

THE MAGAZINE FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS

PostScript

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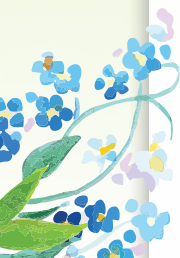
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*Photo of President Bob Taverner in Australia.
Pictured with him are friends Sue and John who
are retired teachers from South Australia.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SPRING 2016

It's a glorious, warm, sunny day here in Adelaide, South Australia, as I write this – on Australia Day, January 26th.

Like Canada, Australia is a very multicultural country, with many visible minorities making up the mix. It hasn't always been that way, though, has it – in either country? I feel very lucky to live in a time when diversity is celebrated, rather than feared and discriminated against. Though there are obviously still a few racists among us, they are fortunately part of a rapidly shrinking minority.

My wife and I strolled along the Glenelg beachfront this morning, and stopped for a while at Moseley Square to watch a folk band playing some catchy, patriotic songs to a large, appreciative crowd. The singers were Scottish-Australians, still with some of their native brogue sounding through. In a pause between songs they encouraged their listeners to contemplate with them how pleasant it was to be in Adelaide, at 23 degrees Celsius, versus Glasgow at minus 9.

We're also lucky, aren't we, to have in retirement the freedom to travel outside of school holidays, to bask

in warmer weather when much of Canada is buried under snow, and to explore far off lands that many of us may have taught about, but might never have been able to see?

And I've been reminded by recent sad events how lucky we are to have reached retirement, a time to reap the rewards of our work years, to relax, to volunteer in our communities, and to travel. On December 29th Jennifer Wadge, Surrey Teachers' Association president, died suddenly at the age of 39; and just a few days ago, as I write, Matt Pearce, former president of the Prince George DTA also passed suddenly, at the age of 48. How tragic that people so respected and loved for their dedication to teaching, and to their colleagues, should have had their lives cut so cruelly short. Our hearts are heavy with sorrow for those to whom they were close, and who will miss them so much.

Meanwhile, by the time you read this, hopefully there'll be some spring in the air, with "carpe diem" in our heads, and sunny days ahead.

Bob Taverner

President, BCRTA





ROUND TABLE

Round Up

DECEMBER 2015

We began our December session of meetings with a dinner on Sunday evening at a local restaurant to recognise our office administrator's seventeen years of service to the BCRTA. I sat with two former presidents, Sheila Pither and Doug Edgar, spoke with Ron Awai and waved at Pat Brady, but the space and noise level was not conducive to lengthy chats, which was a pity. We all wished Patricia a restful retirement on Bowen Island where she makes her home, and hope she will adjust to unlimited down time!

We were upset to find that Stefan Cieslik our second vice president was taken ill early Tuesday, spent the day at Vancouver General, and headed home on Wednesday letting us know that he was home safely, and ready to recuperate.

My committee meeting on Tuesday started at ten thirty, and as last time, I was at the office at eight and sat in on another committee, this time Pensions and Benefits. Most enlightening and the facts and figures came thick and fast giving me a taste of the complexity of issues facing us in retirement. We had all recently received notice of an increase in our Extended Health premium when we had only just heard that we would get a small increase in pensions in January! The committee hopes to set up a meeting with other pension plan representatives to discuss common issues and will continue to monitor the new Johnson plan and any changes to all other plans.

Our Board Meeting on Wednesday got under way at eight thirty with the read through of all the reports and we were able to each get a copy of the Postscript from

the box of extras in the office. President Bob Taverner brought us up to date on his activities and read aloud some emails received from those with concerns about an honorary membership for the PM! On a more serious matter the Professional Standards mandated under the BC Teachers Act were to be discussed on February 26th and both Patricia Clough and Steve Bailey will represent us. A letter from ACER-CART was read aloud, congratulating those who had put together the very informative booklet ahead of the Federal Election, which was widely read across the country.

The Office has been instructed to mail the Postscript to all superintendents across the province, and our holiday dates, office hours and a speedy e-mailing of all reports to the office was requested. The new office staff contracts were shared with the board. Liaison Priorities and the website need your feedback. Some changes were made to the reserve fund as suggested by the auditor and changes to our financial reporting will be made clearer and a suggestion made for some bookkeeping training for staff. The COSCO conference next September will be co-sponsored by the BCRTA and this to be made public. Reimbursement of expenses will be speeded up as there were complaints following the AGM. One of the aims of the Finance committee is to further clarify Reserve Fund procedures as well as looking into car insurance and reviewing the appointment of an auditor.

Social Concerns wanted to have an alternate for their committee as one member is unable to attend for the year. This year they will concentrate on issues for the 2017 Provincial election, the cost of driver exams for 80 year olds, and deferral of property tax payments. They

would like to see all branches elect a Social Concerns representative.

The Excellence Committee had submitted the Myths of Education spending for the winter issue of the Postscript and the article has been sent to several other organisations. Publicity for the Golden Star awards is needed, and initiatives from First Call will be supported. The BCTF is sponsoring a discussion on Public Education and bringing together parents, teachers and trustees.

The Communications Committee is looking into the website and planning some major adjustments and an overhaul of protocol for those who wish to use it. Committee members will return in January with a blueprint of their expectations before the webmaster is called in.

Health and Housing will concentrate on the promises of the federal government which concern seniors and will also gather data for the upcoming Provincial Elections – which will also include housing concerns. Our Federal Election booklet will be sent to all BC MPs and stress placed on the Canadian Health Coalition.

Heritage shared their objectives for the year and mentioned a talk by Ken Novakowski, and a donation to the archives and the BC Labour Heritage. Funding is available and grants can be made. Articles around the use of the grants would be most welcome for both BCRTA publications.

Membership has produced a comprehensive list of all our Advantage Program benefits which has gone to all branches and urges members to make use of the website and attend the pension seminars. There will again be incentives for branches to increase membership. The retirement workshops continue to update their material as they move around the province.

Advocacy asked for \$1000 to become an associate member of the Canadian Health Coalition. Patricia Clough, Regina Day and JoAnn Lauber will attend a Lobby on the Hill (January 25th). The committee had a list of 18 items they were prepared to work on in the coming year, up to the election in 2017. They will co-ordinate their work with all other committees.

With our affiliate organisations we heard of the strategic plans for ACER-CART, with the emphasis on forums. First Call mentioned the one million dollar donation by the government for immigrant services and released a

poverty report card and summary. RR Smith welcomed more donations via their book shelves and thanked the office staff for their assistance. The COSCO newsletter was distributed and news of BC Forum given by representative Barb Mikulec. We are in the process of printing new permanent membership cards, and the office staff took the staff of Cotala Publishing for a Christmas lunch in Cloverdale. They do a great job for us.

I'll be back in January for our next session.
Sheila Gair, editor.

JANUARY 2016

We met on January 13th, a scant month after the December board meeting, and with much going on linked to Christmas travel and festivities little time was available to committees to gather data and work on projects. Our meeting started with a request from ACER-CART to write down some items that we felt would help in their strategic planning for the coming year. Our usual reading time passed, and President Bob Taverner reminded us of the dates of his planned visits around the province. The Office Administrator mentioned the new accounting and reporting system and we each had a copy of the Comparative Income statement. I asked if the figures in red meant we were 'in the hole' but it seems a variation plus or minus was marked in red – and we have decided that the reserve fund could more appropriately be labelled the 'contingency' fund, and our bank statements should list our GICs.

The meeting schedule for the 2016/17 year was produced and after a half hour (I timed it!) of deliberation pro, con and otherwise, it was tabled to be presented again in March. Changes in table officers, obligations to other groups, the BCTF dates, zone meetings and those of our affiliates – not to mention upcoming provincial elections all have to be put into the pot – and then there are no guarantees.

We have made some minor changes to the Terms of Office re length of appointments, turnover of terms, appointment time frames, terminations and replacements which should help new board members.

Committee reports followed. Health & Housing will be primarily responsible for assembling material for the production of a booklet for the 2017 provincial election and will support ACER-CART's lobby in Ottawa for a return to the Health Accord. I gave no report for Postscript but mentioned the survey results and my plan

to have a theme for each issue – early memories for this spring one, and volunteerism for the next. Discussion over the advertising for a travel plan which the RR Smith has adopted, has to be sorted, as Langley previously used it to raise funds for their scholarships. Liaison Priorities has a deadline of this weekend, and Ken Kuhn had produced a document on etiquette for computer/email users, which was attached to the Communication report of its aims and objectives for the coming year.

The COSCO conference will follow immediately on the heels of our next AGM, and then the NPF conference will follow that. We were asked to assist in the funding of delegates to the COSCO conference and we will fund one of our AGM delegates from each branch. We are still hoping for some word on our vehicle insurance coverage while on business for our organizations, and our savings and investments are to be listed in our financial reports – while the auditors will be appointed at our AGM. There is a plan to include ‘branch treasurer training’ at our 2016 Conference/AGM.

Social Concerns mentioned that four branches now had representatives and they will be concentrating on transportation issues for the provincial election booklet. The cost of the drivers’ licence testing at age 80 came up, and those who have paid for the exam are asked to contact Seniors Advocate Isobel McKenzie’s office – (check page 9) to state what they were charged, and the area in which they live.

Health and Housing are working with Social Concerns on the pre-election booklet and stress the need to concentrate on Seniors’ Issues, which must be pared down to a workable number and sources carefully checked.

Deadline is the end of April or May. Twelve of the federal Liberals’ promises are going to be monitored.

Excellence supports the provincial Intergenerational Day on June 1st, and Heritage has updated the library in the office. We agreed to support the making and placing of five plaques to celebrate significant dates in education bargaining in BC. An article will be in Postscript. Membership cards are going out to all members and the cost of mailing, (\$7000) to come from the committee’s increased budget.

Good news came from the Pension and Benefit Committee and two short articles will be in Postscript. We will take part in the BCTF AGM and delegates are asked to sit with their BCTF locals. Our Health Insurance plans are being looked at closely especially as there are more increases ahead. The new Johnson travel plan has been successful and no premium increase is expected there.

We will send five delegates to the NPF conference in September.

Steve Bailey reported on First Call with its emphasis on early childhood education, affordable child care and the poverty surrounding single mothers. He spoke on behalf of RR Smith. Barb Mikulec reported on B C Forum, the NPF and COSCO whose minutes and newsletter are sent to our BCRTA members on request.

We adjourned at 1.30 – the sun had come out, the roads were dry, and the days are getting longer!

Until next time,
Sheila Gair, *Editor*



ESTATE AND TAX PLANNING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Al Cornes, *Chair BCRTA Retirement Workshops Committee*

When we think of estate planning, most of us think of having a will as the key step.

It is true that having a will is the foundation, but estate and tax planning involves a lot more.

Aside from ensuring that you have a plan for increasing your financial assets, your plan should also include taking steps to minimize taxes and fees on your death.

One of our members wrote to us recently asking whether or not the BCRTA could recommend a simple publication which details taxes associated with estates in BC?

A popular and easy to read text is Douglas A. Gray's book entitled *The Canadian Guide To Will And Estate Planning*.

Gray does a good job of outlining and laying out primary

tax planning goals: tax deferral, minimizing taxes arising on death, minimizing or eliminating your exposure to foreign estate taxes, and achieving tax savings on your current income.

He provides key details on estate planning issues, including transferring property to your spouse, deferring taxes by designating spouses as beneficiaries, and setting up spousal trusts. Gray also reviews other strategies for reducing taxes to the next generation.

Gray's text is not a substitute for getting specialized legal and financial planning advice if that is what is required, but it is a good start in giving you key background information.

The book which is in its second edition, should be available in your local library.

YOUR PENSION: INDEXING AND VALUATION

This is a follow-up to the pension plan article published in the 2015 Fall Postscript.

INDEXING: As you will have noticed on your January 2016 Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP) pension statement there has been a 1% indexing increase to your pension benefit. This is the full increase of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from September 2014 to September of 2015. The indexing of TPP pensions is not guaranteed, but is paid at the level the plan actuary determines will ensure the sustainability of indexing. This provides assurance to current active members who are contributing to the pension plan that there will always be some indexing in the plan, even if it is not indexing to full CPI. Fortunately, since 1981 the TPP has provided indexing equal to the full percent increase in the CPI.

PLAN VALUATION: More good news with respect to indexing comes from the 2014 Valuation of the TPP, which has just been released. As anticipated in the fall, the plan actuary found that the pension fund has a surplus. This is

the first surplus in the history of the TPP! Some of the surplus (2% of salaries) will be redirected into the Inflation Adjustment Account, sustaining indexing in the future and making it more secure. A surplus is also good news to current active pension plan members as it means that there will be no contribution increase. This is the first valuation since 2001 that has not increased members' contributions. School districts will have a decrease in their contributions to the pension plan. This is good news for districts hoping that they will be allowed to keep the extra money in the district.

You can see the 2014 Teachers' Pension Plan actuarial valuation results on the TPP website at tpp.pensionsbc.ca and look under News or go directly to the report at

http://www.pensionsbc.ca/portal/page/portal/pencorpccontent/tpppage/publications/boarddocuments/tpp_2014_actuarial_valuation.pdf

JOHNSON'S EHC WITH TRAVEL BENEFITS REVIEW

If you enrolled in the new EHC with Travel insurance plan from Johnson's we would like to hear about your experiences. The program has been in place for less than one year and our Pension and Benefits Committee would like to hear your feedback about any experiences you may have had with making claims and the level of service you received. Send your comments to kristi@bcrtc.com

BCTF PENSION CONSULTATION

Articles submitted by Dale Lauber, *BCRTA Pensions & Benefits Committee*

The BCTF is conducting pension consultations with all active TPP members -- teachers, administrators and superintendents -- about changing the design of the TPP. Because none of the proposed changes will impact retirees the BCRTA is requesting retirees not to involve themselves in the consultations or the survey.

Consultations were held in all school districts in the province and the survey was open to all active TPP members. The BCTF Executive Committee will report to the Winter

Representative Assembly and the BCTF President will report to the BC Principals and Vice Principals Association and the BC School Superintendents Association on the proposed changes. The BCTF Annual General Meeting will then review and consider the Executive Committee's recommendation. If you are interested you can view the proposed changes on the BCTF website under Pensions. The Consultations report will be public and will be posted on the BCTF website.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE IN PAYING YOUR MEDICAL SERVICES PLAN PREMIUMS?

Many BC seniors are unaware of the assistance. If your adjusted net income is less than \$30,000 /year you may qualify for reduced premiums. Here is the premium table:

Adjusted Net Income	One Person	Family of Two	Family of Three or More
\$0 - \$22,000	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$22,001 - \$24,000	\$12.80	\$23.20	\$25.60
\$24,001 - \$26,000	\$25.60	\$46.40	\$51.20
\$26,001 - \$28,000	\$38.40	\$69.60	\$76.80
\$28,001 - \$30,000	\$51.20	\$92.80	\$102.40
Over \$30,000	\$75.00	\$136.00	\$150.00

To determine if you qualify, call 1-800-663-7100 or use the application form available at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/forms/119fil.pdf>

CROSS GENERATIONAL UNDERSTANDING

Submitted by Stefan Cieslik, *BCRTA 2nd Vice President*

Several years ago a student in Mary Anne Murphy's sociology class on aging asked her a question that made her rethink how she taught the class.

"A young male student came up to me and said, 'If I'm supposed to be learning about aging, why aren't there any older adults in this room?'" Murphy told Radio West host Rebecca Zandbergen.

"I was quite inspired by his question, I went around mulling it over for a year, and decided he was absolutely right."

For the last five years Murphy has invited a number of seniors to audit her courses.

Mary Ann Murphy is a sociology professor at UBCO.

Any seniors who are interested in joining one of Murphy's classes can contact her at mary-ann.murphy@ubc.ca

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/ubc-okanagan-prof-invites-seniors-to-audit-her-global-aging-course-1.3309467>

Here comes your payment!



HERE ARE THE DATES THAT THE TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN PAYMENTS ARE DIRECTLY DEPOSITED TO ACCOUNTS IN 2016.

JANUARY 28	JULY 28
FEBRUARY 26	AUGUST 30
MARCH 30	SEPTEMBER 29
APRIL 28	OCTOBER 28
MAY 30	NOVEMBER 29
JUNE 29	DECEMBER 22

HERE ARE THE DATES THAT THE CANADA PENSION PLAN PAYMENTS ARE DIRECTLY DEPOSITED TO ACCOUNTS IN 2016.

JANUARY 27	JULY 27
FEBRUARY 25	AUGUST 29
MARCH 29	SEPTEMBER 28
APRIL 27	OCTOBER 27
MAY 27	NOVEMBER 28
JUNE 28	DECEMBER 21

In the last issue of Postscript we published a list of winners of RR Smith prizes from the AGM. We made an error in one of the names. The winner of the Hilton Gift Basket was Heather Anderlini. We apologize for our error.



ATTENTION — BCRTA — PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Your submissions are wonderful BUT to blow up a print for the cover we need certain specifications – 3 MB or larger and 300-600 dpi or higher. I want to use your photos rather than stock commercial ones!

— Sheila Gair

DRIVERS LICENCE MEDICAL ASSESSMENT FEES

For those approaching 80 and expecting a form to enable them to continue driving - be aware that fees seem to fluctuate widely from region to region and doctor to doctor. If you have any concerns regarding your test or the fees expected or paid, please let Isobel MacKenzie, the Seniors' Advocate know.

The website is www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca

The Seniors Advocate website is a great resource. You can also speak with Information & Referral analysts, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (except statutory holidays).

Toll-free: 1-877-952-3181

In Victoria: 250-952-3181

Give feedback on seniors' issues

Sign up for the Seniors Advocate's newsletter.

ATTENTION MEMBERS PLANNING ON MOVING?

Should you move, change address - street, email, phone number, please let us know.

Call Laurie at 604-871-2260
or toll free 1-877-683-2243
or by email laurie@bcrt.com.

Do it now before you forget!

UPCOMING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:

SPRING VACATION - MARCH 14-18

BCTF AGM - MARCH 12-15

GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 25

EASTER MONDAY - MARCH 28

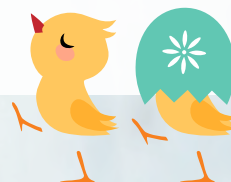
membership stats

Statistics as of January 31, 2016

ACTIVE: 14,174

LIFE MEMBERS: 1,340

TOTAL: 15,514



2015 TAX SEASON

– ELIGIBLE MEDICAL DEDUCTIONS

WRITTEN BY GERRY TIEDE, CHAIR, PENSION & BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Here's our annual check list to help you complete your 2015 Income tax return to your maximum advantage. We don't offer income tax advice but can say that any eligible medical costs that you pay, that exceed 3% of your net income can be deducted when you complete your income tax return this year.

Eligible medical expenses are those payments made by you or your spouse that were not reimbursed by MSP, EHC, or the Dental Plan. Some examples that you should explore:

Your portion of payments that you made for prescribed medications. Use the listing found in your Caresnet Account from Pacific Blue Cross to track your medical and dental expenses, but be sure to check the amounts; there are often errors or duplications in the new PBC system which will make the totals at the bottom of the page incorrect.

Payments to a medical doctor, dentist, and most paramedical service providers. Note: your Extended Health Care plan typically pays for a percentage of these medical costs; you may claim the remaining amount – the portion you paid - on your tax return.

Premiums that you paid to Pacific Blue Cross, Johnson's or any private health service plan. The amount that you paid directly, as a deduction to your pension, for EHC and Dental insurance, can be found in Box 135 of your T4A from the Teachers' Pension Plan.

Premiums paid for travel medical insurance plans. Note our MEDOC premiums include coverage for trip cancellation insurance which is not deductible. The confirmation of coverage letter that you received from Johnson Insurance in September states your premium and the portion that is for trip cancellation. Call Johnson's if you have lost your letter. (1.800.563.0677)

100% of the premiums that you pay for our new Johnson's EHC with Travel Insurance. You should have received a letter from Johnson's specifying the exact amount of your premiums that are claimable. Call Johnson's if you have not received it. (1.800.563.0677)

Payments:

- To public or licensed private hospitals.
- For respite care - up to the maximum allowable.
- For artificial limbs, wheelchairs, crutches, hearing aids, prescription eye glasses or contact lenses, dentures, pacemakers, prescription drugs and certain prescription medical devices that are not covered by your insurance plan.
- For attendant care, or medical care in an establishment.
- Relating to guide and service dogs.
- For travel costs if you travel a significant distance for treatment.

NOTE 1: MSP premiums are NOT claimable.

NOTE 2: We have been advised by Johnson's that premiums for Long Term Care Insurance are not an approved expense on your tax return.

NOTE 3: Search: "Which medical expenses are eligible?" at www.cra-arc.gc.ca for the complete list.

NOTE 4: A couple usually should combine all medical expenses on one tax return - usually the one with the lowest income – to gain the highest value deduction. You can also choose the most advantageous 12 month period to combine your claims. You may need to get tax advice to maximize your deductions.



Letters TO THE EDITOR

Our riding was strongly NDP. The 'unfair elections act' dissolved it by dividing it and adding our valley to a Conservative riding centred in Penticton. The Nelson side of our former riding, was similarly handled, and put with Cranbrook. Some of the candidates showed little or no interest in our local issues, were too busy to attend all-candidates' meetings and so on. The situation seemed bleak. After tirelessly knocking on doors, attending events and showing how much he cares, the NDP candidate in our new riding was elected with our help. In Nelson, most residents went to bed with the Conservative candidate having been declared, but in the morning they learned that the NDP was in by a hair. My faith in my community, and maybe my belief in magic, has been bolstered by these results, but they show that 'first past the post' is a game we can't afford to be playing. I was stunned by the grand Liberal win, and thrilled by the massive voter turnout. I feel relief, and have hope for positive change.

Lois Lawrence, Kootenay Lake West RTA

Dear friends,

A group of former Chilean refugees have banded together to sponsor Syrian families through the United Church, that seems to be the only organization open to private sponsorships. While welcoming the families they noticed an almost complete lack of English, especially from the parents.

Maybe this gives the BC Retired Teachers' Association an opportunity to shine by calling on

our retired ESL teachers to volunteer free language classes. The ones presently in existence for refugees are full and the waiting list is quite long. Without basic English those refugees will be unable to find work and sustain their families. I think this situation falls into our Social Justice vocation.

Sincerely,
Guillermo Bustos, Delta RTA

This letter fits well with the theme of volunteerism in the summer issue. Please send in accounts of your volunteer efforts, whether at home or overseas.

– Editor

I have an idea for the magazine that could be interesting and a help to our members. I recently had to return a potential fire hazard, which was a compact fluorescent light bulb, to Costco and also filed a report with the Healthy Canadian - Product Safety Dept. While on this site, I discovered that many holiday lights had been recalled from several retailers this season alone.

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/index-eng.php>

Perhaps if you included this link on a regular basis, members would get used to checking for recalls. Ones that you deem to be particularly noteworthy, you could mention.

Just a thought to keep us on our toes.

Norma Jee, Lower Vancouver Island RTA



Time to get moving...



Nelson Winterburn, Sea to Sky RTA



Craig Bassett, Burnaby RTA



Don Abel, Surrey RTA

...or not



Don Abel, Surrey RTA

THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE OF THE VERNON RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

SUBMITTED BY THE BCRTA HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The Heritage Committee of the Vernon Retired Teachers Association (VRTA) was formed in 2011. We had our first meeting on October 18, 2011. The members are all former primary teachers. The original committee members were Sandy Edgar, Flo Gallon, Fran Johnson, Joanne Main, Marg Myers and Tosh Tabata. From the first meeting some changes have occurred – Fran Johnson has passed away and Sandy Edgar resigned. We were very fortunate to have Isabel Leveille join our group in 2013.

At that first meeting we discussed what we hoped to achieve. It was decided that we would concentrate on the history of School District #22 (Vernon). We compiled a list of schools in the area (Vernon, Lumby and Cherryville) extending back to the very first educational institutions. This list was presented to members of the VRTA to determine if any facilities had been omitted.

We then began to work on the project, members of the Heritage Committee choosing the schools that they wanted to research. A decision was made to publish our work and sell the book. After starting to compile our research we realized that this goal would create a large publication. It was then decided we would divide the material and publish three books. The first publication was titled *The Early Schools of Vernon, Lumby and Cherryville*; it was published in the summer of 2014. This book covers schools primarily built in the 1800's and no longer in existence as an educational facility. We sold out the first printing of this publication by November 2014 and have since done a second printing.

Most of the information on these early schools was found in the Greater Vernon Museum and Archives. We visited this museum regularly and reviewed their files for information on the schools. Data was also gathered from the Cherryville & Area Museum and the Lumby Museum. Another source of information came from the Okanagan Historical Reports and other publications detailing the history of our area. We also interviewed former teachers and students who attended these early schools. Museum staff were very helpful as were members of the community who shared their knowledge with us.

Problems that we encountered were the discrepancies in dates, facts and locations of some of the early schools. Extensive research was conducted from a variety of sources in an attempt to validate the information. Problems with date differences were handled by "about" or "around" before the date. The location issues were dealt with in the same manner.

Through this research process, we garnered extensive knowledge of the early school history in this area. The highlights were a

feeling of accomplishment and knowing that we preserved the education history in our area for future generations.

At the present time we are working on the second book and will publish this once we have exhausted all research avenues. This publication includes both public and private schools that were constructed more recently. Some of these educational facilities no longer exist and others continue to provide an education for the children in our district. We are concentrating on facilities that provide an education from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Currently, we are approximately three quarters completed with this project and hope to have it ready to publish in the summer of 2016.

We meet once a month at each other's homes and discuss what has been completed and what is still outstanding. We visit each of the schools to gather current information on that facility. The Greater Vernon Museum and Archives continue to provide much history on the early days of the schools.

The third phase of our historical project is to collect teachers' personal teaching histories. We presently have some of these biographies completed and are currently encouraging more retired teachers to submit their memoirs. We have read some of these compositions at our VRTA meetings in the hope that this will inspire others to write theirs.

We wish to thank the BCRTA Heritage Committee for their financial support and encouragement.

**Since the writing of this article we are sad to announce that another founding member, Joanne Main has passed away.*



*Florence Gallon (left), Joanne Main, Margaret Myers, Mel Maglio and Toshiko Tabata look over a copy of *Early Schools of Vernon, Lumby and Cherryville Areas*. – Lisa VanderVelde/Morning Star*



RETIRED TEACHERS *write books*



Travelling Grannies by Suzanne Delisle and Arlene Buick

Imagine arriving in Marseilles in the late afternoon, renting a car for the first time, and spending over 4 hours looking for your hotel--only to end up at a cemetery with a stranger driving your car!! That is indeed what happened to two grannies, who decided their story needed to be told. Their range of experiences fluctuated between the ENTHRALLING, the PERPLEXING, and, most definitely, the INCONCEIVABLE. It is a sometimes hair-raising, sometimes hysterical account of these two ladies

who decided to go on an adventure to France and Italy "Flying by the seat of their pants"-WITHOUT GPS. The book also includes a Hints Section regarding travelling.

The ebook is available on iTunes and Amazon. The paperback is available on Amazon or they can contact us at arandsuz@gmail.com. We have a website www.travellinggrannies.com and we are on Facebook under "travelling grannies".

– Arlene Huxtable, Central Okanagan RTA



Black Cat Blues by Jo-Ann Carson

A nightmare waits in the alley...

Stabbed in an alley behind the Black Cat Blues bar, private investigator Jimmy Daniels clings to life just long enough to tell Maggy Malone a secret.

Maggy, a curvy, blonde, blues singer with a sultry voice and a razor sharp mind is starting her life over after a lousy marriage. Reluctant at first to get involved with a murder, she tells no one the secret.

But when the murderer stalks her, she changes her mind.

Maggy teams up with Jimmy's brother, Logan, a handsome suit with a tidy view of life. They figure out the killer

is looking for gold buried on Gabriola Island by the notorious, cult-leader Brother XII.

The body count rises. Will Maggy catch him? Or will she be his next victim?

And the lady sings the blues...

An Award Winning Romantic Suspense set in the Pacific Northwest.

Vancouver Blues Suspense Series, Book 1

Amazon Buy link: <http://amzn.com/B01837GGM2>

– Jo-Ann Terpstra, RTA member



Murder at Gates Landing by Doug David

Murder at Gates Landing: Edgar Wheeler was despised by everyone who knew him. He abused his wife, bullied his children, and cheated his business associates. Despite his involvement in at least three suspicious deaths, he avoided prosecution as he manipulated his way into a small fortune. When Wheeler was bludgeoned to death at the Sea Vista Inn on Gates Island, Cal Healy and Inspector Tony Montgomery pursued the investigation and it became clear that everyone close to him had a powerful motive. Wheeler's wife, his lawyer, his daughter, the

innkeeper, and even the maid were serious suspects. Healy and Montgomery also realized that the Golden Octagon, a stolen Chinese antiquity, was integral to the murder and the investigation. With many false leads Healy struggled to find the trail of clues that would lead to the killer.

Available from amazon.ca and Ex Libris Publishing.

– Doug David, Coquitlam RTA

We have received a copy for the BCRTA book shelves of "Homesteading and Stump Farming on the West Coast 1880-1930" written by Barbara Ann Lambert. 'This is a step back in time when every small community on the coast had its own school district and one room school. The school was the educational and social centre of the community.' This book can be borrowed from our library and is also available by googling Friesenpress or Amazon.com.

More and more teachers are sending in book titles and our space is limited. Have patience! – Editor

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY *for* BC'S LARGEST UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL

BY GORD YAKIMOW, CHILLIWACK RTA

The 21st annual BC Ukrainian Cultural Festival will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at the Clarke Theatre in Mission, BC (located in Heritage Park Secondary School on Prentis Ave).

Last year's Festival involved over 300 performers in troupes from Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Victoria, Seattle, Comox, Kelowna, Kamloops, Vernon, Prince George, Abbotsford, and the host city, Mission.

"When we started this 20 years ago, we never dreamed that it would grow this large," said Gladys Andreas, originator of the Festival. "When the Hopak comes on, the festival theatre goes wild."

Andreas, who has been recognized nationally for her contribution to Ukrainian culture in Canada (by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, the governing body of all Ukrainian activities in Canada), and internationally (by the Government of Ukraine), was the official "hospodynia" (hostess) for last year's Festival. And as a bonus, she and her Ukrainian Prairie Band were one of several musical groups performing at various locations throughout the venue.

"The Festival will feature a kaleidoscope of exciting and energetic dances, colourful costumes, live musical

groups, booths with Ukrainian arts and crafts ... and a kitchen with good Ukrainian soul food," explained Glenna Nychporuk, president of the BC Ukrainian Cultural Festival Society, chair of the Festival organizing committee, and a parent of four children, all of whom have performed at the Festival. "It is the showcase for Ukrainian culture in British Columbia."

Performances begin at 8:30 AM and extend throughout the day. Highlights will involve the "Previt" (traditional Ukrainian welcome dance), scheduled for approx 2:00 PM, and the "Hopak" (the national dance of Ukraine, and each troupe's showcase performance), scheduled for approx 5:00 PM.

At Festival 2015, the Vancouver troupe Dovbush unseated Barvinok of Seattle for the best "Previt," and Kvitka of Surrey claimed the trophy for the best "Hopak."

Tickets are available at the door.
Info: WWW.BCUCF.CA

Ed Note: This event will be of interest to anyone of eastern European heritage, and to those interested in multiculturalism.



PATRICK KAZIMBU *AND* NANTU

BY GORD YAKIMOW, CHILLIWACK RTA

NANTU is the Namibian National Teachers Union, in which Patrick Kazimbu is the Director of Research and Communication. At the workshop on October 21st he was accompanied by Don Reader, from the BCTF Solidarity Committee, who has spent many years in assisting NANTU. Patrick used a digital photo presentation with explanations about Namibia as a nation and about the schooling system. Namibia is located in SW Africa. In area it is about 90 % the size of B.C. It has an unique and varied landscape and climate patterns. The northern region often has heavy rains and floods. The south is arid and has the highest sand dunes in the world along the Atlantic coast.

Following a war of secession from South Africa, Namibia celebrates as its Independence Day, 21 March 1990. Its motto is "Unity, Liberty, Justice". Following the resistance to South African rule there was a message of reconciliation with the "whites". The economy is still largely controlled by this group. Namibia has a democratically elected parliament, in which half of the members are women. The presidents are limited to two terms of five years. Divided into 13 political regions, its population is about 2.2 million of which 2/3 live in the four northern regions. There are many tribal languages; the Oshiwando dialects being spoken by 48 %. The European languages, spoken mostly by "whites" are; Afrikaans at 60%, German at 32 % and English at 7 %. English was declared to be the official language, even though only 1% of the people speak it as their native language.

The BCTF connection.

Larry Kuehn visited South Africa in the late 1980s, and within years Susan Lambert and Don Reader were in Namibia assisting the teachers. OXFAM was involved until 2000. Since 1994 the BCTF has assisted with such language programs as: TELSIP, the English language training program

and ELPP, English language proficiency program. Progress is slow and expected to take generations. Workshops were created focusing on such topics as: empowerment, legal documents, grievance handling, conflict resolution, and membership education. Thirty BCTF teachers have been trained as mentors. Some 23 NANTU teachers received training: at the Justice Institute, at the Canadian Labour Congress training at Harrison Hot Springs, at Summer

Conferences, etc. Many BCTF members have assisted, including: Sheila Pither, Irene Lanzinger, and Jim Iker. Don and Patrick had many photos of some schools and orphanages. Education is a top priority at about 20% of the budget. There remains a shortage of English speaking teachers. Proficiency in English is one way of improving ones status and wealth. New and better schools are being constructed. Recent special projects include: building the Oshitamba School in a rural area, where students were previously being taught under a tree (photos taken). Support for the Ufenkenda Orphanage. The Aids epidemic has left over 154,000 children without parents. Setting up

the Kavango East/West offices, in which VESTA made a contribution. From the photos we were able to see the variety of clothing styles and how different villages were constructed. Apparently in some rural areas women do most of the work, and where there is cattle, which is a sign of wealth, children do the herding.

NANTU Challenges: the poor classroom conditions, mostly in rural areas; the need for more Pro Day programs; redefining who can be a member, now at 23,190; and implementing a wage scale (set at the maximum after 10 years) that reflects experience and years of training. The salaries are now capped at 4 years training. Teachers with Masters and Doctorate degrees, can only benefit if they plan career advancement.



Don Reader and three teachers



Don Reader, Sheila Pither, Patrick Kazimbu

GOLDEN STAR AWARD BOWEN ISLAND

Written By Elaine Anderson,
Excellence in Education Committee Member

On May 21st I had the privilege of presenting a Golden star Award to Bowen Island Community School for its intergenerational project. I was accompanied by the BCRTA Office Administrator, Patricia Laursen who lives on Bowen Island. As well I invited my husband and two of my grandchildren to join us. It was a beautiful sunny day and a ferry ride to Bowen Island seemed like a nice thing to do together seeing as the theme was intergenerational. We were greeted by the Community School Coordinator, Sarah Haxby.

The Bowen Island Community School project is called Grandfriends, For twenty years it has been creating special connections between students and members of the community. Participating grandfriends are fifty-five years or older but they do not have to be grandparents. The program runs during class time in the community school and at S.K.Y. (Seniors Keeping Young) at the Bowen Court Seniors' Co-housing hall. The Community School Coordinator works with teachers and parent and senior volunteers to facilitate the program.

It affords an opportunity for seniors in the area to come to school and to work on small projects with the students of the school. Students learn to use a variety of communication skills, they learn empathy, listening skills, respect and the basic elements of community building. The afternoon started with the students serving a small snack and a cup of tea to the seniors. A small musical ensemble played music while we ate and also there was a short musical presentation later in the afternoon. After the presentation of the cheque and statuette the students presented some tanka poems that they had written and then they worked together in small groups with the seniors to write a tanka poem. Tanka is a Japanese verse form in five lines with the first and third line consisting of five syllables and the second, fourth and fifth line consisting of seven syllables. Our little group wrote one about baseball. The next activity was origami. Each individual had a try at making either a crane, a dinosaur or a mushroom.



Golden Star Award presented by Elaine Anderson, (far left)

GOLDEN STAR AWARD CORDOVA BAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

JUNE 1, 2015

**Written by Carolyn Prellwitz,
Excellence in Education Committee Member (2014/15)**

About ten years or so ago, Cordova Bay Elementary School found itself with an empty classroom and a non-profit seniors' activity organization, the Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association, was looking for a home. An agreement was drawn up between the Saanich School District, the Saanich Parks and Recreation and Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association. The Association could have the space previously used as a classroom and office for its new home as long as it paid for all the necessary renovations. An addition was added to the club space a few years later with funds raised by 55+ members. The School District provides ongoing maintenance and cleaning and covers all the utilities while the Saanich Parks and Recreation has access to the activity space in the club area for scheduling some of its programs.

Where previous Golden Star Award winners in the province have seen school children take up classroom space in a seniors residential care facility, this 2015 Golden Star Award winner had the seniors taking space in an elementary school building! An excellent deal for all with the school children having the biggest benefit of having in-house Club 55+ members work with them in various intergenerational programs.

Together the school children and seniors have enjoyed seasonal celebrations, games, cooking classes, crafts, family history, physical education, photography, knitting and computer classes. Both groups also work together in a multi-year program called "Handy Grandies" in support of African grandmothers via the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The result of the various student-senior collaborations is a strong sense of shared community supported by mutual understanding and respect.

On Monday, June 1, 2015 BCRTA Excellence in Education Committee member, Carolyn Prellwitz, presented the 2015 Golden Star Award (trophy and \$1000 cheque) to school principal, Kelly Uraii, at a school assembly. David Docherty, President of the Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association, spoke to the assembled group of students, teachers and seniors about what a privilege it has been to have their seniors organization based in a school and how much enjoyment and pleasure his members have had through sharing the various intergenerational activities with the students.



Golden Star Award presented by Carolyn Prellwitz (right)

In her remarks to the audience Carolyn Prellwitz remarked that the presentation was coincidentally happening on the 6th annual Canadian Intergenerational Day. She interacted with students about ways to celebrate this day without spending any money. Multiple hands shot up from the students to such questions as, "If you had only a few seconds, how would

you celebrate? Only five minutes? An hour? Or a whole day?" Answers included. "Smile and say hello." "Hold open a door for a senior." "Play a game together." "Share a meal together," and so on. It was clear from the children's answers that their interaction with their 55+ buddies had some impact.

After the presentation, audience members were treated to a short photo display with music projected on to the school wall featuring various school activities, including some with seniors. After that the students were dismissed and BCRTA guests and Club 55+ members in attendance enjoyed fresh baked cinnamon buns and coffee in the Club 55+ section of the school.

R.R. Smith MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION REPORT



R.R. Smith
MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION

AN EDUCATIONAL LEGACY
THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE BCRTA

RECIPIENT CHILDREN'S CARE INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Yerramma's family is very poor and had contracted a lot of debts. Therefore, Yerramma used to work many hours a day (10 to 12 hours) in a fish factory until the age of 8 years old when CCI negotiated her release from bonded labor. She was one of the first children that were freed from labor exploitation by Children's Care International and its partners in 2003. Right now, she is pursuing her fourth year of Bachelor's degree in nursing at the American NRI College of nursing in the village of Sangivalasa near Visakhapatnam. Yerramma is close to finishing her education thanks to the generous contribution of the RR Smith Memorial Fund. The funds received every year cover her tuition fees and related school expenses such as room and board, food, medical expenses and school supplies.

Thotamma comes from a very poor family, and only has her mother and her sister. She used to work on a fishing boat when she was a little girl to help reimburse the family's debts. She was also freed from labor exploitation in 2003 and enrolled at the school build by CCI: the Rainbow Centre. Along with

Yerramma, Thotamma has now started her fourth year of Bachelor's degree in nursing. She loves her program and has already completed an internship at the local hospital in Visakhapatnam. She is very studious and determined to achieve her dream.

Aruna's father died when she was a little girl. She used to sell tea with her mother before joining CCI's program in 2005. Aruna is now enrolled in the Venkatapadma School of Nursing in Vizianagaram. She wishes to have a stable job in a public hospital when she graduates in two years. The funds received from the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund allow her to stay in school so that she can fulfill her dream of being a surgical nurse.

In order to keep these girls away from bonded labor and exploitation, CCI has committed to support them until they graduate. They will have no trouble finding jobs as nurses have a good employment rate in their region. We are able to accomplish that mission because of the trust and generous contribution of the RR Smith Memorial Fund.



A decorative header featuring a collage of school-related items and autumn leaves. At the top, there's a green chalkboard, a yellow school bus, a red apple, and several yellow and orange leaves. Below these, a white banner contains the title "Memories of Early School Days" in a green, serif font. Underneath the banner, more school supplies like a paint palette, pencils, and a ruler are visible, along with more autumn leaves.

Memories of Early School Days

In kindergarten we did lots of sitting in a circle defined by inlaid tiles on the wood floor, singing while our rather stern teacher played the piano. I think there were lots of us in the class and I was pretty nervous at first, until the teacher told me my mom was just at home washing clothes. That sounded about right, so I held on to the image of Mom at the wringer washer in our basement and felt better. I loved entering the K room and seeing a paper plate of pre-cut construction paper pieces, blunt scissors and a jar of rather edible white paste with a brush in it in the middle of our group of tables. My greatest challenge turned out to be the day we had to use those big, dark pencils to draw lines connecting each farm animal pictured in our full-colour Dick and Jane workbook with it's proper pen, coop or whatever. I don't think I'd ever been on a farm and didn't have a clue, but have since raised pigs and chickens which were kept in suitably accommodated. I can still picture my grubby page. In grade one the teacher had a colourful felt board she used almost daily with us seated in front of her, but by grade two, we were in our desks most of the time. By grade five, the desks had holes in them for little bottles of ink in which we would dip our straight pens. That's what really tells me it was whole other era.

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– Lois Lawrence, Kootenay Lake West RTA

My late mother Louise Barry (nee Orton and later Cavani) came to BC in 1949 as a single mother with her 3 preschool children. She had a Saskatchewan teaching certificate and could not obtain a BC Certificate until she had completed required French courses. To support her family, she taught, where there was no BC certified teacher available, with a Letter of Permission.

Her first position was in Tofino, where she scandalized the locals by employing a First Nations housekeeper/nanny. Also, she was organist for her local church and the local Catholic church. Here she also supplemented her income and our diet by working part-time at the local fish cannery.

Then she taught in Giscome, outside Prince George, and Yale.

In Yale, she was the head teacher for two schools on the main street. One was a grades 1-3 school, and Mom taught grades 4-6 in the local community hall. It was here she ran community dances, and her pupils enjoyed the square dances she had taught in class. I met my first crush square dancing here!

That Fall, after several tries, Mom was unable to obtain a reliable babysitter for me, so she took me to school with her. Only in a rural school could this happen I am sure! Apparently I insisted on learning to read if I had to be there. I went through many Nicky the Dog and similar fill in materials. A very bright student, Eleanor, whom Mom was accelerating through the maximum allowed 2 years in 1 year, assisted me.

In February, I needed more, so I joined the other grade ones.

Mom finally got those French credits through summer school and Surepass College. That summer we moved to Kamloops, where, as I had turned 6 the previous May, I was enrolled in grade 1. That teacher did not know what to do with a reader so I was soon moved to grade 2.

During our teaching careers, both Mom and myself, have through circumstances, moved and taught in many schools and grades. But as one superintendent (remember when we had annual evaluations?) concluded on her report: "Mrs. Cavani is an excellent teacher. She is proof that a rolling stone does not gather any moss, but it sure gets a lot of shine!"

She indeed made a great difference for eternity, for her students and me with her care, hard work, dedication and teaching skills.

– Judy Loutit, RTA member

.....

THE WAY WE WERE. . .

I attended Seaforth Elementary School in North Burnaby in the 1950s. There was no kindergarten class then at that school so my mother had taught me the alphabet at home and I could already read a little by the time I started grade one. I so looked forward to beginning school but what a disappointment to find that for the first month "reading" class was just colouring the letters of the alphabet and learning the basic letter sounds. So boring! Eventually we worked through that and onto actually reading Run Spot, run! See Spot run! It seemed that the class in those far off days waited for any slower students to catch up and sometimes the more able ones were set to helping them practise. At recess we played jacks, skipped to arcane chants, played Go-Go-Stop or sat talking under that tree where I unearthed an arrowhead one day and the following year a piece of amber with an insect in it. Both pieces got lost over the years.

Children then seemed always to be able to find something to occupy themselves, making up games and stories from their imaginations if there was no group activity going on.

One thing I didn't like was having to wear a dress, and guard against tearing or dirtying it and having to change for gym class

into white shorts and blue t-shirt, white socks and only-for-the-gym sneakers. No clean gym strip – no gym.

Lunchtime we would open our metal lunch boxes, whether Roy Rogers or Dale Evans decorated – and have huge appetites for whatever mom had packed inside. There didn't seem to be anyone suffering from food allergies in those days and we would sometimes swap food items. Every Valentine's Day Kenny Hughes' mother would bring in a platter of decorated cupcakes for the class since that was shy Kenny's birthday, but for some reason he invariably seemed to have a cold on that day and was seldom there to share them with the class. I attended the same school for my elementary school years and it seemed a very settled and safe time of life.

– *Bonnie Chapman, Delta RTA*

Recalling my early school days at Nelson Avenue in Burnaby. I remember playing in the basement of the school on rainy days; hopscotch, skipping and baseball on dry days. Nothing was organized. A bunch of kids just got together and played a game. In about Gr. 3 or 4, there were so many kids and not enough room for us all, so while we waited for Sussex Avenue School to be built, we had a couple of years of "swing shift". Some students went for the morning shift; the others attended the afternoon shift. I have no idea how the admin and teachers handled it, but I remember it was pretty hard on my mom. With five kids to juggle, she felt she was a short-order cook for the entire day!

– *Merrilyn Laursen, New Westminster RTA*

Memories

It seems to me that about half of the teachers in Hume School were quite mean. My own cousin, Ida Mae F. was my Grade One teacher, but she was not one of the mean ones. However, she did believe in "giving anyone the ruler," when discipline was required. What bothered me was that she would always use my ruler because it was a Fleming's Store ruler which was about 15" long and at least double the usual thickness.

My Grade 2 teacher was Miss L and I remember being terrified as she made her way up the row behind me, checking work. My Grade 3 teacher was that wonderful lady, Miss J. She taught

Geography by telling stories and I remember some of them yet. I understand that when Robert was in her class and Miss J had just finished one country, she said "Next week, we will go to India." Robert said "Miss J, I don't know if my mother will let me go." Her stories were that real.

For Grade 4, I had Mr. W. I liked him alright but once he gave me the strap and it rolled up my bare arm right to my elbow. Once he took a student (maybe it was Jack M) and hung him by his heels out the second storey window. In Grade 5, I had the real mean one, Miss S. I don't know how often she gave me the strap, but it happened frequently. One day she told the class "If you get the strap and then go home and tell you got the strap, you'll get it again." I told my mother and I remember her phoning Miss S. She said "Now Miss S, if my son deserves the strap, that's alright, but if you give him the strap for telling me about it, you are going to have to deal with me!" I was really proud to hear her say that.

Once I was sick at school and vomited on the floor beside my desk. It would have been in Miss S's class and rather than take me to the Medical Room and have me looked after, she made me go to the basement to find the janitor to clean it up.

Mr. M was the janitor and was a very kind man who was loved by everyone. One of his responsibilities was to be sure nobody went into the school before one o'clock after lunch, hence his nickname "One O'clock." He couldn't tell the twins apart, so he called them "Wallace-Arthur" and "Arthur-Wallace."

Miss C taught all the classes music. In her singing class, she would pull Kurt T's hair, telling him "Sing higher," which Kurt couldn't do. One day she broke her yardstick over Gordon L's head and she made him take it home and glue it back together.

In Grade 6 we had the Principal, Mr. S. One time he got so mad at Kurt T that he took him by the shoulders and began to shake him. Kurt held tightly to the desk and soon all the screws that held it to the floor were shaken loose.

Every year when a new group of students learned in Grade 7 Science Class of the explosives qualities of sulphur and potassium chlorate, quantities of the powders would be bought at Smythe's Drugstore and set on the track for the streetcar to explode as it drove over it.

– *Gordon Fleming, RTA member*



Mr. Dick and Schoolbus



General Currie School



Bridgeport 1919 Entrance Class

The Long Road to Full Collective Bargaining Rights for Teachers

By Ken Novakowski

The BCTF and its locals over a long period of time took many important steps towards the achievement of full collective bargaining rights for teachers. Those rights were not fully won until legislation in 1987 granted teachers to bargain for virtually all terms of conditions of employment with the right to strike as an impasse resolution. The story of the achievement of these bargaining rights is much longer and involved than the stories that follow but suffice it to say that each of the events highlighted below were undertaken by teacher locals at their own initiative, with support from the BCTF but with the leadership coming from teachers in the local. Each of these events made a significant contribution towards the ultimate achievement of full bargaining rights for teachers and should be recognized and commemorated in the communities in which they took place.

1 In 1919, in Victoria, 178 teachers went on strike over salaries constituting what was the first teacher strike in Canada. There was no legal framework for teachers to strike; local associations of teachers did not have any legal standing as bargaining units. But, Victoria teachers struck nonetheless and forced government to introduce an early form of voluntary salary arbitration to resolve salary disputes. This strike marks the first step by teachers in BC on their long march to obtain full and free collective bargaining rights and is a significant event in the history of the BCTF.

2 In 1921, New Westminster teachers went on strike because their Board failed to implement an arbitration award granted through the process of voluntary arbitration that had been established by government following the 1919 Victoria strike. There was no legal framework for teachers to strike at this time. Their strike did establish the right of local teacher associations to represent teachers in bargaining, a significant step on the long march of teachers towards the eventual attainment of full collective bargaining rights. It took the election of a new school board later that year to see the arbitration award successfully implemented. It marks an early step of teachers demonstrating their willingness to stand up for their rights when few statutory rights actually existed.

3 In 1939, Langley Teachers' Association President Connie Jervis and her colleagues played a significant role in securing the right established in legislation in 1937 that would require School Boards to participate in binding arbitration to settle salary disputes with teachers and to honour the outcome of such arbitrations. Langley teachers resisted attempts by their Board to ignore the arbitration award they were granted and even took their Board to court where they were successful in getting a decision to uphold their arbitration award. The Board still refused and Jervis and other teachers stood up to their board even after facing dismissals and transfers. The teachers ultimately prevailed against strong community opposition when the provincial education ministry fired the school board and had an appointed trustee honour the arbitration award.

The courageous stand of Langley teachers meant that henceforth, school boards in BC would respect the outcome of arbitrations, an important step towards improving teacher bargaining rights.

4 In 1974, with an education friendly NDP government in Victoria, and after years of BCTF campaigns to achieve class size reductions, Surrey teachers took action. At this time the legislative framework for teacher bargaining included only salaries and bonuses with compulsory arbitration as the only resolution mechanism. Hence bargaining was not a vehicle to achieve working and learning conditions improvements. So, in the most significant demonstration of political action to that point in the BCTF's history, Surrey teachers in mid-February, decided at a general meeting that the very next day they would not report for work and would board buses bound for Victoria to protest the huge class sizes that were affecting teachers' ability to teach. The results of the walkout, confronting a government that had promised action on class size, were dramatic. A three year program of successive class size reductions was introduced resulting in the hiring of thousands of teachers around BC and improvement in learning conditions for hundreds of thousands of students. This action by Surrey teachers marked a major step in the long teacher struggle to obtain full collective bargaining rights.

5 In June of 1981 teachers in Terrace engaged in a six day strike to have aspects of their working conditions included in an agreement with their Board. At this time, the legal framework for teacher bargaining required Boards to bargain only for salaries and bonuses. The only resolution mechanism for disputes was binding arbitration. So Terrace teachers challenged both of these tenets through their action. And they were successful. They achieved a number of provisions dealing with personnel practices in an enforceable agreement with their Board. This was a very

significant action for all BC teachers because it was used as a beacon for what was possible as teacher locals across the province geared up for a major BCTF led campaign to expand the scope of bargaining in the fall of 1981. The Terrace strike marks a significant step for all BC teachers in their long struggle to obtain full collective bargaining rights.

The BCRTA Board passed a motion that the BCRTA give a grant of \$1 000 for each plaque to commemorate teachers' improvement in bargaining rights.

Climate Change Science: An Updated Resource With Canadian and Global Impacts, Mitigation & Adaptation

By Harold Gopaul, Coquitlam RTA

My first edition was posted one year ago on TeachBC entitled "Climate Change: A Science & Social Studies Resource for Students." Since then so much has occurred in the past year on climate change including the politics at the UN Paris Conference in 2015, that this revision was deemed necessary. About 80% of the content from my earlier edition was kept; I also made a few grammatical corrections. My title and cover page have also changed. With 185 downloads in over a year from my earlier edition, teachers should be aware that this book continues to support curriculum concepts in social studies and the sciences. It is my wish that all students including those in elementary schools would have the opportunity to access this free and updated copy from the BCTF website "TeachBC". For teachers, my message is to select what fits in your teaching and review the 'Questions' at the end of each chapter for students' discussion. Please feel free to pass on my material to your students.

There are four chapters of 286 pages, not short on details, with illustrations, graphs and photos from well-established research centres and from my globe-trotting. Canada's contribution at the UN Climate Conferences from Kyoto to Paris is given extensive coverage. Much of the material is of global consideration but not sparing Canadian environmental issues and needs, from the Arctic to the oil sands, transport of bitumen by pipeline, and what British Columbians are saying about pollution-free ecosystems and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As a science resource, it cites peer-review journals, established national and international organizations such

as NASA, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Environment Canada, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel, the Canadian Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Natural Resources Canada, the Oil Sands Advisory Panel, and many more. There are no doom and gloom scenarios presented but evidence supported by hundreds of climate scientists, the media and citing about 300 references.

Our children and grandchildren are more likely to experience the consequences of climate change in the decades ahead and need to be empowered to make wise decisions about their future. I believe that this book provides some of the tools necessary to guide them in making decisions about their future.

Questions of an interactive nature for students and teachers are provided at the end of each chapter for discussion, followed by a list of references. Appropriate websites and a glossary appear at the end of the book with a brief biography of the author.

The renowned biologist Edward Wilson bluntly asks, "Do we want to destroy the creation? That is what we are doing at an accelerating rate." Mahatma Gandhi, ahead of his time, pleaded, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." Nelson Mandela in his wisdom proclaimed that,

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. We know what needs to be done—all that is missing is the will to do it."

farewell to Patricia Laursen

By Ken Kuhn

Liaison Priorities Newsletter Editor

Our BCRTA Office Administrator, Patricia Laursen, has retired after 17 years—and working under 10 different BCRTA presidents during her tenure as Office Administrator. She willingly gave her help and assistance to the BCRTA Board as well as to the general membership. She organized the BCRTA Annual General Meeting where she was very visible. At the AGM she made many friends from across the province and they will miss her cheerful nature at future events.

Pat plans to travel and relax in the early stages of her retirement. Several part-time positions may be of interest to her with small businesses where she resides on Bowen Island. Patricia was born and raised in British Columbia and spent most of her childhood in either Victoria or Vancouver. Her background is varied, from typesetting for a local newspaper to administration duties at West Vancouver Yacht Club. Her hobbies include gardening, stained glass and enjoying the company of close friends.

Bob Taverner, our current BCRTA president, says “there have been times when it’s fair to say she’s kept the organization from drifting into minor catastrophes”. At her farewell dinner several BCRTA past presidents spoke of her involvement for the BCRTA. The BCRTA Board made her an Associate member of the BCRTA. We all wish her a happy and long retirement. We thank Patricia for all her dedication and hard work during these 17 years.



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Learning Centre Director
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LAST WORD FOR

– *the crossword* –

not forgetting the sudoku



I spent a very pleasant three and a half hours at the office yesterday in the company of Kristi and Laurie as I worked my way through 186 envelopes after six had been pulled by a BCTF office staffer. This is a true exercise in confidence building, not that I really need it after our survey reported a 96% readership of the Postscript – but nice all the same to have contact with readers and puzzlers.

A large majority of those who submit puzzles scribble a few words around the edges of the page, thanking me for the puzzles and wishing me and the staff at this time a merry Christmas and a happy new year. There were far too many for me to mention by name, but thank you David, Anne, Muriel, Joe and Christine for your cards.

One envelope contained four pages, two entries each from one couple. That envelope was pulled, but I had to turn to Laurie with four pages splayed out, and she pulled one. So please share the prize and treat eat other to a coffee! Within the pile I had one membership application and cheque which I handed over and two were notes telling us of members who have passed away. One requested a Postscript please, and two let us know of their email address though they still wanted a paper magazine. While in the office a new member came in and signed up and handed over a cheque and I was able to give her a magazine too.

Two envelopes had ‘early memory’ articles in them which I passed over to Kristi who puts the magazine together, and I have sent a card to one author for his account which brought a smile. Have a look at this issue and see if you can spot it! Two others had written and their comments led me to send their notes on to the Pensions chair and the Social Concerns chair.

Dorothy S. wrote and asked if pencil was accepted and it is, as long as I can read it. She mentioned doing the daily crossword puzzles in the newspaper – as I do – two of them. Harumi B. said the same thing about daily Sudoku. The more you do the easier they become. Only half a decorated Sudoku this time from Paul S. and Tom H. worked his puzzles on Christmas Eve! Linda L. suggested we ask members to submit their email addresses – I think we do in most issues Linda. Alice was pleased at the pension increase but wondered, as we all must do, whether it would actually cover all those other increases out there.

David W. enjoyed his white Christmas in Kelowna and lower mainland residents missed out this year(sigh of relief from me!) Lois M. appreciated the time in retirement to spend on puzzles and Lois C remarked on the long ‘drainy’ winter days – nice to have something to fill them. Laurie M. is carrying on a family tradition as her late mother Beverly was a puzzler too and they used to compare answers. Ed P. remarked on fifteen years of retirement and how time does roll on.

Well it does and you are waiting for the winners so here they are; for crossword puzzles Ken Rich of Mission, Dorothy Edmonds of Victoria and Doreen Neu of Gibsons. For Sudoku we pulled Grant Spelsberg of Summerland, Sheila Morrison of North Vancouver and Sheena McCubbin of Prince George. I think I overheard Kristi say one of these winners is up for the second time but our methods of pulling six envelopes are squeaky clean – no bribery or greasing of the palm involved. Good puzzling everyone for the coming year and thank you for your participation.

All the best, Sheila Gair.

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

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.

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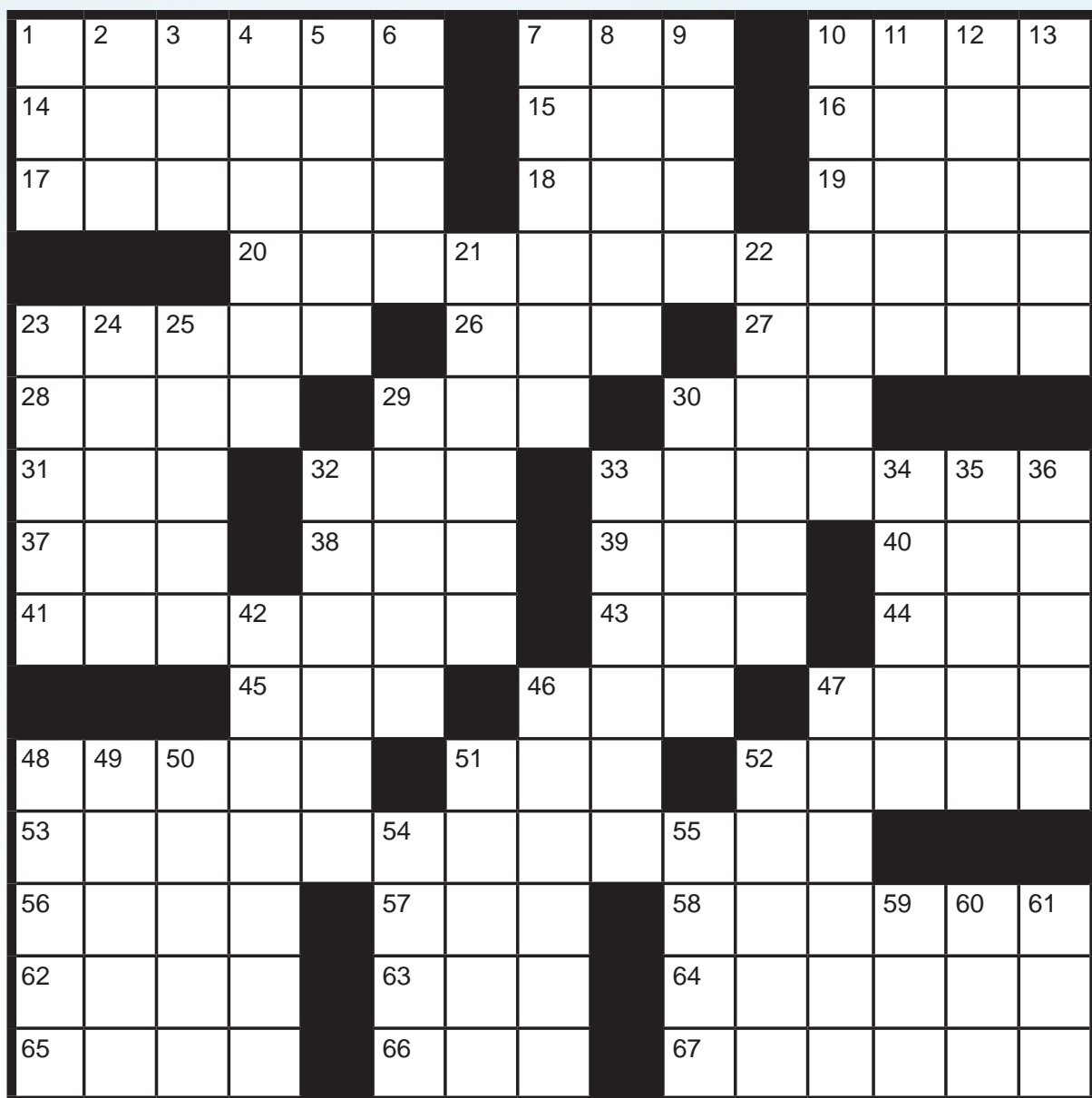
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March 30th, 2016



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Crossword



ACROSS

1. WILD DOG
7. SIT UP TARGETS
10. LESS THAN WHOLE
14. MOUNTAIN AREA
15. ACTIVIST NELLY ____
16. ALWAYS
17. DETONATIONS
18. MOVE FAST
19. WANDER
20. NATURE'S FIREWORKS
23. DREAMS
26. CATCH A CROOK
27. CHURCH WALKWAY
28. MONOGRAM - SHORT FORM
29. KIND OF SCREEN
30. ____ AND TONIC
31. WIDTH OF CIR.
32. FEATHERY SCARF
33. GLOWING INSECT
37. YEARS & YEARS
38. LIMB

DOWN

1. POKE
2. EVERYONE
3. SPREADSHEET PRO
4. FATE
5. POKER STAKES
6. PERCHANCE
7. OVERSEAS
8. BOOK JACKET INFO
9. THESAURUS WRDS
10. JOAN OF ARC
11. MAKES CLEAR
12. FLAT
13. FRENCH BROTHER
21. PITCH TENTS
22. COIFFURE
23. SECRETES
24. ROOT VEG.
25. STEINWAY
29. YOUNG MAN
40. GRASSY AREA
41. FUJI SUMMIT
43. NUMERO ____
44. SON OF PRINCEVAL
45. ____ SOLO
46. WAGER
47. RUN WILD
48. FRAGILE
51. ____ RAND, AUTHOR
52. STALKS TO KILL
53. COPY EXACTLY (3 WRDS)
56. QATAR NEIGHBOUR
57. TIP OF PEN
58. CHECKED MANUSCRIPT
62. HOLY CITY
63. PIGS HOME
64. DESIGN & MAKE
65. FARM WAGON
66. ____ KWAN DO
67. IN A NUTSHELL

DOWN

1. POKE
2. EVERYONE
3. SPREADSHEET PRO
4. FATE
5. POKER STAKES
6. PERCHANCE
7. OVERSEAS
8. BOOK JACKET INFO
9. THESAURUS WRDS
10. JOAN OF ARC
11. MAKES CLEAR
12. FLAT
13. FRENCH BROTHER
21. PITCH TENTS
22. COIFFURE
23. SECRETES
24. ROOT VEG.
25. STEINWAY
29. UPDATED SEXTANT
30. HUGE
32. LAUREN ____
33. SPEAKS EASILY
34. ATTRACTS MOTHS
35. ____ BROWN
36. PULLS HARD
42. ELI ____
46. CHEERIO (2 WDS)
47. MORE FANCY
48. NORSE INLET
49. GOSSIP
50. HONSHU VOLCANO
51. JAPANESE DOG
52. PRIEST
54. SCHOLARLY ORG.
55. MILD SWEAR WORD
59. TREAT LEATHER
60. SUMMER IN PARIS
61. PENN. NEIGHBOUR

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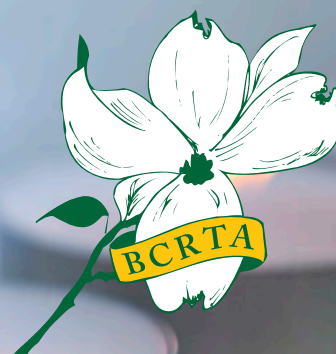
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CLAZIE, Betty, Saanich
COOKE, C. Lorne, Vancouver
CURRIE, Ian H., Abbotsford
DICK, Frank, Vancouver
DOLAN, F. Brien, Campbell River
DROPPERS, Joan, Sooke
ELLIS, Lynda, Kootenay Columbia
FRYDECKY, Olga V. E., Clearwater
GLANVILLE, Alice, Grand Forks
HALKETT, Gavin, Nanaimo
HARDING, Howard, Campbell River
HINTZ, Edwin, Vancouver

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MAIN, Joanne, Vernon
McMARTIN, Arthur W., Vernon
MEREDITH, Doreen E., Powell River
PIAZZA, Marjorie, South Okanagan
PINDER, Treva H., Surrey
REDECOPP, Peter D., Greater Victoria
ROBERTSON, Barbara, Hope
ROBINSON, Katherine H., Burnaby
RUTHERFORD, Bruce T., Surrey
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TIMMONS, Mary, Vancouver
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