caregiving Wife's Handbook: Caring for Your Seriously Ill Husband, Caring for Yourself*, shares ways to keep from losing control when caring for an elderly parent or seriously ailing spouse.

1. *Establish expectations* Talk to your spouse or parent and decide what you will do for them and what they want to do for themselves. (Expectations may have to change as a condition worsens.)

"If you stop enabling a co-dependent relationship, your anger level is likely to drop because you won't be taking on every role", Dr. Denholm says. For example, your spouse or parent may want to dress him/herself. "Then you don't have that job anymore," she says. "If he dresses himself and puts on a polka dot shirt and plaid pants, you leave it alone."

If you are the type of personality that tends to micro-manage, letting go of roles can be a challenge.

2. *Ease family tensions* When another family member, not involved in daily care, thinks he/she has all the answers,

the caregiver can feel angry, Dr. Denholm says. Even a visiting family's simple questions such as "Why is dad wearing that?", "Shouldn't he have a more comfortable bed?" and "Why are you going to that doctor?" can spark arguments and violence.

The Mayo Clinic recommends holding a family meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities, feelings of resentment and issues of financial decisions – all of which can create tension. Invite a counselor, clergy member or other helping professional to join the meeting as an objective and calming voice. It may be necessary to have periodic meetings or conference calls, with family members, to keep everyone involved and to discuss changes in responsibilities.

3. *Seek peace at home* If your parent/spouse wants to eat a certain food or handle his/her condition in a particular way, don't push the point to get your way. There will be times when you agree to disagree, Dr. Denholm advises. Dropping these battles will allow you to focus on why you love the person and want to care for him/her.

4. *Avoid giving into guilt* Realize that you're doing the best you can and that no caregiver is "perfect". Give yourself credit and focus on the positive ways you are providing care for your family member.

– Valerie Dyer, BCRTA Health and Housing Committee Member



letters TO THE EDITOR



To the Editor,

I hope I am not letting any cats out of the bag; I should hate to start a deluge of letters. But, lately I am hearing the argument that since many volunteers give many hours of service it is time that such service be recognized by the governments. To be sure volunteers receive certificates and many other tokens of appreciation for their time but maybe it is time for the governments to make some overt demonstration to reflect their collective appreciation in the federal, provincial, and municipal taxes and levies most of these volunteers pay year by year. It is believed, and quite rightly so, that if the volunteers had to go on strike many institutions dependent on the availability of volunteers would come to a standstill. As it is volunteers are becoming more difficult to find each year. Surely the powers that be know how much money the volunteers are saving them.

A great many pensioners do not pay any taxes because their incomes are too small, but others do pay and it would be "nice" if the tax man could manage a tiny tax break for the volunteers. There are people on pension who can use the few dollars reduction in gratitude for services rendered. There are very few volunteer plumbers, painters, electricians, dentists etc. giving pensioners free service.

It is perhaps time for the thousands of volunteers to receive some financial benefit or tax breaks from the tax man for a change. If my job gives me a valuable clock, the tax man is there soon enough to want his share.

I do not wish to disturb a hornets nest; I am a volunteer myself, but we keep hearing all the time that nothing

is free. Perhaps the press could ask the volunteers what they all, not just a few, think about the idea.

It is said that all volunteers get paid one day in Glory; and it is true but some volunteers will not get there. Will they like some of our criminals be able to volunteer and get some time off from perjury.

Tony Stander, Chilliwack RTA

Dear Members,

After reading Barb Brett's praise of Medoc Travel Insurance, I would like to add that we too are more than pleased with their coverage. We have had to make four claims over the past few years and not once were we refused full restitution for our trip cancellations due to medical problems. We highly recommend Medoc as an insurance provider.

Barbara Samarin, Nanaimo RTA

I was surprised that we gave a platform to Paul Kershaw at the last AGM. I would have preferred to see a panel in which Kershaw's statements could have been tested.

I recall Kershaw's assertion that only 5% of seniors live in poverty and noted it down. I knew his comment to be in error — approximately 15% of Canadian seniors have incomes below the low income cutoff and even that likely underestimates poverty levels. (The figure is lower for couples and higher for singles.) Admittedly, relatively few of OUR members fit into the category of the poor.

I had no problem with Kershaw's proposals for programs that address the needs of young families. I was dismayed that he advocated impoverishing seniors as the means to this end.

Bob Steventon, Prince George RTA

Members interested could find Donald Gutsteins article in the Tyee <http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/02/11/False-Generational-War/>

We have carried year-round medical travel insurance with Medoc since my husband retired four years ago. In light of the recent news coverage of denied medical insurance claims, we decided to re-visit the medical questionnaire we fill out every year at renewal time. We have always filled it out honestly and to the best of our knowledge, but it was apparent that some questions, particularly the definition of 'treatment', were worded vaguely enough to allow a wide range of interpretation. We sought clarification from Johnson/Medoc, as to whether we should answer 'yes' or 'no' to certain questions. We provided the relevant medical information and thought an answer from them should be straightforward. Not so! They refused to answer our questions, instead giving us the exact same definitions/explanations that we had found to be confusing in the first place. It wasn't until Annette O'Connor from BCRTA went to bat for us that we eventually got some answers. We have no doubt whatsoever that if we had to file a claim, the answers to the questions we asked would be speedily forthcoming from Medoc and Johnson. We have several trips planned for the near future, and are keeping our fingers crossed that we are indeed covered, and won't have any nasty surprises if we become a medical emergency.

Wayne & Elvera Penner



OLD AGE SECURITY (OAS) CHANGES

These proposed changes will not directly affect our members. They will, however, affect our children and grandchildren.

The affect on low-income seniors will be especially devastating. The fastest growing group of homeless in Canada is seniors especially senior women. When combined with the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) low-income seniors will lose up to \$30,000 over 2 years.

IS THIS CHANGE NECESSARY?

A study by Canada's parliamentary budget officer found that OAS is sustainable with a retirement age of 65. Canada allocates a much smaller percentage of its total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) than most European countries - as well as the United States.)

For more information please refer to the BCRTA website www.bcrta.ca

Annette O'Connor, Chair, Pensions & Benefits Committee

TEN PERCENT SHIFT

The Ten Percent Shift is a campaign sponsored by CUPE BC. If we shift just 10% of our household expenditures to purchase local goods and services, our local economy will benefit.

Take the Ten Percent Shift Pledge at tenpercentshift.ca today!

A serene landscape featuring a calm pond reflecting the surrounding greenery. A heron stands on the right bank, partially obscured by a tree with vibrant red leaves. The background is filled with lush green trees and a clear sky.

Judy Spivack, RTA Member

SUMMER SOLSTICE



"Empress Hotel"
Peter Woo, Abbotsford RTA





A TIME FOR

A TIME FOR



REFLECTION

REFLECTION

Rheta Steer, Lower Vancouver Island RTA

PICKLEBALL & SPANISH *in* CUBA

by Georgia Hunter

Cubans peered through the fence and hollered words of encouragement as we darted around the court attached to the Kohly Hotel in Havana. We were playing Pickleball and it might be the first time the game was ever played in Cuba!

“Pickleball? What’s that?”

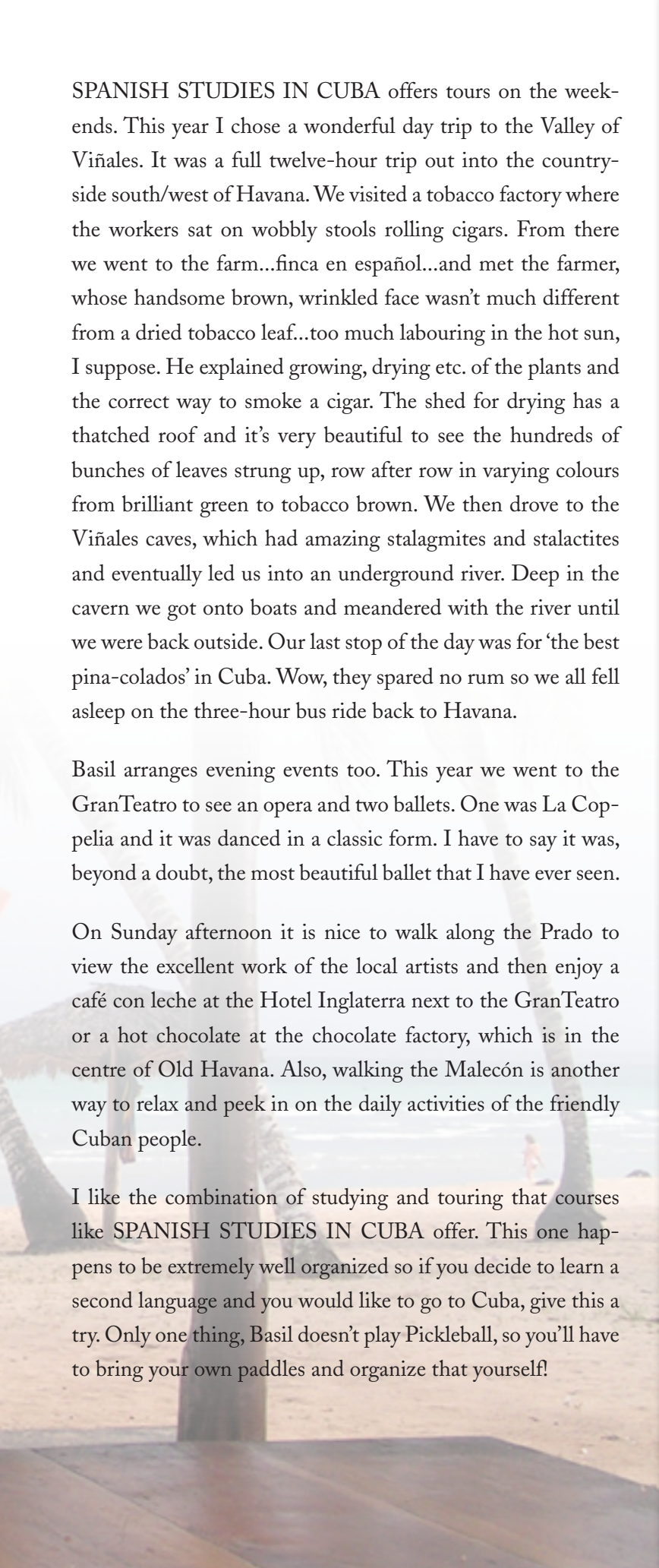
If you are not familiar with Pickleball, it is a game played on a court similar to a tennis court (can be played on a tennis court). Usually four people play, similar to tennis, or two people can play a singles game. The ball is a wiffle ball (plastic ball with holes) and the bat is slightly larger than a ping-pong paddle. Pickleball is very popular in North America and now it has been introduced in Cuba thanks to a small group of seniors who were there to study Spanish.

This is my second trip to Cuba to study the language. Four years ago I read a small write up in the PostScript Classifieds advertising language classes in Havana, Cuba called SPANISH STUDIES IN CUBA. A wonderful, older gentleman named Basil Boardman organizes the classes. He lives in Victoria and has been going to Cuba for fourteen years. Over that period of time, Basil has gathered a group of Cuban educators and tour guides together to offer an excellent opportunity to learn the language and to tour the country. Basil has been an educator (school principal) and as you can imagine, he keeps a keen eye on all aspects of the trip and in a quiet, dignified manner on all the participants.

This year I returned for a second month of study. The course is intense, three hours each morning and requires extra study each afternoon. The instructors are well prepared and extremely pleasant but they don’t let you dilly-dally which I really appreciated. There’s even an exam at the end of the session which you can opt out of, if you want, but all of us were serious learners and so we put our noses to the grindstone and prepared for an exam. For most of us we had not had to face an exam in years.

Hotel Kohly is a very pleasant place to reside. It is located in a residential area surrounded by beautiful colonial houses and offers a place for daily walks into the community. Each day at five o’clock a few of us collected in the lobby and had an hour walk before dinner. Dinners and breakfast are included as part of the Spanish Study course. I was amazed at the variety of meals, great salads and lots of wonderful local fruit. One day we watched a strong, young Cuban climb the coconut tree in front of the hotel and cut the coconuts off with a long machete. He offered us a fresh coconut, which we accepted. He chopped the end off with his machete and we drank the sweet juice right there, under the shade of the tree.

The staff in the hotel is friendly and willing to help with our attempts at communicating in Spanish. The breakfast cook taught me how to ask for a fried egg, a scrambled egg, a sunny-side up egg, one egg, two eggs, eggs with onions or peppers or tomatoes and meat. If I know how to say anything in Spanish, it is how to get the perfect egg!



SPANISH STUDIES IN CUBA offers tours on the weekends. This year I chose a wonderful day trip to the Valley of Viñales. It was a full twelve-hour trip out into the countryside south/west of Havana. We visited a tobacco factory where the workers sat on wobbly stools rolling cigars. From there we went to the farm...finca en español...and met the farmer, whose handsome brown, wrinkled face wasn't much different from a dried tobacco leaf...too much labouring in the hot sun, I suppose. He explained growing, drying etc. of the plants and the correct way to smoke a cigar. The shed for drying has a thatched roof and it's very beautiful to see the hundreds of bunches of leaves strung up, row after row in varying colours from brilliant green to tobacco brown. We then drove to the Viñales caves, which had amazing stalagmites and stalactites and eventually led us into an underground river. Deep in the cavern we got onto boats and meandered with the river until we were back outside. Our last stop of the day was for 'the best pina-colados' in Cuba. Wow, they spared no rum so we all fell asleep on the three-hour bus ride back to Havana.

Basil arranges evening events too. This year we went to the GranTeatro to see an opera and two ballets. One was La Copelia and it was danced in a classic form. I have to say it was, beyond a doubt, the most beautiful ballet that I have ever seen.

On Sunday afternoon it is nice to walk along the Prado to view the excellent work of the local artists and then enjoy a café con leche at the Hotel Inglaterra next to the GranTeatro or a hot chocolate at the chocolate factory, which is in the centre of Old Havana. Also, walking the Malecón is another way to relax and peek in on the daily activities of the friendly Cuban people.

I like the combination of studying and touring that courses like SPANISH STUDIES IN CUBA offer. This one happens to be extremely well organized so if you decide to learn a second language and you would like to go to Cuba, give this a try. Only one thing, Basil doesn't play Pickleball, so you'll have to bring your own paddles and organize that yourself!

TOP FIVE REGRETS OF THE DYING

A palliative nurse who has counselled the dying in their last days has revealed the most common regrets we have at the end of our lives. And among the top, from men in particular, is 'I wish I hadn't worked so hard'.

Bronnie Ware is an Australian nurse who spent several years working in palliative care, caring for patients in the last 12 weeks of their lives. She recorded their dying epiphanies in a blog called Inspiration and Chai, which gathered so much attention that she put her observations into a book called *The Top Five Regrets of the Dying*.

Ware writes of the phenomenal clarity of vision that people gain at the end of their lives, and how we might learn from their wisdom. "When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently," she says, "common themes surfaced again and again."

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard.
3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.
4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

What's your greatest regret so far, and what will you set out to achieve or change before you die?

Source:

www.guardian.co.uk/lifestyle/2012/feb/01/top-five-regrets-of-the-dying



FAITH *and the* DRIVEABLE DRAGON

The Continuing Saga

by Diane Gorton, Chair, Social Concerns Committee

You may remember Faith (Postscript - Vol 15, Issue 2, Summer 2011). When Faith lost her driver's licence, she felt dispirited and defeated. She never wanted to see that dragon again. However, Faith had family, friends and supporters like the BCRTA on her side. Faith came to believe that she was not wrong but had been wronged. She was coming back. Faith returned to her geriatrician who asked the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (OSMV) to review Faith's case.

Meanwhile, pressure for change was being applied: through BCRTA; letters to Motor Vehicles; emails and calls to MLAs; public meetings; media reports – public concern was rising.

Did all of this help? You bet it did!

- Recent changes to OSMV's program have eliminated the "on-the-spot" suspension that Faith experienced. Those who fail the computer test can choose to have an on-road test.
- Faith trained for and re-took the DriveABLE test. She took an on-road test and passed that with flying colours. She got her licence back.

So all's well that ends well? Not quite.

Provincial driving policy has not changed. Efforts now underway to provide better understanding and improved access are unhelpful. Wider access will only hurt more people. The program is not misunderstood, it is wrong: misguided, unnecessary, harmful, and an infringement of our charter rights.

- Misguided because Provincial policy is based on enforcement and driving cessation rather than education, remediation and mobility for independent living.
- Unnecessary. As the UK Transport Research Laboratory says: "There is no evidence that any license renewal procedure or requirement for a medical examination has an effect on the overall road safety of drivers aged 65+ ...".
- Harmful because assessment (as teachers, we really understand testing) is never noninvasive, effort free or without "false positives."
- An infringement of our rights because the reason for discriminating against seniors – higher crash rates – is no longer true.

If you, one of your family or a friend become involved with Provincial driving policy, remember:

- Resistance is not futile; choose the on-road test and be aware that there are further avenues of appeal after this. You can "fight city hall."
- You are not alone.

(More information is available on the BCRTA website)

THE SPANIARD'S TREASURE

About the Book

Joanie has been raised on the island legend of the Spaniards' treasure, a story passed down from generation to generation. In 1791, the Spaniards discovered the small island, and named it Lasqueti. They buried their treasure in a cave, intending to return for it. Something happened., and they never did.

Determined to find the truth, Joanie and her friend spend two terrifying nights lost in a cave searching for the treasure. This is the story of their adventure.

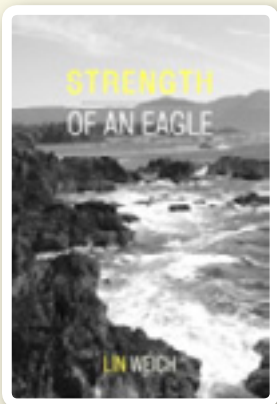
About the Author

Jean Oben Cox was born in Vancouver and grew up on Lasqueti Island. She graduated from UBC and taught school in Delta and West Vancouver. She has a novel published, "Restless Heart" and also a book of poems, "Moments of Mediation." She lives in Vernon, BC where she enjoys her many grandchildren.

If teachers would like a copy, which deals with some history of the West Coast, they may obtain one by contacting me at the above address, or emailing bluejay7@telus.net

My telephone number is (250)545-4924. Cost of book is \$12.95 plus \$3.00 for postage.

Strength of an Eagle



Inspired by the Highway of Tears tragedies and the drug problems plaguing Northern B.C.; this novel depicts a young kayaker depending upon her courage and skills to overcome the inhospitable west coast environment, capture by smugglers and the grasp of a serial killer.

Lin Weich, RTA Quesnel, presents her first two suspense novels. These novels are available in paperback and Ebook formats. Visit linweich.com for more information on the author and where to purchase books.

Half - Truths, Total Lies



This is a glimpse into the mind of a murderer as he tries to justify blackmailing and terrorizing an accused child molester, an alcoholic gambler and a homosexual who teach in an isolated, religious, Northern community.

the JOURNEY *to* PUBLICATION

by Ben Nuttall Smith

You spend years in the classroom, guiding hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young people through the steps of good essay writing. You've written your own share of essays and research papers and struggled with that infernal thesis. Now you're retired, with time to read, travel, putter and take long walks. Why on earth would a retired English teacher want to write books?

Ah, you have a story to tell, anecdotes to share, advice to impart. At last you have the time to write that one great novel, the reams of poetry, the sonnets that have been chattering at the back of your mind. You have the children's story only you can relate. May as well face it or it will nag at you until you do.

First step: Discipline. If you're going to write, start today, right now. If you wait until those other projects are out of the way, you'll never get going.

Set aside a sacred time when nothing else may interfere. Choose a writing space. Pick up a pen and start writing. If you use a computer keyboard, resist checking emails until you've fulfilled that contract.

It doesn't matter what you write at first; just start writing. Don't stop to go over what you've written until your set time is up. Forget the rules. Ignore the spelling, the syntax, whether what you've written makes sense or not. Have fun. It's like priming a pump. A lot of sludge will come through that pipe before the pure water starts flowing. Don't throw anything away; not yet anyway.

While you're writing, writing, writing, an idea will begin to gel and you'll feel a surge of excitement you

haven't felt for years.

Suddenly the motor begins to whirr. You're on your way and that one great story begins to emerge.

Once you are ready to begin **editing and cutting**, create a scrapbook file. Then you won't feel so reluctant to jettison those little bits (or whole pages) that don't belong. Now it's time to edit for typos, spelling, grammatical errors, redundancies, etc.

Your next step is to **get input** from other writers and readers you can trust to be honest. Tell them what you're looking for. You are not seeking praise but honesty. Join a writers' group for mutual support and honest critiques. Get involved in the writing community. You don't have to be a published author to join the Federation of BC Writers or the Canadian Authors Association. (The Writers' Union of Canada is restricted to professionally published writers.)

Attend **workshops and writers' conferences**. You'll be fertilized by successful authors (not just commercial) from Canada and away. Read. Read books about writing. When you're certain your manuscript is ready for a publisher, hire a good **story editor**. After so much work, the hardest part can be staying open to criticism. Remember, nothing on the page is sacred. However, make sure you choose an editor with knowledge of your subject matter. i.e. History, Romance, Children's Literature. Rewrite – re-read (on hard copy), mark it up again. Rewrite.

Now is a good time to **start looking for a publisher**. Research which publishers might publish your kind

of book. Why would they want your book? Visit a good **book store**. Visit the **Library**. The publisher information appears on the back of the title page of most books. How would your book fit into the marketplace? Visit selected publishers on the Internet. Find the name(s) of prospective publisher(s).

Write a concise **Query Letter**. (a cover letter asking if the publisher is interested in publishing your work.) One page max. Excellent examples can be found at the following: <http://queryletterwizard.blogspot.com/> <http://www.charlottedillon.com/query.html> Have your outline ready. One page max.

Prepare **sample pages**. Find out what's required by exploring the publisher's site. i.e. 1st 50 pages. Include a **brief Bio**. How long have you been writing? Where have you been published? Have you had stories in magazines, journals.

Develop a 1 – 3 sentence **“elevator pitch”** to enable you to talk clearly and spontaneously about your project(s). Publishers and editors are people and they do take elevators. Perhaps you'll meet the right match at a writers' conference.

If you can, get published writers to read your manuscript and write **book-jacket blurbs** for you to include in your publisher package.

Don't forget to enclose a **SASE** (Self-addressed stamped envelope).

You do not need an agent to be published in Canada. About 70 per cent of the books published in Canada do not have an agent-assisted contract. It can sometimes be easier to find a publisher on your own. However, some publishers will deal only with agents and do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

While you're waiting, **get involved** with writers and writer groups, if you haven't already done so. Remember, your manuscript is never finished until it's published. Be open to suggestions. Listen and grow. Vol-

unteer to help other writers. Attend readings and book launches for inspiration.

Once you do find a publisher, be ready to give your all to **promotion**, book readings and signings. Contact libraries and volunteer to give readings.

Carry copies with you wherever you go, even in the car. You might sell a book at a party, hairdresser, barber, doctor's office. Shameless self-promotion is the order of the day.

Develop a website.

You'll have to do the legwork. Chances are, the publisher won't do it for you.

Have business cards and flyers printed up. Support the small booksellers.

Get busy on your next book.

Lend a hand to those not yet published. Promote new writers.

Good luck. You may not get rich but you'll have a lot of fun as a writer.

Ben Nuttall-Smith taught at North Delta Senior Secondary School until he retired in 1991. Ben's nonfiction novel *Secrets Kept / Secrets Told* and his historical novel *Blood, Feathers and Holy Men*, are published by Libros Libertad of B.C.

Ben was awarded **The Surrey Board of Trade Special Achievement Award 2011** for work as a writer and for service to the writing community.

FLY CEMETERIES, BLACK BEACHES, AND RELRIES

by Bonnie Chapman, Delta RTA Member

What a joy to have escaped the windy rainy, cold month of March in B.C. and to have spent our vacation in sunny, warm New Zealand.

The non-stop flight via Air NZ takes thirteen hours which, since it departs 7 p.m., means dinner, a choice of first-run movies, then lights out. We woke to piping hot breakfasts and watched another movie which ended as we began the descent into Auckland.

My husband Norm's "rellies" met us at the early arrival time of 6 a.m. (9 a.m. our time but one day later) so we felt ready for a day of sightseeing and the family get-together without any jet lag. Auckland was welcoming the Americas Cup yacht racers later that day so we had a stroll 'round the inner harbour with the skyline of somewhat pedestrian high rises behind us. The harbour has been rejuvenated along the lines of Vancouver's Granville Island with lots of restaurants, art galleries, and fashionable shops. A must-see in the downtown core is the recently opened Auckland Art Gallery, a striking building with gigantic fabric sculptures and a variety of traditional and modern NZ and European works of art.

Two days later we drove to the Coromandel Peninsula and enjoyed the cousins' home perched on a hillside above Hahei Beach surrounded by forests of prehistoric black-trunked tree ferns and red-flowering Puhutukawa trees. If a brontosaurus had leisurely lifted its head above the foliage, I would not have been surprised. Pure Jurassic Park ambiance in this tropical region of NZ. Something the guidebooks never mention is the constant loud clicking of millions of cicadas. These black "grasshoppers", about 3 cm long, are found in both city and countryside. After a while, though, the racket fades into white noise.

Keeping in mind Oscar Wilde's observation about fish and house guests after three days, we rented a car and drove off (on the left-hand side of the road) to explore farther afield. First stop was Rotorua, home of bubbling mud pools and geysers. This is one of the active thermal areas in NZ. I had wanted to see the mud pools ever since reading Ngaio Marsh's "Colour Scheme", a mystery novel in which the victim is cooked to death in such a thermal "bath". Dame Marsh was born in Christchurch, NZ, and became a lead-

ing theatre director of Shakespearean plays as well as writing many mysteries. I wasn't disappointed in the sights and sounds of Rotorua but had not reckoned on the rotten egg stink hanging over the parks and backyards of houses which had naturally occurring hot pools of water. It was somewhat disconcerting seeing steam and water belching through sidewalk cracks and beside the elevated cement-topped graves of a city cemetery. NZ straddles the Pacific Plates so it is not surprising they experience earthquakes.

Napier was our next destination. Its downtown was completely destroyed by an earthquake in 1931 but rebuilt quickly in the Art Deco style. Every hotel, business, theatre, and restaurant sports the signature ziggurats, speed lines, and soft colours of that distinctive architecture. They celebrate their small city with an Art Deco weekend every February, where folk dress in 30's era clothes (there are lots of costume rental shops to find an outfit) and the old collector cars crowd the seaside roads.

Being retired teachers, of course we visited a couple of schools that our cousins' children attend. The first was a grade 3 classroom in a mixed (boy-girl) public elementary school. Entire walls of windows allow lots of light and natural air-conditioning. Every child is in uniform in NZ schools, whether public or private, although several were playing soccer or running barefoot before the bell rang. There were 30 students in that class with four ultra-modern computers at the back. A display showed the students' study of the nervous system using sheep brains. The grade 7 student attends a private college. Class for him begins at 8:50 and runs to 3:40, five days per week, with a twenty minute "tea break" midmorning and a one hour lunch break. Thirty minutes of homework is assigned each day. There were 27 in this all boys class although we were told they are regularly broken into two groups with more one-on-one instruction. I believe that the requirement of a school uniform eliminates a lot of fashion competitiveness and promotes the feeling of belonging and pride in one's school.

NZ has marvellous natural wonders. The variety of bird life is an ornithologist's dream. Pukekos, for just one example, are the size of chickens, blue feathered, red beaked and legged with extremely long crimson toes. They are found everywhere and will barely move aside, even for a

car, contemptuously flicking up their tail to flash a patch of white under feathers as you pass.

We found some foods were more expensive than we expected: \$7.49 per dozen eggs, \$6.50 for an ordinary McD quarter pounder, and dairy products in general. Lamb cuts were reasonably priced but sheep are being supplanted by cattle because the Asian trading partners prefer beef. It was so convenient to be able to purchase good wine at very low prices in every grocery store. Most stores remain open regular hours on Sundays.

Two other highlights of our month-long trip were visiting the Glowworm Caves near the black sand beaches of the west coast of Waitomo. We crept deep underground through dim passageways to the limestone cathedral in which NZ opera diva Kiri Tekanewa sang, and the boat ride over black depths to view the ceilings covered with the glowing filaments of the larval stage of the creature living there. Not an adventure for the claustrophobic.

And then there was Hot Water Beach on the east coast. It has the dubious distinction of being the most treacherous beach in NZ with rip tows that pulled more than 100 swimmers into danger this past season alone despite being well signposted. All were rescued by the well trained lifeguards. This beautiful beach is quite unique in that one encounters very hot water by digging into the white sands only a couple of centimetres. People build sand castle walls around themselves and sit in the middle, experiencing a very warm bottom while cold surface water covers the rest of their body.

You can drive from the west coast to the east in only a few hours on New Zealand's North Island. The roads, often twisty, are well maintained. We enjoyed fishing and boating, swimming and sightseeing, eating and preparing myriad different foods. And the fly cemeteries? Those are a crunchy snack of raisin filling sandwiched between sweet crackers, available in every food shop. Like NZ, quite the treat.

Kathy's Place

On March 11, 2012, the community of Estanquillos, Costa Rica, honoured Kathy Friederici, a deceased director of the R. R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation, for her generous donation to the school. This donation allowed them to build a covered play area.

The program for the afternoon was announced in both English and Spanish. The MC was a grade 6 girl who spoke in English. Sheila Fonseca a member of the school committee translated her words into Spanish. The English language teacher had arranged the program, so that each grade made a presentation in English; some were songs, some were dances, some were individual recitations. The program ended with the entire school performing a song in English.

The honoured guests were Kathy's family (her daughter Tanya and son Michael and their children), close friend Danae (Dagg) Peaker, Ollie Whitcutt, Ted Pearson and Glen Pinch. Mr. Leonard Beaulne, represented the Canadian Embassy in Costa Rica.

The formal part of the program ended with Tanya and Michael unveiling a brass plaque, naming the play area as "Kathy's Place". The informal part of the afternoon included gifts of Tshirts, Pens, Canadian Flags and pins for



each of the 90 students in the school. Soccer balls, volleyballs, basketballs, hula hoops, frisbees, and skipping ropes were given to the school. All these items were provided by Kathy's family.

Kathy's granddaughters were soon demonstrating how to use the new equipment and as soon as some music started, they involved most of the children in line dancing and other exercise types of dances. The guests were given a meal cooked by some of the mothers of the community.

As soon as the sun set, the crowd began to disperse and a small, mountain community school looked forward to enjoying a new covered play area, courtesy of a very generous Canadian woman and her family.

By Glen Pinch, Langley RTA

R.R. SMITH MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION-2012

The R. R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the B. C. Retired Teachers Association. In 2006 a \$150,000 donation from the BCTF was used to create endowment funds in each of the public universities that grant education degrees. Each of these universities use the endowment to create at least one R. R. Smith Bursary each year.

Simon Fraser University In 2011, SFU disbursed an award of \$950. The student wrote 'I am in my first semester of Le Programme de Formation Professionnelle; I am completing the one-year program to be a British Columbia certified teacher, with a specialization in French. After the completion of the program I hope to find a teaching position within British Columbia that will permit me to inspire and motivate students to learn French and cultivate a passion for the Francophone world. The bursary has been of great personal benefit. It has reduced my financial stress and I now feel less pressure to pick up shifts during the week, leaving me precious time during the evenings after a full day at school to rework my lesson plans and assignments. Please accept my sincere thank you.'

University of British Columbia In 2011 two students received awards totalling \$550. One student will attain her Bachelor of Education, with a concentration First Nations Education. The second student is studying for her Bachelor of Education, with a concentration in Kindergarten/Primary. The awards office stated, 'Student awards not only provide much appreciated academic recognition and financial support to our students but also help the University recruit and retain outstanding scholars. On behalf of the students, faculty and administration of the university, I would like to convey our heart-felt appreciation for your financial support and for your interest in our students.'

Vancouver Island University A student in the Bachelor of Education program was awarded \$250 in 2011, and the amount of \$500. is available for 2012. The university awards office stated, 'Scholarships and bursaries created by our donors touch so many students and assist them in pursuing their career goals. Many of our students could not complete their education without the help of donors.' The student wrote, 'The generous donation will assist me in completing my 5 year Bachelor of Education. I am the first in my family to go to university and I also grew up in a single parent family. This aided me in the realization that there is a huge value in university education. Through all of my volunteering and working with children I know that I am on the right path. With your generous support you are helping me achieve my dreams. Thank you so much!'

University of Northern British Columbia In 2011 a student studying Secondary Education received an award of \$250. He said, 'I truly appreciate you helping me fund my education and therefore make my future career goals possible. I am a native of Smithers, BC and I am about to proceed into my second year of the B Ed program at UNBC. I completed my undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from UNBC. I am thoroughly enjoying my teacher training and I am excited to get into the educational work force. After I finish the education pro-

gram at UNBC I plan to seek a job in the north because I enjoy the lifestyle and have lived here all my life. Eventually, I would like to carry out my Masters degree in UNBC in either counselling or leadership.'

Thompson Rivers University In 2011 one award was granted of \$404. to a student studying for the Bachelor of Education. She also completed her Bachelor of Arts in 2010. The amount to be awarded in 2012 is \$400. Since 2008, 5 students have received a total of \$2169.

University of Victoria In 2011 there were three bursary awards given out in 2011, one for \$600, and two for \$625 each for a total of \$1850. Budget for disbursement for 2012 is \$1675. One of the students wrote, 'I am studying in the secondary school teacher education program specializing in social studies at the University of Victoria. As a recipient of one of the R. R. Smith bursaries, I am grateful that I will be able to continue developing skills and knowledge to help facilitate learning for students in the years to come. I choose to become a teacher because I felt it was the best way to contribute to society's future. Growing up in a family that has worked in the field of education, I realized that the reward for being a teacher is to see students succeed in their learning.'

We congratulate these scholars for their achievements! Further contributions to fund these bursaries can be made directly through the universities or by making a special (tax receipted) donation to the R. R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation.

www.rrsmith.ca

Contacts for the R. R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation Endowment Funds

University of Northern BC Jennifer Hicke, Development Awards Office, Office of External Relations, UNBC, 3333 University Way, Prince George, V2N 4Z9 250 960-5756

University of BC Cecily Lawrenson, Associate Director, Awards Development, UBC Gift and Estate Planning, #500-5950 University Blvd., University of British Columbia, Vancouver V6T 1Z3 604 822-3846 cecily.lawrenson@ubc.ca

Vancouver Island University, Susie Caswell, Development Manager, Annual Fund, #114-59 Wharf Street, Nanaimo, V9R 2X3 250 740-6216 susie.caswell@viu.ca

University of Victoria Maureen Olson, Donor Relations Officer, Division of External Relations, University of Victoria, PO Box 3060 Stn CSC Victoria V8W 3R4 250 721-8909 olsonm@uvic.ca

Thompson River University Sylvie Veilleux, Prospect Research Technician, Thompson Rivers University, Advancement Office, 900 McGill Road, PO Box 3010, Kamloops, BC V2C 5N3 250 828-7236 sveilleux@tru.ca

Simon Fraser University Natalie Brenton, Manager, Donor Relations Manager, University Advancement, SFU, Burnaby 778 782-5310 nbrenton@sfu.ca or www.sfu.ca/advancement

The Directors wish to express their appreciation for the donations from individuals and local BCRTA associations and the \$1.00 per member grant from the BCRTA. These funds made it possible for the Directors to award \$17,000.00 in grants to 13 applications. As in the past, there were more requests than the total grant money available.

The following grants were made for 2012:

- 1. Jericho Road Children's Project** (Into All the World) (\$1,750.00) This organization houses and educates street children, ages 10-20 in Mbarara, Uganda.
- 2. Inter-Cultural Women's Educational Network** (I.W.E.N.) (\$3,600.00) Focuses on marginalized females (some indentured as young as six), in Nepal.
- 3. Boys Education Endowment Fund** (BEEF) (\$900.00) Pays school fees (\$450.00 per boy) for boys from poor Kenyan families to attend Secondary School.
- 4. Families for Children** (\$1,750.00) This money will be used to help run a school and orphanage in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- 5. Olinda Children's Association** (\$1,000.00) The money will be used in Olinda, Brazil to purchase library books and educational materials for children, ages 4-12 in Grades K-5.
- 6. Canadian Harambee Education Society** (CHES) (\$500.00) To help fund a workshop in Tanzania, Kenya, for 402 students that will focus on study skills, English, Career Planning, financial literacy and HIV awareness.
- 7. HUGGS** (\$1,500.00) to continue to sponsor a student in India, "Satish", for his 3rd year of college. He is working towards his Bachelor of Science.
- 8. Mackenzie Elementary School** (\$700.00) Vancouver school building an ELL book bank designed with a strong cultural focus of the neighbourhood, specifically Punjabi and Filipino.
- 9. Britannia Elementary School** (\$1,500.00) To assist an Inner City Vancouver school to fund an Art Therapy Program to help students deal emotionally and psychologically with issues of violence, substance abuse and neglect.
- 10. Afratech Aid Society** (\$500.00) The grant will be used to help build a library at the Sweetwater Primary School.
- 11. Kenya Education Endowment Fund** (KEEF) (\$800.00) To provide a scholarship for a Kenyan boy, Japeth Ungadi, in Form 4 at Chavakali High School.
- 12. Love Guatemala** (\$1,500.00) This grant will be used to provide a breakfast program for a Primary school "Casa del Nino" in Guatemala.
- 13. Communities Embracing Restorative Action Society** (CERA) (\$1,000.00) This is a joint initiative between CERA and SD#43 to train and support students in the use of restorative justice principles.

Submitted by Dave Carter, Director

FAILING RETIREMENT 101 – BUT HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME!

I love to read about all the wonderful places retired teachers have enjoyed. My retirement has taken a different path. I have hardly retired at all! I have only changed the way I work.

As an elementary school teacher working mainly with children with learning problems I was always interested in why teachers and parents never seemed able to communicate well. I believe that parents influence how well children learn yet parents hardly ever attended the workshops that schools created for them. When I retired from the classroom over 5 years ago I decided to find out why.

I went to talk to the Profs at UBC. Surely they had the answer I was looking for. But no, they told me that I had to find the answer for myself and the best way to do that was by taking a Ph.D. So at nearly 60 years of age I started on a course of study that eventually helped me find an answer to my question.

It wasn't easy and on many occasions I felt like giving up but fortunately I had people around me who encouraged me to continue and eventually I graduated and got to wear a funny hat to prove it.

At last I knew why parents and teachers struggled to talk to each other. The answer, like all good answers, proved to be easy to do something about. So, after taking a few months to recuperate, I started doing something about it!

A teacher likes an audience. My audience had changed from students to parents and teachers. I started to put on workshops for parents and teachers about how to work together. After one particular session that I did for the BCTF I had to leave to catch a ferry as parents and teachers were arguing about who said what and why!

Now I work with individual parents who have concerns about their child's education and want to know what they can do to help. And I love it! I am a teacher through and through, never wanted to be anything else and now I am using my teaching skills again but in a different way.

As I read about all the wonderful places other retirees are visiting and all the adventures they are having I can't help wondering whether I have made the right decision. Whether I would have more fun if I went traveling and revisiting the parts of the world that I love.

Then I think about how much I love living in Vancouver, and how much I still love teaching and I wish all traveling retirees Bon Voyage as I answer another parent's call for help.

Am I failing retirement? Perhaps. But if retirement means having the time and energy to do what you want to do, whatever that is, then I am passing with flying colors!

Patricia Porter



LAST WORD FOR THE CROSSWORD (NOT FORGETTING THE SUDOKU)

I 43 of you sent entries this issue and there were more Sudoku than crosswords, which surprised me as I just cannot do those pesky math squares. Here are your winners for these puzzles. For the crosswords: Jean Daoust (Maple Ridge), Marilyn Squire (Port Alberni) and Anne Lauderdale (Smithers). For the Sudoku we have Harumi Brown (White Rock), Rosemary Chapman (North Vancouver) and Siew Lau (Vancouver). A gentleman was in the office working on the computers so I had him pull the six envelopes, two of which had to go back into the box because of errors, but we got our six eventually.

Yes there were errors on my part, and many (well two or three) pointed out that I had spelled the name Ernest, rather than the word reflecting how we approach our puzzles (in its adverbial form of course) which adds the 'a'. I can see the Importance of Being Earnest just as Wilde did. I am not a cruciverbalist as one writer intimated, and as regular readers know, I cannibalize old puzzles from last year's newspapers, changing the clues because of copyright. Reader Len added another eight suggestions re my grammatical forms, plurals and spelling errors, and I am thankful that this was just one in 143. Perspective helps! The remainder of the notes added thanks for the magazine and the puzzle. Susan, Merrilyn, David, Inga, Muriel, Doug and Dagmar enjoy doing them and sending them in. For some they are quite a challenge and from the erasing and white out and scribbles this is evident. For others like me perhaps, they are a timed test, and when I need challenge

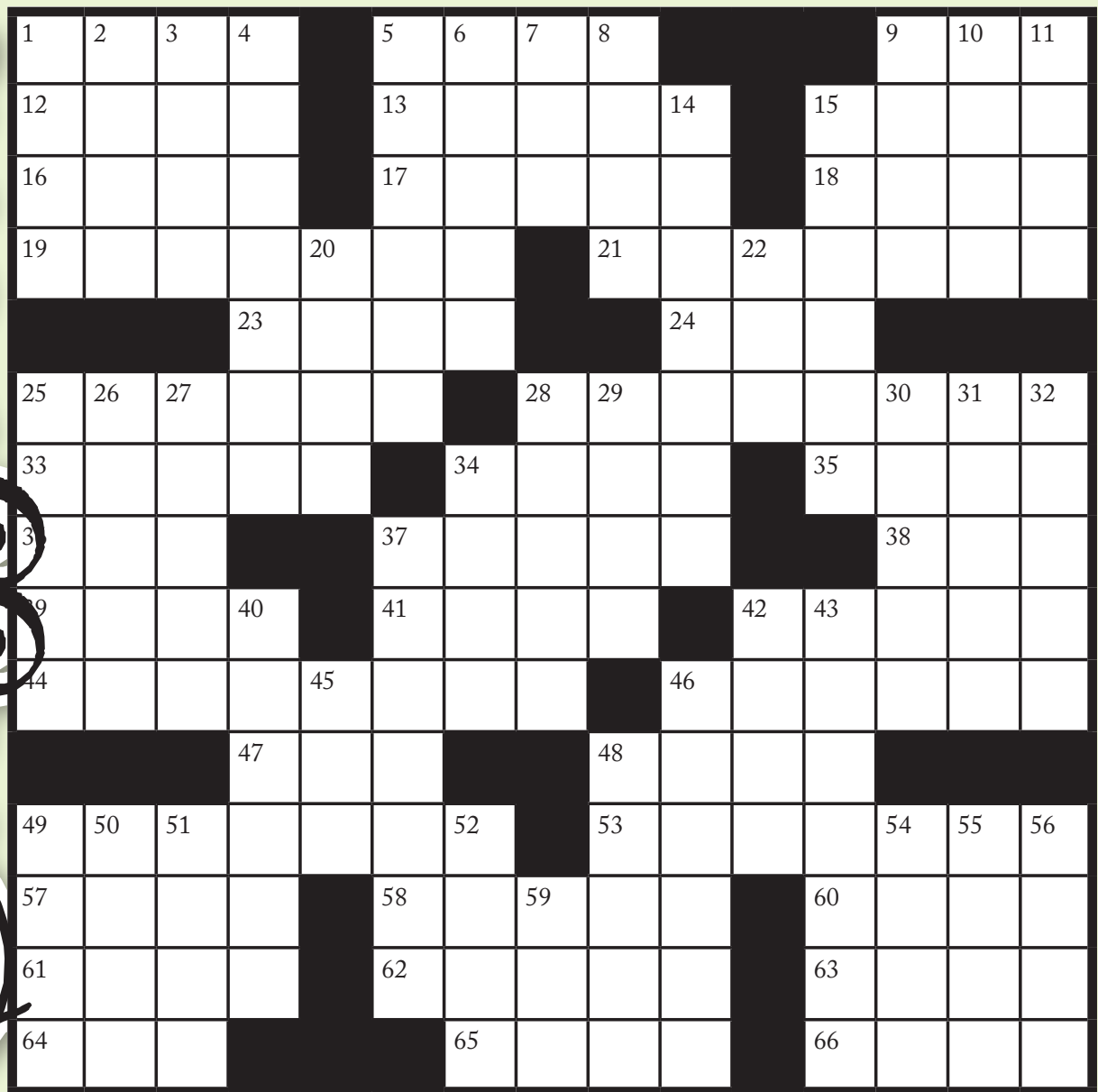
I go to the cryptics. I put the clue for Mensa as a table – suggestion was I could have put brainy ones, but as a Mensan I like to keep quiet about my membership. Most of us do.

A request came for 12 sudoku on the page. I suggest you check every daily and local paper that you get and perhaps splurge on a paper back of puzzles and you can do one every day. I believe they are on the internet as well. I carry a small Dell paperback book of puzzles and do one every time I am sitting waiting for something, or someone. A sunny afternoon, a glass of wine and a crossword puzzle and you have my idea of Eden!

Thanks from Doug for this issue with many reminders and tips. Carol said the same thing and asked about photographs – we did a spread of holiday and overseas spots back in the winter or fall I believe, and the publisher also supplies illustrations from his sources. Kristi puts all of the photographs sent in onto the computer so we can scan through if looking for a certain subject. Linda mentioned her husband was keeping the drivers' licence article until she reached 80! Neil pointed out that a caption on page 16 of the last issue should have read Westwold, not what is printed. Hope that ties off all loose ends. Remember if you need an answer key use the phone number inside the front cover (toll free if needed) and ask Kristi to mail you one. The size of the puzzles and the placement on the page now rests with our publisher.

Sheila Gair, Editor.

Crossword



ACROSS

1. USED A LOOM
5. OVERSHOE
9. POOH'S PAL
12. HYMN ENDING
13. INUIT HOME
15. OH DEAR!
16. SMALL PASTRY
17. PRINCEVAL'S WIFE
18. TINY BOTTLE
19. WANDER ABOUT
21. SHAKESPEARE CHARACTER
23. BOUND WITH ROPE
24. EARLY SPACE LAB
25. LEGENDARY
28. MOTORCYCLE TRACK
33. SITS WITH ENGINE RUNNING
34. SMIDGEON

35. US STATE
36. SOUTH INDIANA UNIV.
37. NORMAL
38. NORTHERN ANIMAL
39. PREFIX FOR TRILLION
41. BRIT WORD FOR FOOD
42. STRAINED FRUIT
44. LEGAL SUMMONS
46. TWO WHEELERS
47. ___ LUPINO
48. MINERAL
49. WOOD FINISHES
53. LOVE OR HATE
57. BALDWIN OR GUINNESS
58. LONE RANGER'S PAL

60. DRESSING GOWN
61. PUMP OR LOAFER
62. TAKES ON
63. 'ESSAY' NAME
64. CHEAP METAL
65. MOVIE MUSIC ___'S THEME
66. OPPOSITE OF WEST

DOWN

1. ELECTRICAL MEASURE
2. SHARIF OR BRADLEY
3. SINGER ___ LYNN
4. GIVEN YOUR DUE
5. SLANTED VIEW
6. LEERED AT
7. BULLFIGHT SHOUT
8. OZ DOG
9. STIR UP
10. AUSSIE GEM
11. NORWEGIAN CITY
14. HOT BREAKFAST
15. STRAIN YOURSELF
20. FAVOURED DESSERT
22. HURRY
25. BRAWL WEAPONS
26. FRENCH FAREWELL
27. SMALL NEWS ITEM
28. JOHN PHILIP ___
29. EGYPTIAN GOD

30. STRANGER'S QUERY
31. FELT ILL
32. OXEN WORE THEM
34. TREAT - THIS ___ ME
37. DIG UP
40. ONE EACH
42. MUSICAL 'LITTLE'
43. CHASED RACCOON (3 WDS)
45. VERSE FORM
46. FLOWERING TREE
48. PARKING ___
49. SAHARA DESERT
50. 2 SCHOOL LEVELS (ABBR)
51. LIGHT IN A TUBE
52. MAKE GRUBBY
54. KANSAS TOWN
55. JAPANESE SASHES
56. NOT MESSY
59. NORTHERN RESIDENTS ASSOC.

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

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 W. 6th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

FOR MORE ONLINE SUDOKU PUZZLES:

www.fiendishsudoku.com

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS

June 30, 2012

CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted: 2 bedroom furnished accommodation, either July or August, downtown Vancouver, or very centrally located. 2 adults, 2 children: 6, 11. Contact: Joan 604 266-9959

CUBA

'Spanish Studies in Cuba' (Havana), \$2,500.00 Can. for 4 wks. Hotel with breakfast and dinner, tuition fee. (Air fare not included). 250-478-0494 ssic@telus.net

VANCOUVER - VERNON EXCHANGE

Recently retired Vernon couple wish to exchange 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath family view home for Vancouver house or condo. Fenced yard; 10 min. to beaches, 40 min. to Silver Star; will consider exchange options. harris.heggie@shaw.ca

VACATION RENTAL PALM SPRINGS

Rancho Mirage exclusive gated community with tennis, swimming pools, kayaks, bikes, 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom lake front condo, info - ukcarolina@yahoo.ca or 6049297627

Cuba1tours of Vancouver Island has been offering a variety of specialized tours to Cuba since 1992 and is a leader in safe, well organized, quality tours. All tours are based on a minimum eight people and maximum twenty and early booking is essential. All tour details are at ... www.cuba1tours.com (NEW slide shows) or you can contact Tom Robertson at tom@cuba1tours.com Now booking for 2012/13 tours

My name is Kasey Martin and I am a master's student at the University of Manitoba conducting research on people who are planning on retiring in the next two years or who have retired in the last year. Currently, I am recruiting participants, and I am hoping to get responses from across Canada. If BCRTA members are willing to take part please contact Kasey Martin MSc Student - Business Administration, I. H. Asper School of Business ummar435@cc.umanitoba.ca

COSTA RICA BECKONS:

Escape another BC winter for a Costa Rican eco-cultural experience. Enjoy blue skies, warm sunny days, exotic flora and fauna, and best of

all, the friendly people while touring this beautiful country. For more information and for reservations, please call Ollie Whitcutt at 604-263-1683 January, February or March available.

CUSTOM WAR MEMORIAL TOUR

Paris, Normandy, Dieppe, Vimy, Ypres, London September 21 - October 2, 2012 \$2639.33 land only, twin basis, per person Shirley's Travel Office: 902-679-0726

COSY FAMILY WHISTLER CABIN FOR RENT

2 bedroom, open loft with queen and single, fully furnished, great view, deck with bbq located in Emerald Estates. Minutes from sports complex and village. Available May to November. Rates: \$100 on weekdays, \$125 on weekends. Contact: Mary at 604 942 7071 or email at marythomas059@gmail.com

MUSICALLY INCLINED?

Opera in Santa Fe and the Indian Market August 12-19 Tickets for four operas: The Pearl Fishers, Tosca, Maometto 11 and Arabella, airfare included The Metropolitan Opera New York October 8-14 Tickets to performances at the MET include: L'Elisir d'Amore, Il Trovatore & Carmen, airfare included Great Expeditions Tel: 604-257-2040 Toll free: 1-800-663-3364 tours@greatexpeditions.com www.greatexpeditions.com

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Line. Help for grandparents or other relatives raising a family member's child. Province wide Monday through Friday 604-558-4740 (Lower Mainland) or 1-855-474-9777 (toll free anywhere in BC) Parent services society of BC.

CEMETERY PLOT. VALLEY VIEW MEMORIAL GARDENS IN SURREY

Garden of the Resurrection 89, 910, A-1 near to main office and chapel and under a tree. For one casket and one urn or alternatively 3 urns. All transactions to be completed officially at cemetery office site. \$5800 obo. Contact Anne at annehensl@hotmail.com

In Home Tutors needed. Lower Mainland. Comox Valley / Campbell River. Victoria / Sooke / Saanich. Forward resume to info@schooliseasy.com or call 1-877-ITS-EASY.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

Home based business. Academic Advantage In Home Tutoring Referral Agency is awarding franchises in BC. Very successful, proven system. Growing industry. Available territories are: Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Comox Valley, Kamloops, Vernon, Prince George. www.schooliseasy.com/franchise or call 1-877-ITS-EASY

PALM SPRINGS RENTAL AT TRIPALMS RESORT

Par 3 and Regulation golf courses, 2 swimming

Retire in Kitimat, British Columbia Playground on the Pacific Inland Coast



**Affordable Living
Outstanding Recreation
Modern Health Services
Natural Ocean & Mountain Splendor**
For more information: www.retirekitimat.ca



Buckingham Elementary School 1962 - 2012



Saturday, September 29th, 2012 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

All current and former students, parents, and staff welcome.
Pre-registration is required. Early bird prices before June 15th.

Go to <http://buckingham.sd41.bc.ca>

pools, 2 hot tubs, tennis, shuffleboard, games room, restaurant and bar, great area for hiking and biking. We have 2 different homes available to rent. Each modular home has 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Both homes are very clean and well maintained. Home # 1 has a great view of the Par 3 course and is available for November and December 2012. Home # 2 is located on a quiet cul de sac and is available Jan, Feb. and half of March 2013. Rental includes cable, free phoning to Canada, and internet. Each home has a golf cart. Non smokers only. \$1500 per month. 604 744 8155 or bgrundy47@yahoo.ca

PGSS CLASS OF 1972

The Ice Breaker will be July 20 at the Caribou Restaurant, the main event will be July 21 at the Inn of the North. We have set up two contact sites, Facebook at 'pgss grads of 1972' and a web site at www.1972pgssreunion.com. contact Daryl Ritchey dmh_ritchey@yahoo.com

We are an online streaming company providing funeral homes with the ability to make their services viewable online to families who are unable to attend. We are looking for mature people interested in learning to be a videographer at those funeral services. This is a unique opportunity and training and equipment are supplied. A retired person might also be a great fit. This position will pay \$40 per funeral or \$20 per hour. Live streaming a funeral service plays an important role in creating a sense of unity for both the online viewers and those who can attend personally. Our website is AliveStreaming.com. Please email resumes to: Info@AliveStreaming.com Dale Traber daletraber@gmail.com

I am with the Australian Higher Education Network (AHEN) located in Shanghai, China. Would any of your members be interested in working and living in China? The work is primarily teaching English as a second language, although the teachers may be requested to teach some core subjects such as Marketing or Business related subjects. We supply all texts. Jobs are available in many different cities in various provinces. Teachers may wish to come to China and experience the travel and culture at the same time as enjoying advancing the learning skills of college students. The accommodation is free at the colleges. There are modern amenities. The workload is approximately 20 hours per week. The pay is equivalent to \$1000 to \$1300 (CAN) per month depending on qualifications and experience. I am now recruiting for the September semester. W.O Williams will_ow_1@yahoo.ca

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF BC IN VICTORIA BC

We are currently looking for long-term Education Volunteers who can present workshops to the public on Alzheimer's awareness and related topics. For more information regarding this position please contact Julie Cameron, Office & Volunteer Coordinator Ph: 250-382-2052 Fax: 250-382-8108 www.alzheimerbc.org

NEW ZEALAND BEACH HOME FOR RENT

Explore subtropical Northland in New

Zealand. Away from the crowds, our corner of Paradise offers excellent walking, beautiful beaches, and a night sky full of brilliant stars. With gorgeous views of Doubtless Bay, our lovely little house is situated a four minute walk to Tokerau Beach, or a 10 minute drive to seven other pristine beaches. World class golf course and winery, as well as charming, historical fishing villages nearby. Close to the beautiful Bay of Islands and Cape Reinga. Available any time from May, 2012 - Jan. 1, 2012, plus March 1-31, 2013 by the week or the month. Email rosemarynelson46@gmail.com or phone 250 248 6516 for more information.

Go MAD (as in "Go Make A Difference") -where retired teachers taking the TESOL certification training course in Costa Rica can volunteer their time working in rain forests, UNESCO biospheres, national parks, reserves and protected areas. For more information go to: <http://make-a-difference.org>. Coming soon also in Thailand, Nepal, Vietnam and the Philippines. Contact Art at gomad@teflife.com or Goderich 519-955-2838



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

PHOTOGRAPHERS ALERT!

We need more photographs suitable for PostScript. Please send by post to the BCRTA office:

100-550 W. 6th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2
or email to kristi@bcrt.com



OBITUARIES

Location listed is the area given as "last taught"

ARCHIBALD, Edward R., Delta

BLACKHALL, John Anderson, Powell River

BOSS, Margaret E., Victoria

BUVYER, Joan M., Beneficiary

CHAPMAN, Victor L., Vancouver

CLARE, Barry D., Vancouver

COULSON, George Allan, Vancouver

DeBECK, Elizabeth, Kamloops

FORREST, Nellie I., Coquitlam

FRASER, Marjorie E., Sooke

FRITSCH, Edward J., Chilliwack

FRY, Albert, Saanich

JANKE, John W., Thompson Rivers Univ.

JANZEN, Wesley H., Surrey

LeFLUFY, Susan, West Vancouver

McGUINNESS, John F., Delta

McINTEE, Elsie D., Vancouver

McNAMARA, Mabel P., Beneficiary

MILLER, Gwen O., Merritt

MORRISON, Leroy A., Kamloops/Thompson

MORTON, Ken I., Terrace

MUNDAY, Lennard Ray, New Westminster

NAGATA, Toshiko, Delta

NATH, Jyan, Vancouver

PARKER, Daryl, Vancouver

PENNYWAY, Robert J., Vancouver

RALSTON, Edith M., Vancouver

ROSEN, Robert L., Surrey

RUSH, Jack T., Vancouver

RUSSELL, Quentin M., Saanich

STRACHAN, N. Joanne, Surrey

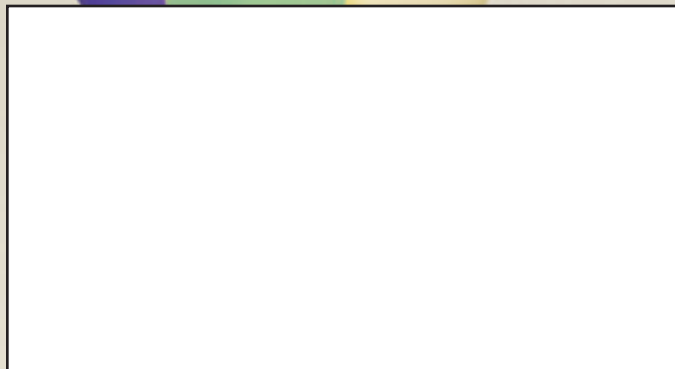
STYLES, Daphne, Kamloops

THOMSON, Doris J., Delta

TURNER, Frederick Samuel, Langley

WOOTTON, Edith, Vancouver

*Enter for
a chance*
to win



an Apple
iPad



Exclusively for BCRTA members. Simply request a home insurance quote from April 1 to June 30, 2012 for your chance to win an Apple iPad. (Existing policyholders are automatically entered.)

Call: 1-800-563-0677 | Visit: Johnson.ca/bcrt

BCRTA

Group ID code: BC

JOHNSON 

Home Insurance

Congratulations to BCRTA Member, Bob Reilly, the latest winner of an Apple iPad!