

THE MAGAZINE FOR RETIRED EDUCATORS

# PostScript

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# PRESIDENT'S



## MESSAGE



### WINTER 2015

I can't write this column without some reference to the recent federal election, can I?

I think we, the BCRTA, did a good job of remaining non-partisan while raising important issues for members to think about, and to ask their MP candidates about. What did you think of the Seniors' Issues booklet we included as the centre piece of the last Issue of Postscript? We certainly received high praise for it from all across Canada, from provincial RTAs, and from a number of other organizations and community groups.

The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) reprinted our booklet under its own logo (with our permission, of course), and distributed it nationally. And there again, it received high praise. Kudos to the members of our Health & Housing, Social Concerns, and Pensions & Benefits committees, who put so much time and effort into producing such a high quality publication. And thanks to JoAnn Lauber, ACER-CART President, for helping to ensure that the booklet received national exposure.

At our October-end Board meeting, BCRTA directors received copies of the results of our recent Membership Survey, conducted by the Mustel Group Market Research Company. The Mustel report will be posted on our website ([bcrt.ca](http://bcrt.ca)), where you can peruse it at your leisure, if you're interested. The full version is nearly 30 pages long.

We, the directors, are happy with the overall high ratings survey participants gave us for what the BCRTA does and has been doing. High marks, in particular, for this magazine (good job Sheila!), for our travel insurance, and for our advocacy efforts on behalf of our members. There is also strong support (72%) for our non-partisan approach to sometimes politically charged issues.

2,160 of our roughly 8,000 members for whom we have email addresses responded to the survey, which we were told by Mustel is a much higher than average rate of return. That apparently means a high "confidence" rating in the accuracy of the results. Thanks, indeed, to all who took the time to respond.

However, only 200 of our roughly 7,000 not-on-email members were involved in the survey. They were chosen by Mustel at random, and were phoned for their input. This had a few of our not-on-email, and not-phoned members upset. Some of them wanted to participate in the survey, but were not given the chance. And that raises questions about how we communicate with our members. Not only were almost half of our members left out of the survey, but they do not receive copies of Liaison Priorities, the BCRTA newsletter that we have recently started emailing out -- unless branch presidents print them off and distribute them at meetings, a relatively costly undertaking in itself.

The problem is the something-like \$7,000 we would incur every time we do a Canada Post mailing of Liaison Priorities to our not-on-email members. Our directors are a bit torn over that issue. Would our members agree to an eventual fee increase to cover that?

In any case, our Communications Committee (as well as Board members) will be looking closely at the survey results, considering how best to continue, and to improve upon what we do for and on behalf of our members. Feel free to email, or snail mail your suggestions to us.

*Bob Taverner*

President, BCRTA







# ROUND TABLE

## Round Up

It's a bit hard to know where to begin this month, but perhaps the AGM might be a good starting point. We had our feedback sheet tallies handed around, and as I hadn't been able to make the Thursday evening event, I missed what was reported as "Fab! Superb! Excellent! and Wonderful!". That really made me feel even sorrier, but can't be helped. As for the AGM it garnered positive and negative comments – great speakers, but we need to get up and move about more. Ageing bones do not like sitting for long stretches. And the meals were definitely not as good as they have been. We hope the hotel will be contacted over this last issue. For members' interest as they foot the bill, our AGM cost us \$134,030.52 which covers rooms, meals, travel and other expenses.

The board met on Sunday October 25th for an orientation session, held at the Holiday Inn. We worked through the new updated Handbook and then put the committees together from the applications received. Nowhere near as straightforward as it sounds, with some members into their second of two year appointments, and new people needing two committees to share travel costs, with morning and afternoon sessions which did not clash. Directors were appointed to zones.


The 'old board' gathered on Wednesday the 28th – new members and new chairs will meet in December. We had a half hour of reading, and then moved to announcements. There will be a retirement dinner to honour Patricia Laursen our retiring Office Administrator on December 6th, with venue to be determined by newly appointed Kristi Josephson. Her Admin Assistant position has been filled by Laurie Boyd, and both Kristi and Laurie were at the orientation session.

One of the major changes upcoming at our board meetings is a reversal of the agenda. When I was president those many moons ago, we had all the committee reports in the morning with the reports from the associate organisations we belonged to coming after lunch. Somehow this didn't work that well and we were often at the table until four in the afternoon. Somewhere in the intervening years we moved those reports around – and now find ourselves in the self-same spot with not enough time for the committee reports. So as of December, we do committee reports in the morning, but still ask for brief overviews and just motions to the table.

Our treasurer gave us facts and figures from our bank balances and investments, and we will keep the same auditors as worked for us this year. There was a great deal of discussion and much more information needed regarding our branches' scholarship funds and the manner in which we raise them. All fifty-fifty draws, raffles, etc. must have the appropriate paperwork and a \$10.00 gaming licence, which has to be purchased each year. More information will be coming. The other issue which took up a huge amount of time was that of insurance to cover those doing 'business' for a non-profit organization. The president has been asked to contact the BC Minister of Transport to iron out details that pertain to us. We are getting advice re the one dollar per year per member that we donate to RR Smith, and whether it should be separate from our BCRTA dues, which would be reduced to \$39. We will have more discussion of all the above items in December.

The National Pensioners Federation (NPF) had its AGM in Ottawa on September 30th and we sent three





delegates. There was a rally to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons on Parliament Hill on the first of October. The NPF hopes to broaden its membership to cover the whole country. Presentations were made on auto insurance, MEDOC, Mental Health and Pharmacare, to name a few. Their next AGM will be here in Vancouver following our own, and that of COSCO.

The RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation held its AGM just ahead of ours and elected their slate for the coming year and stated that their audit was complete and the end of February was the deadline for grant applications. We had a report from COSCO and for those with access, their meetings are reported on line and their newsletter is there as well. (COSCO.org). There is to be a conference in Vancouver on May 16/17 and a gathering of First Nations in Williams Lake on July 11/16. A jointly sponsored BCRTA/COSCO Health Care Forum was held on September 28th at Vancouver's downtown library with outgoing CMA president Dr. Chris Simpson there, as well as Dr. Charles Webb of Doctors of BC and Dr. Neena Chappell from UVIC. Healthcare policies were discussed.

ACER-CART our national group headed by JoAnn Lauber, praised the work of our committees who put together the information booklet included in our last issue, prior to the election, and in return received accolades from provincial leaders across Canada who used the booklet extensively with their memberships. A feather in our caps!

Most of the committee reports for the afternoon session were handed around – I have a pile in front of me and will try to give you the gist of what was in them.

The Communications chair handed out a couple of pages and then after speaking for a moment or two, handed everyone the copy of the survey we did in September. Members on email were contacted and then 200 not-on-email people were chosen at random and phoned. I have a list of all the comments made – 139 pages! The Survey results are **ON THE WEBSITE!** (bcrt.ca) Please have a look. Readership of the Postscript was 96%, but

in reading through all those comments pertaining to it, 50% of you asked for things which are already there. I was thrilled at some of the positive stuff, and really upset at the negative, until I realized that it was one person in 15,000 who wanted to poke me in the eye over specific issues! I will survive.

Committees – Excellence wanted some date changes, and Board authority to seek more publicity for the Golden Star awards. They had a list of myths about private school funding which I shall try to get into print. The Retirement Workshop Committee had an evaluation sheet and a list of Pro-D days within the province. Many attendees suggested longer workshops. Health and Housing had reviewed their goals and will continue working on them – they are pushing for the Implementation of the National Health Accord and a National Seniors' Care Plan. It was suggested that Prime Minister Trudeau be offered an honorary membership in the BCRTA! He has been a teacher in BC.

Heritage had several articles to submit to Postscript – one on Strathcona, Vancouver's oldest school which opened in 1891. Grants have gone to Prince George and Richmond for projects and Vancouver distributed 108 plastic archival storage boxes – one to each school to collect heritage items. The Social Concerns Committee will focus on "end of life care" which is becoming more and more an issue for the public and so is a living wage.

Our last item was the question of labelling foods served at BCRTA meetings, so that those with allergies are aware of what is in front of them. I am always happy to eat anything prepared by somebody else and with no dishes afterwards. We have to be thankful for the small stuff, as we spend time talking about the myriad needs of members. And for the member who criticized us for wasting money and gallivanting in Vancouver at his/her expense - it takes me a couple of days to recover from all these meetings and I can assure you my days of gallivanting are definitely over!

*Until December – Sheila Gair, Editor*



## A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR PENSION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE:

### INDEXING OF PENSIONS

The Teachers' Pension Plan provides cost of living increases every January based on the Canadian Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded at the end of the previous September. While indexing is not a guaranteed benefit of the plan, the Inflation Adjustment Account has had sufficient funds to provide full indexing every year since about 1985. While the Trustees have not announced an increase for this coming January, the CPI for September, 2015 has been determined to be 1% so we can reasonably expect a 1% increase to our pensions.

Our pension plan has provided cost-of-living increases totalling 82.6% since 1984. In reality it is much higher because each increase compounds on the previous increases.

### PENSION CONSULTATION

The BCTF is currently involved in a consultation with members about possible changes to the pension plan rules in order to position the plan for the needs of future members. Retired members can be assured that any changes made will only affect future service earned in the plan. The changes will have no effect on our pensions which are already in play.

## — EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION — BCTF LAUNCHES NEW RESOURCE ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL HISTORY IN BC

It is precisely because education was the primary tool of oppression of Aboriginal people, and miseducation of all Canadians, that we have concluded that education holds the key to reconciliation.

--Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

With the release this fall of a new learning resource on the history and legacy of residential schools in British Columbia, the BCTF is continuing its work towards justice and equity for Aboriginal students, teachers, and communities.

"It's so important that now, following on the landmark report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission last June, we provide teachers with tools and support to bring this tragic part of our shared history alive in classrooms across the province," said BCTF President Jim Iker.

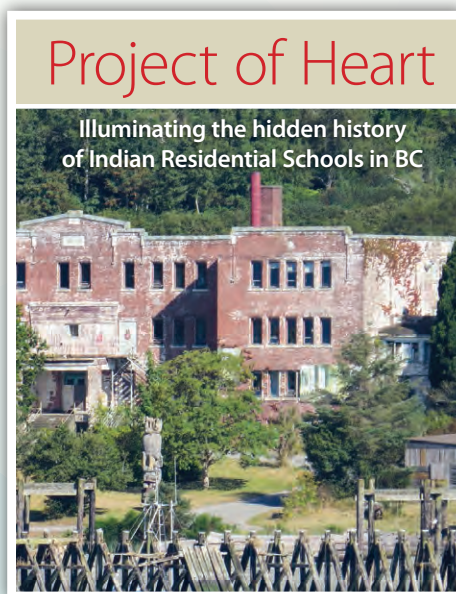
Entitled *Project of Heart: Illuminating the hidden history of Indian Residential Schools in BC*, the resource is available as a 40-page publication and as an online ebook which contains links to a great range of teaching resources including

videos, original historical documents, timelines, classroom activities, and more.

The resource contains moving testimonials from elders who endured the abuses of the residential school system and survived, as well as the story of one girl among the estimated 6,000 children who did not survive. It also profiles two key historical characters: the federal bureaucrat who promoted the Indian residential school system and the doctor who blew the whistle on this national crime. As well, it looks at the Harper government's apology to residential school survivors and the lack of follow-up to this historic gesture. The courage and resilience of the children in the face of profound neglect and abuse, and the ongoing resistance of Aboriginal people to the government's assimilationist policies are also important themes.

The book is available online at [www.bctf.ca/HiddenHistory](http://www.bctf.ca/HiddenHistory) and on the TeachBC website. For copies in print, please contact Gail Stromquist, BCTF Aboriginal education coordinator, at [gstromquist@bctf.ca](mailto:gstromquist@bctf.ca).

*By Nancy Knickerbocker, BCTF Director of Communications and Campaigns Division*





# MYTHS SURROUNDING THE FUNDING of PUBLIC EDUCATION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

**MYTH #1:** Funding for public schools and funding for independent schools has increased by the same amount since 2005.

**FACT:** Funding for independent schools increased 61.1% while public schools funding increased by only 19.7% (Ministry of Education Budget 2015 Overview, February 2015, pp 3-4)

**FACT:** The province has introduced new legislation that will no longer allow municipalities to tax private school playgrounds, fields, parking lots and other land. NDP critic, Rob Fleming said, "It's staggering to me that government can award additional tax exemptions to private schools. It's a complete double standard to say public schools need to tighten their belts and slash programs while the government suggests we can afford more subsidies to private schools." (<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/Victoria+introduces+private+school+exemption/11094627/story.html>)

**MYTH #2:** Independent schools have always been funded with public monies.

**FACT:** Prior to 1977 private schools were unregulated and received no provincial government funding. The Social Credit government introduced public funding of private schools in 1977 and only then did enrollment in private schools begin to increase, taking a large share of the provincial education budget. ("Deprivatizing Private Education: The British Columbia Experience", Jean Barman, The Canadian Journal of Education 16:1, 1991, pp 12-38)

**MYTH #3:** The financial documents of ALL BC schools are open to public scrutiny.

**FACT:** Public school finances are open to public scrutiny. The same cannot be said for individual independent (aka private) schools in BC. (Financial Information Act([http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws\\_new/document/ID/freeside/00\\_96140\\_01](http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96140_01)))

**MYTH #4:** Public schools are not able to offer the choices that parents want.

**FACT:** A multitude of programs are offered in public schools throughout the province, as evidenced on public school and school district websites. (Various school district web sites from across the Province, including SD 73 Kamloops, SD 60 Peace River North, SD 61 Greater Victoria, SD 43 Coquitlam, SD 39 Vancouver, SD 57 Prince George)

**MYTH #5:** The Fraser Institute ranking system of BC schools is fair and equitable.

**FACT:** The "School Rankings Report Card" is politically motivated in its underlying assumption that private schooling is preferable to public schools. "The goal is to discredit public schools and open them up to the marketplace. They thus create a system of winners and losers." (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2006)

A key factor in the Fraser Institute school rankings is the use of standardized test results. Researchers point out that demographic factors that define school contexts are a more accurate indicator of a school's situation than standardized testing. As educator Alfie Kohn points out, "Don't let anyone tell you that standardized tests are not accurate measures. The truth of the matter is that they offer a precise method for gauging the size of the houses near the school where the test is administered." (Kohn, The Case Against Standardized Testing: Raising the Scores, Ruining the Schools, 2000)

Adrienne Montani, former Vancouver Board of Education Chair, points out that "Report Card" school rankings are based on really narrow criteria. She notes that "the provincial standardized Foundation Skills Assessment was not intended to measure school against school."

Dr. Helen Raptis of the University of Victoria agrees. She points out that most of the factors that are conflated by the Fraser Institute to calculate the school rankings do not have a research base from which to merit their association with achievement. She also points out that the Canadian media have given little coverage to the Institute's unorthodox methodology that combines multiple indicators into one overall rating. As well, the media have also misled the public about school ranking

by equating them with test scores. She concludes that much of the rhetoric framing the Fraser Institute rankings is simply not evidenced-based or rational, for, at best, merely a handful of media articles have dealt with substantiated facts. (Canadian Journal of Education. 2012)

**MYTH #6:** Lower class sizes, improved class composition and fair wages for teachers in public schools are unaffordable.

**FACT:** There IS money for increased funding for public education. BC ended its 2013/2014 fiscal year with a \$353

million surplus. Further, the BC economy is projected to grow by 19% over the next five years. (Province of British Columbia 2013/2014 Public Accounts, pp 11 and 18)

*Submitted by BCRTA Excellence in Education Committee, Steve Bailey, Charan Gill (Chair), Caroline Malm, Alf McLean, Gail Montgomery, Carolyn Prellwitz, Lynne Rodier (October 2015)*

*BC Retired Teachers' Association • 26 October 2015*

## Why Join the Retired Teachers' Association?

WRITTEN BY GREG MURRAY,  
PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH VANCOUVER ISLAND BRANCH OF THE RTA

**A**ny organization is only as good as its members. The effort put in by each member adds up to the total worth of the group.

We all know that there are usually, a few members in any organization who give it all. They do everything, join every committee and rejoice in being active. Other members join and are never seen again.

The rest of us join for a myriad of reasons. We have a friend in the group, someone asked us to come along to a meeting, there was an ad that caught our attention or we were bored and needed something to get us out of the house.

As I approached retirement after thirty-seven years in the classroom, I watched those members who had really "pulled the plug". Some of them found a new life and were energized. Others seemed to age very quickly. Those who aged would go for coffee or walks and gradually fade away. They had lost their momentum.

A teacher's life is an energy filled, decision-making series of events that occur at a rapid pace every day they step a foot into the classroom. To suddenly stop

cold turkey, is a shock. A retired teacher needs to have a plan to survive retirement.

That is where the RTA, and organizations like it can help.

The RTA offers a group of 15,000 BC retired teachers who meet in their locals three or four times a year to have lunch, get updated on pension information, and just chat with other colleagues.

It offers connections with other organizations such as ACER-CART (the larger Canadian Retired Teachers Group) and COSCO (the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations).

Through the RTA representatives, you have a voice into these other organizations as well. Some topics for discussion include increasing medical benefit services to seniors, ensuring that OAS and CPP payments are not clawed back and Health and Wellness services for seniors.

The Retired Teachers' Association is there for you. The RTA is you. Reach out. Go to a meeting. Take a friend with you. You will be welcomed and just might discover a new momentum in your richly earned retirement.



## Survey Results shows **positive support** for BCRTA services

*“Thank you for doing this survey... It is money well spent. This (survey) really brings home to all members the importance of this association and why each of us should be active participants. Hopefully others like myself will be inspired to do our part.”*

*BCRTA member and survey participant.*

This quote is typical of the strong majority of survey participants who gave our organization an excellent rating.

The communications committee under the able leadership of past chair Cliff Boldt established a communications goal: to build the reputation of the BCRTA as a strong, credible and influential organization that supports the interests of our members.

To obtain this goal the committee in consultation with our consultant, Nancy Spooner Associates, and the BCRTA board approved the following research goals:

- A.** Measure perceptions of BCRTA among members and potential members
- B.** Measure awareness of BCRTA offerings and benefits
- C.** Measure interest in BCRTA offerings and benefits
- D.** Identify other areas of interest not being addressed
- E.** Measure effectiveness of existing communications tools and identify preferred delivery methods

In order to obtain a strong unbiased and credible result and analyses for all 8 zones to see any regional differences BCRTA engaged the services of the Mustel Group.

All of the current email addresses and a 200 random sample phone survey of members without email were

contacted between September 21 and October 12.

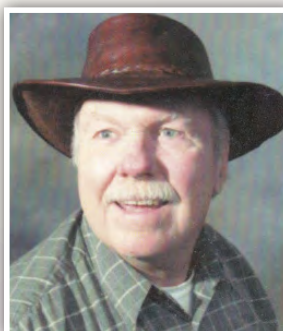
The Industry standard completion rate is 10%. Our completion rate was almost four times as high at 38% so we are very confident that the results are accurate.

While the complete results will be posted on the website some results should be highlighted here.

The board has struggled with the issue of Advocacy vs. the policy of nonpartisanship and their relationship. While 72 % of participants agree that BCRTA should be nonpartisan, there was strong support for greater involvement in issues, such as a National Pharmaceutical Formulary 90%; Improved affordable home care for seniors 93%; Renewal of the National Health Accord 87%; amongst others.

Another positive highlight was the support for our Postscript Magazine at 96 % readership.

There are a number of excellent suggestions for the future. The communications committee will be working with the results of the survey to recommend to the Board further strategies to continue working to serve the interests of our members. We welcome comments and suggestions from individuals and branches to further enhance our planning process. Please communicate your suggestions to Bob Taverner President or myself c/o of the BCRTA office.



**FROM THE  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE:**

**COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR,  
STERLING CAMPBELL**



“What’s insanity if you can’t share it?”

Paul and I were yarning away the other day, the way old friends do. We were reminiscing about the outdoor trips that we’d done with students from the high school where we’d both taught. “That was way back before lawyers were invented,” commented Paul. It was maybe twenty-five to thirty years ago and we certainly didn’t have all the trouble that teachers have today in planning a simple camping expedition.

I can’t remember now who it was that invented the cockamamie Environmental Awareness Program that we ran for grade elevens but it was a marvellous way to have fun with a fairly select group of kids. We tramped for miles across country – not realizing this time that kilometers would have been shorter – we camped up in the Rockies, we slept in snow-caves (sort of) we went rock-climbing and we canoed and camped for days on large water bodies like Kootenay Lake where, to some folk’s amazement ‘there were no wrecks and nobody drowned’. However, unlike in the monologue about young Albert and the lion in Blackpool zoo, there was always plenty to laugh at.

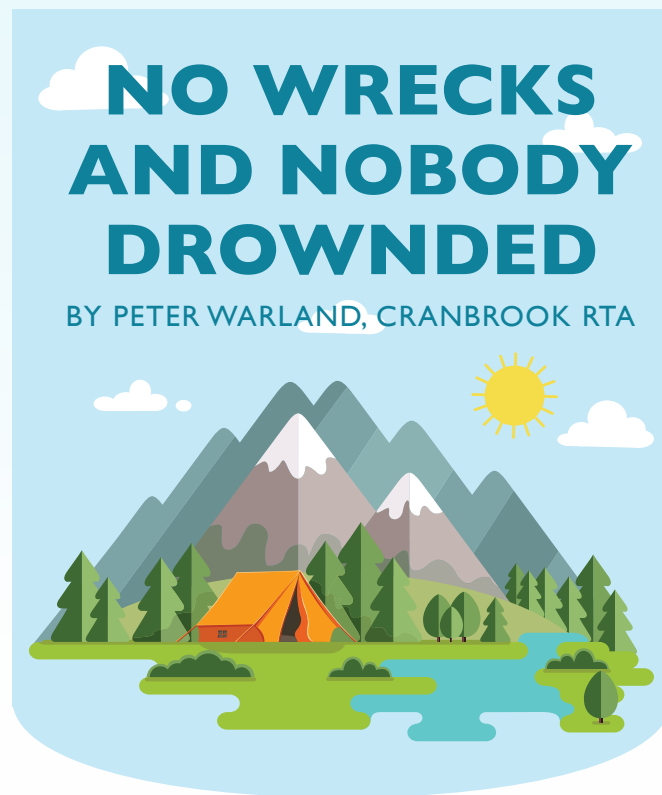
One of the things that the students learned was not to take too much stuff. One young lady, I’m told, took three pairs of jeans with her on an over-night trip.

One evening, Paul and I were hauled before the School Board and sat there like lumps wondering what all the fuss was to be about. I think that I was almost asleep when the chairman addressed us. “What are you two doing here?” He asked.

Paul, who probably was fully asleep by then, managed to reply. “We were instructed to be here.”

This took a little sorting out until we explained that we were taking twenty five grade eleven students in canoes on Kootenay Lake for a long weekend on the following Friday.

Pause: Then, “Oh! It’s you two! Go ahead.” And that was it, no mention of letters from parents, lawyers, the pope, even the Supreme Court, unlike the way it seems to be today. Paul and I agree that there was no way that we would have fought off all that nonsense. We just wouldn’t have gone but, as we did get away several years in a row, we were careful, and not willing



# NO WRECKS AND NOBODY DROWNED

BY PETER WARLAND, CRANBROOK RTA

to be wrecked and ‘drowned’ nor allow this sort of thing to happen to our charges.

On one trip to some local hills in appalling weather, I managed to lose four boys. Most of the party had managed to arrive at our destination, a swampy lake but, when I counted, those four lads were missing. Disgruntled, wet and probably a little angry, I set off again and found the group settled and camped on a small hill. They were comfortable and dry and therefore not pleased to pack up and follow me into the rainy night.

The following morning, when I dragged myself from my tent to make my rounds I was invited by two girls to take coffee with them. Their camp

was neat, their sleeping bags apparently dry, and there was a cheerful fire burning.

Not all of the separate campsites were like that; in many, chaos reigned.

Some people asked us if we might be nervous of bears, cougars or other threatening creatures but we knew that the most dangerous animal in the bush is a youth with an axe or a big sharp knife; we banned those weapons.

Some people are accidents looking for somewhere to happen and, over the years, we did manage to find a few of them. We watched some with eagle eyes as they attempted to fall off cliffs, overturn their canoes, set fire to their tents and create general mayhem.

Some of the other staff members at our school claimed that Paul and I plus the other teachers who volunteered to help us with larger groups were merely looking for extra days off from the grind of the usual lessons but they neglected to mention that we, like sports coaches and others also gave up our weekends for the kids too.

They were halcyon and sometimes exhausting days. I still remember the girl who rode home with me in my pick-up, ostensibly to chat away nonstop as usual and help keep me awake. She fell asleep within five minutes and, when I complained, she replied, “Sorry! I’m exhausted. All those boys in my tent every night!” It’s good that, even when thoroughly pooped, I have a sense of humour.



# A FUN TIME IN THE BIG EASY

BY JUDY JOHNSON, CENTRAL OKANAGAN RTA

We knew we were in Cajun country as soon as we left Louis Armstrong Airport and headed into the city of New Orleans---we could barely understand our taxi driver as her accent was so thick. New Orleans, the huge port on the Mississippi, is sometimes referred to as "the most unique city in the USA". To us it seemed like a place somewhere between Barkerville and Las Vegas. NOLA is brimming with culture, history and fun. The atmosphere is very laid-back and it is not hard to understand why it is often called "The Big Easy".

New Orleans is the fifth largest port in the United States and the Mighty Mississippi connects the Gulf Coast with America's heartland. The city is divided into several districts each with its own characteristics. The Warehouse and Central Business Districts, Garden District and Uptown, and Mid-City all have much to offer but it is really the French Quarter that brings tourists here. New Orleans is a very walkable city but a great way to get around is by using the streetcars where a day pass is only \$3.00. There are three lines that take people to and fro much as they did in the past: the Canal Line, the St. Charles Line and the Riverfront Line. The Hop-on, Hop-Off Bus is a great way to tour around the city and get an overview. A three day pass was \$39 when we were there.

The history of New Orleans dates back many years and is marked by Cajun and Creole settlements born out of French, Spanish, African and Native American cultures. Much of the city was destroyed during the fire of 1788 but it rose again. It is also marked by its American settlement after the British defeat in 1815 at the Battle of New Orleans. Andrew Jackson was the hero of that battle who is remembered today in the square bearing his name in the centre of the French Quarter and on the US \$20 bill. Outside the city, many plantations still stand that mark the days of slavery. In more recent times it is the memories of Katrina that locals try to forget.

The culture of this area is amazing. There is music everywhere, on street corners, in the streets and squares, in bars and jazz clubs (jazz was born here) and from marching bands in parades. The architecture is most interesting too, especially in the French Quarter which is really a living museum, much like Venice, Italy is. One still sees hitching posts, balconies and galleries with ornate iron railings, and former carriage lanes that lead to courtyards and gardens beyond. There is a definite French and Spanish influence in the architecture all along the streets of the Vieux Carre and into the Garden District with its huge and ornate mansions many owned by celebrities. All along Bourbon Street there are countless stops of interest and party-goers strolling at all times of the day and night. Open drinking of alcohol is encouraged and it is no wonder the street is hosed down every night. One block over is Royal which is full of antique shops and is so much quieter.

The food of the south is also different and wonderful. It is an amazing mix of Cajun and Creole with lots of spice thrown in. While we were there we tried as much of it as we could in some of the great restaurants: shrimp and grits, catfish bites, crawfish etouffee, andouille sausages, blackened fish, gumbo, red beans and rice and jambalaya. There were po'boy and muffuletta sandwiches (from "Central Grocery" where they originated) and for treats, the famous doughnut-like beignets ("Café du Monde" is the place for those) and sweet pralines. Because it was Mardi Gras time we also sampled King cakes and because we were there, we tried a couple of the famous drinks, a Sazerac at the "Monteleone Hotel" and a Hurricane at "Pat O'Brien's".

There is much to do here in NOLA as the city is sometimes called. There are many museums and art galleries, historic buildings, fascinating cemeteries, steamboat rides on the Mississippi (we did the "Natchez"), parks (City Park with its Sculpture Garden was one), churches (St. Louis Cathedral is the biggest), the Mercedes-Benz Superdome (home of the NFL Saints) and even Harrah's Casino. Outside the city there are tours to the swamps and bayous with the cypress and gum trees hanging in Spanish moss and alligators, hogs and other critters to watch for. There are also tours to the sugar and cotton plantations (we did "Laura" and Oak Alley") and a glimpse into antebellum life.

Every month the city holds special events and in the past has hosted the Super Bowl and World's Fair (1984), but none is bigger than Mardi Gras time which is held between January 6 and the beginning of Lent. Decorations much like Christmas are everywhere in the colours of green, gold and purple. There are countless outlandish parades staged by clubs called krewes with varying themes. Dog lovers turn up for the Krewe of Barkus but the big ones are at the end of carnival time---Krewe of Zulu and Krewe of Rex. There are floats (made and stored at "Mardi Gras World"), dance teams and marching bands and millions of beads being thrown. A wonderful quote summed it up well---"Here in the South we don't hide crazy! We parade it in the streets and hang some beads on it."

New Orleans is also a great place to catch a cruise from. Several ships leave from here for stops in the Western Caribbean. On our Norwegian cruise we were amazed that the ship took six hours to reach the Gulf of Mexico where the night sky was lit up by many oil platforms.

When is a good time to travel to New Orleans? Probably any time although the summer can be extremely hot and humid. We arrived in late January and the thermometer read 77 degrees Fahrenheit that day. No matter when you go, a fun time can be guaranteed. "Laissez les bon temps roulez. Let the good times roll!" They really do!





# Two Practices that Expand My Life in Retirement

BY SHARON PARKER, RTA MEMBER



Those banks! They urged me to envisage a retired life where I dipped my hand into the warm waters as I was paddled down Retirement (Lazy) River humming tunes from my youth. It's not like that! Retired living hosts a myriad of challenges. I had to face them or be pulled by the current downstream and maybe over the falls! Here are two habits that helped retirement "zing" for me.

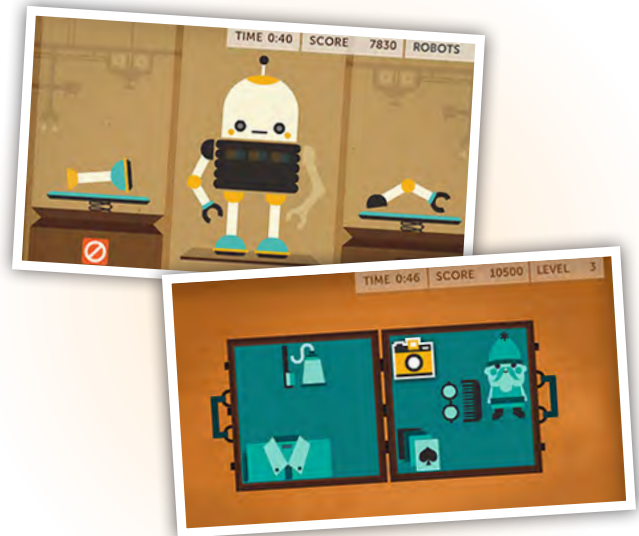
## Let the Brain Reign

Yes, we do Sheila's crossword, and those in the newspaper. But it's not doing the same exercise over and over again that replenishes the cells upstairs. I had to do the unfamiliar, the new. So my husband and I signed up for Lumosity. Now, it's not Luminosity and this is not an ad for this commercial firm. Lumosity is a website, that has a fee. It has "games" in 5 fields that seniors need to work on: flexibility, memory, problem solving, speed and attention. It has scientific research to reinforce its activities. It will rate your performance with others in the same age group. (I'm in the 93rd percentile for problem solving but in the 73rd percentile for speed for 70-75 year olds.) We pay \$113 a year for 5 family members...me, my spouse, my relatives. Although it is recommended that you practise 3 times a week, we do it every day. And I think it keeps me sharp in those areas. Now...about my husband...he is on chemotherapy...and he's doing pretty well...all right, he beats me in some categories. Check it out. It contributes to my well being. It helps to keep me vibrant...and they say I'm a smart cookie! Go to [www.lumosity.com](http://www.lumosity.com)

Sharon sent this story to Lumosity and received this information from them:

*We actually offer both free and paid accounts to our site. As a free user you can complete one training session consisting of 3 games per day for as long as you have an account with us. You can access this training by going here: <http://www.lumosity.com/login> and clicking the "Start Training" button.*

*On the other hand, subscribers have access to all of our games, personalized training sessions, and progress history.*



*Our training is also designed for users of all ages - as long as you meet our age requirement (you must be at least 13 years old to create an account), you can sign up for a free or paid account.*

## Dance Your Pants Off

I go to zumba almost daily. It's an exercise class based on Latin American music. There are all kinds of zumba. I go to Zumba Gold (for seniors), Zumba Toning (to avoid Grandma arms) and I also go to just plain Zumba. There is Aqua Zumba and Zumba Santeo (with a chair as a prop). The emphasis of zumba is exercise and fun, not performance. By that I mean that I work in class to follow the teacher and enjoy myself. I hoot and holler and enjoy my hour of exercise. Most of the other people are also involved in their survival and are not there to judge others or compare their "performance". I have attended zumba classes at private gyms and recreation centers in several lower mainland areas. Most of them will let you "drop in" for a fee, often \$10 a class. That way you can shop around and find a class you like. Some are more Latin than others. Wear cross trainers, yoga pants and top. Take a water bottle. To find a class near you go to [www.zumba.com](http://www.zumba.com).



## GOLDEN STAR PRESENTATION

RECLAIMING THE NEW WESTMINSTER  
WATERFRONT PROJECT



The presentation of a Golden Star Award to New Westminster teacher Sue Dyer and students of FW Howay Elementary School was a true celebration of the value of inter-generational learning.

"Reclaiming the New Westminster Waterfront" represents a partnership of retired longshoremen, Simon Fraser University, the New Westminster School District and the New Westminster Museum and Archives. The presentation at Hume Park Community School opened with remarks from Dr. Peter Hall, Associate Professor of SFU's Vancouver Urban Studies Program. Dr. Hall recognized the breadth of community involvement in this project and honoured the BCRTA for rewarding the efforts of teachers and students in a way that will enable the project to continue.

Dr. Susan O'Neill, Associate Professor in the faculty of Education at SFU and a researcher into the benefits of inter-generational learning pointed out that the project is unique in its involvement of senior and students in exploring the changes in the culture, history and geography of the New Westminster waterfront over the years. On display was art work that the students had created that demonstrates those changes.

Both students and the longshoremen who have been their mentors concerning changing life on the New Westminster waterfront expressed enthusiasm for the project's presentation of a unique opportunity to bring together diverse sections of the community. The same sentiment was expressed by the curator of the New Westminster Museum and Archives.

Several retired longshoremen, a representative from the New Westminster Board of Education, currently involved teacher Matt Sol and others joined in the celebration as Sue Dyer received the cheque for \$1000, expressing thanks to the BCRTA for enabling the program to continue. The program has involved students from New Westminster Home Learners, FW Howay, New Westminster Secondary and Tweedsmuir Elementary School.

During the presentation, Steve Bailey remarked to the students in attendance, "15,000 BC retired teachers are proud of your accomplishments, as are the retired longshoremen with whom you work and learn. You have gained some valuable life experience".

## GOLDEN STAR PRESENTATION

MAPLE CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL



The students involved in the RAC (Real Acts of Caring) program at Maple Creek Middle School and their teacher, Hariette Chang, hosted a wonderful lunch hour reception for the presentation of the Golden Star Award on May 29 2015.

Students have been strongly impacted by their work with seniors in their community and that reality was voiced not only by the students themselves but by guest Bill Wray, President of the Glen Pine Centre in Coquitlam. Bill expressed heartfelt gratitude for the difference that the students' presence has made in the community. John and Lil Cumberbirch, members of Glen Pine echoed those sentiments. It is strongly acknowledged that the RAC program has

positively impacted how students are perceived in the community.

Audrey Anthony, president of the Coquitlam Retired Teachers Association presented the award along with Steve Bailey. The reception was enhanced by the violin music of one of the Maple Creek students.

In accepting the award RAC teacher-sponsor Hariette Chang stated that the prize money will be used to bridge the connection between seniors and students in Port Coquitlam - expanding an already very active program.

Pictures courtesy of John Cumberbirch.





# letters TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Bob Taverner's Fall message was an excellent survey of how North American and British governments are wed to Thatcher/Reaganism. I highly recommend American labor lawyer Thomas Geoghan's *Were You Born on the Wrong Continent?* The stats are slightly dated, but the argument is powerful.

Our own Liberal(?) government sets the education budget then subtracts from it to pay for other projects. So we can't believe its per-pupil numbers. Nonetheless, I believe the BCTF has always been on the wrong track with its constant denigrating the Socreds and their Liberal heirs. The result is that if the teachers win, the government sees itself as the loser, and vice versa. A constant battle the voters are tired of. The government has bigger guns so its retribution is more effective. And it knows what the voters think far better than do the teachers. Or it would change some of its policies.

What the BCTF needs to do is find common ground on some issues, even if it means praising the Liberals, sending a media message it will do its best to co-operate, changing its PR. There are people slightly on the right willing to listen to a more positive message and give teachers 'the benefit of the doubt'. Even died-in-the-wool lefties do not want teachers in control of the education system. Politics is seldom a winner-take-all process. But that is how I, a

retired, faithful supporter of the BCTF, interpret its philosophy and tactics. Always complaining. I have written to them but never receive a reply.

I'm afraid the executive have backed themselves into a corner, not just with the government but with their own members, especially the radicals. Our students are paying the price of such intransigence.

*George Fraser, BCRTA member*

*Would other members/readers care to comment?  
There are always two sides to every issue. – Editor*

Dear Sheila;

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the article on healthcare for snowbirds which appeared in the Spring issue.

We are currently members with Medoc and have been for many years.

However we were very interested in the Prestige plan offered by Johnson which you mentioned in the article. We met with one of the agents in the Langley Johnson office and had a very good discussion about the two plans. After much deliberation we decided to stay with Medoc this year. We would strongly recommend that seniors who travel abroad check both plans as they each have different desirable



features. We have had extremely good service with Medoc and can highly recommend them. Thank you once again for a good magazine with interesting articles for the retirees.

Sincerely,  
*Ron and Glenda Graham, Quesnel RTA*

*For information on this plan make sure you reach a representative in the Langley office. – Editor*

Hello Shelia

I was dismayed to see my name in the letter to the editor Postscript Vol 19... Fall 2015

Joanne Finnegan mentioned that the title to the article Postscript had printed on maple syrup production contained a spelling error....flavor instead of flavour. The article I sent you was entitled A Working History so the error was not mine. Please let her know this error was not mine.

*Lin Weich, Quesnel RTA*

#### **Editor's Note:**

*I changed the title and our computer used the American spelling! I apologize for the oversight.*

Letter to the Editor:

Activist groups such as the Council of Canadians, Greenpeace, Friends of CBC, BCRTA, etc., are all committed to being non-partisan. We can no longer, as citizens, remain non-partisan. It is our duty to find out who is representing our best interests and vote for them! The Conservatives are a definite NO! Look at their record. The Liberals have forfeited the right to represent us when they sided with the Conservatives and voted in favour of Bill C51, and along with that gave away the Bill of Rights Pierre Elliott Trudeau was instrumental in bringing to Canada. The Greens are in favour of the environment, but on every other front they are fiscal conservatives! They would let our social programs, such as health care, and

anti-poverty initiatives, go down the tube in order to balance the budget, and not raise taxes for the wealthy & corporations. Only the New Democratic Party of Canada has committed to retaining social programs while preserving our environment & our water, offering child care, elder care, pharmacare, home care etc.

Under the guise of fiscal restraint, we lost our surplus and have had years of economic downturn, while the top earners in the country got wealthier and wealthier. We don't need to give away our natural resources and all our rights in order to have the country we want back again. It's time for real change.

And if you don't vote - you are part of the problem. You then forfeit your right to complain, and you show your disregard for democracy!

*Denise Williams, Nicola Valley RTA*

*So, readers, how do you feel our elections turned out? Let us know with a short letter for this column. – Editor*

*We'd like to hear from you.*

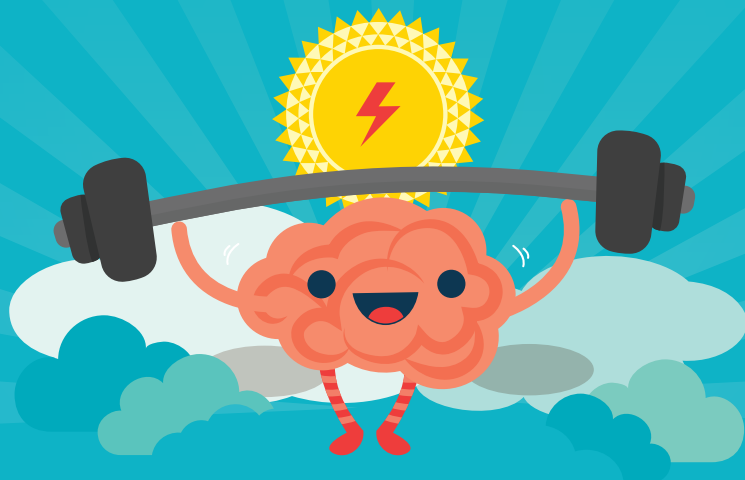
*In our next issue we would like to hear of your memories of early school days.*

*What do you recall of your own school day - when you were five or six? My sisters and I wore "pinafores" to protect our clothes, drank free milk each day and used slates and slate pencils which often squeaked loudly.*

*Send a few lines to share your memories.*

To Branch editors of local newsletters: please send them to the website (email to [kristi@bcrt.com](mailto:kristi@bcrt.com)) so the members who have left your areas can read them and keep in touch.





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# DOS AND DONTs TO PRESERVE YOUR BRAINPOWER

By David Robson for BBC on 28 August 2015  
Article submitted by Stefan Cieslik, BCRTA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

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“Like any good machine, the brain needs a little care and attention as it ages to ensure it continues to run in good working order. If only there were a manual to its maintenance that could tell us how to fine-tune its circuits. Unfortunately, the available advice is often contradictory and confusing, but BBC Future has sifted through the evidence. Read on to discover the six most promising ways to sharpen your wits.

## 1 DON'T... LOSE FAITH IN YOUR ABILITIES

Do you ever walk into a room, only to find that you've forgotten why you were there? As people get older, it's easy to assume it's a sign your memory is already fading. In fact, it is just as likely to happen to young and old alike. And we shouldn't be so speedy to jump to the worst conclusion, since the doubts can become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Over the last 10 years, Dayna Touron at the University of North Carolina has found that with age, we tend to lose confidence in our mental abilities, even though they are often in working order. The result is that we rely on crutches, such as our car's GPS or our phone's notepad. Ironically, by failing to test ourselves, we may accelerate our own decline. So if you do find yourself dithering in a doorway not really knowing where you are meant to be, just see it as a reminder to push your memory a little bit harder.

## 2 DO... PROTECT YOUR EARS

The mind suffers if it becomes isolated from its senses. Perhaps by placing extra strain it places on your attention, and blocking us from useful stimulation, hearing loss seems to trigger the loss of the brain's grey matter; according to one study, it increased the risk of cognitive impairment over a six-year period by 24%.

Using a hair dryer for 15 minutes a day could harm your ears – and brain

Whatever your age, it's worth taking note of situations that could be contributing to your ears' wear and tear. Listening to

loud rock music for just 15 seconds a day would be enough to damage your hearing; even using a hair dryer for 15 minutes a day could harm tiny cells that pick up sounds. And if you think you are already hard of hearing, try to seek medical help – nipping the problem in the bud could stall further decline.

## 3 DO... LEARN A LANGUAGE OR A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

Rather than fiddling with a brain training app or a crossword (which often appear to have limited general benefits), you might want to consider a more ambitious mental workout, such as learning the piano or picking up a new language. Both rely on a wide skill set, exercising your memory, attention, sensory perception and motor control as you try to wrestle new scales or the unfamiliar sounds of new words.

Musicians are 60% less likely to develop dementia

The practice should help you to become more mentally nimble, with potentially lasting benefits into old age. One study last year found that musicians were around 60% less likely to develop dementia than people who didn't play a musical instrument; another showed that speaking another language may delay the onset of Alzheimer's by five years.

At the very least, pushing yourself in this way should help you to appreciate your current abilities. And if you find that your job is just too demanding to allow yourself to pick up a new skill, consider yourself lucky:

More stimulating occupations do seem to help you preserve your mental powers, although the benefits may not last far into retirement.

## 4 DON'T... FEAST ON JUNK FOOD

Obesity can harm your brain in many ways. The build-up of cholesterol in the arteries can restrict blood flow to the brain, starving it of the food and oxygen it needs to function. What's more, neurons are highly sensitive to levels of the gut hormone insulin. A regular diet of sweet, calorific food can disrupt that



insulin signalling, triggering a chain reaction that leads to deadly plaques that build up in the brain.

The good news is that certain nutrients – like omega 3 fatty acids, and vitamins D and B12 – seem to damp down age-related damage to the brain. This may explain why older people eating a typically Mediterranean diet tended to show the same cognitive skills as people 7.5 years their younger.

## 5 DO... BUILD YOUR BODY

We often make a distinction between brains and brawn. In fact, getting in shape is one of the surest ways to build your mind. Physical activity not only establishes a better blood flow to the brain; it also triggers a surge of proteins such as “nerve growth factor” that can help stimulate the growth and maintenance of neural connections in the brain.

Getting in shape is one of the surest ways to build your mind.

The benefits seem to stretch from cradle to grave: children who walk to school get better grades, while taking a leisurely stroll seemed to boost pensioners’ concentration and memory. What’s more, a wide variety of exercises can help, from gentle

aerobic exercise to weight training and body building; just choose a training regime that suits your current fitness.

## 6 DO... PARTY LIKE YOU'RE 21

If all that sounds like hard work, one of the best ways to protect your brain is to socialize. Put simply, humans are social creatures, and our friends and relatives stimulate us, challenge us to try new experiences, and relieve us of stress and unhappiness. Astonishingly, one study of 70-year-olds found the most socially active individuals were about 70% less likely to experience cognitive decline over a period of 12 years, compared to the people with the least active social lives. Everything from memory and attention to overall mental processing speed seems to have benefited from the regular contact with other people.

Ultimately, the scientists suspect that there is no single magic bullet to train your brain. The people who age best have a lifestyle that incorporates a little of everything: a varied diet, stimulating activities, and a circle of loving friends. And that’s not so much a recipe for a smart brain as a healthy and happy life.”

David Robson is a BBC Future’s feature writer.

# ACER-CART RECOMMENDS MCMASTER’S OPTIMAL AGING PORTAL



Newspapers and the Internet cover lots of stories about health care for the aging Canadian, but the emphasis is usually on drama (dramatic findings from a new study, dramatic events with no

mention of related scientific research), with less emphasis on substance. Readers are left to wonder which information to trust.

At the recent June board meeting, The Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) unanimously passed a resolution to support McMaster University’s Optimal Aging Portal as part of a platform for the development of a National Seniors Strategy. The resolution also encouraged each of ACER-CART’s thirteen provincial associations likewise to endorse and become active partners with the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal.

The Portal features high quality scientific evidence about healthy aging -- information that can help Canadians remain healthy, active and engaged as long as possible, and to manage their health conditions. The Portal evaluates health research and resources, telling users whether free health resources on the Internet and in newspaper stories are based on scientific research, are reliable, and are worthy of note. The articles are written in consumer-friendly language.

Users can register for free at [www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org](http://www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org) and gain easy access to search the full content of the Portal. To keep up to-date with new research and receive lists of new content recently added to the Portal, users can opt in to receive Email alerts about how to stay healthy, active and engaged as they grow older. Users can also follow @Mac\_AgingNews or the Portal on Facebook for news and evidence about optimal aging.

“I’m very proud to announce this new partnership,” said Suzanne Labarge, Chancellor of McMaster University. “Both McMaster University and the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers have a strong interest in supporting life-long learning and healthy aging.”

“As former educators, we have a commitment to public education and supporting trustworthy sources of information,” said JoAnn Lauber, President of ACER-CART. “Over the next year, we plan to ensure that the thousands of retired teachers in Canada are made aware of this valuable resource, and that they, in turn, can share this knowledge with their communities.”





This letter was sent to us from a member who is retired from Vancouver & North Vancouver. He has removed names for privacy but sent us this thought along with the letter he wrote to his grandson.

*“This time of year all thoughts turn to school. More-so in our family as my oldest grandson starts his 1st year of teaching in Alberta. I thought I would give him some ‘advice’ to help him on his way.”*

Aug. 31, 2015

Dear Jxxx;

Been thinking a lot about what advice I could offer you as a starting classroom teacher. I prefer that you think of my ideas as suggestions and that they may, or may not, be applicable in your situation.

When I started teaching in 1956 education was very different. The teacher's responsibility was to prepare and teach good lessons. The student's responsibility was to learn the material. That first year, my Principal told me that a boy in my class was 'dumb' so I wasn't responsible for teaching him anything! If you didn't learn, you were either lazy, dumb, or unmotivated and it was the parents' job to get the kid to 'buck up' and learn. Now, the onus is on the teacher.

Discipline used was staying after school or the strap. As a vice-principal, I administered the strap much more than I would have liked to but that was part of my job.

Advice? Here we go:

1. The most effective thing I ever did was on the first day of school. The class came in, sat down, and after a welcome from me, I administered a short 75 question quiz on grammar to see which areas needed review. One lad finished first, called out, I'm done. And I asked Jason to bring his separate answer sheet up to me. It was on a standard machine-marked paper with 100 multiple choice answers. He had filled in all 100 of them and enjoyed being noticed by the rest of the kids and me for being first. Unfortunately for him, the test only had 75 questions and when I asked where he got the extra ones, he was bewildered. I noticed he had made a serpent shape down the 2 columns of possible answers.

At lunch I spoke to Allison, another English teacher, and asked her if she had a student she didn't want in her class. She did. A student who had failed her class last term and was repeating with her again. We arranged a swap and the next day at start of class I told Jason that because he didn't want to follow

instructions or try his best in my class, I was transferring him to another where I hoped he would be able to succeed. When he left, the class was awe-struck and silent as a 'new' student knocked on the door and I welcomed him in. He did well in my class and passed the course. Allison told me Jason had buckled down and not been a smart-alec. My class was very well behaved all semester for they knew I meant business!

The moral is: Act swiftly when discipline matters crop up. Keep in mind the welfare of the student as I'm sure you will. A further point: Try not to refer problems to the administration. Deal with them yourself or seek advice from other teachers. The admin. don't want to be bothered with these issues unless they are very severe and seeking advice from them lets them say that you can't handle the issue...you have problems. Not good for you in the long run.

2. Look for all the positive things you can say to a student as you return class work. Also be positive with parents when conferencing with them. I've had parents say, "Are you sure it's my child you're talking about?" because they have had negative comments previously. Your opinion of the pupil will get back to him and he will, in turn, look on you with a more positive attitude.

3. I don't know what to say about social media. I remember when math teachers didn't allow students below Gr. 11 to use a calculator. I would find out the school's policy re having cell phones on in class and you will have to follow that. I would not have them on during lessons, but times change...

4. In a similar vein: Very important! Don't get too friendly with students. You are their teacher, not their pal. I think they should call you Mr. Gxxxxxxxx or Mr. G. and if they ask you what your first name is, say, "Mister". A little respect can be demanded. Don't give them your cell phone number. Your private life is just that: private. Never be alone in your classroom with a female! (or a male?) If you must, keep the door open at all times. Sad to say, breaking this rule has seen the end of a teaching career too often.



5. Yes, it's a minefield out there. But you can step around the obstacles because you have been trained, at University but mostly at home throughout your life by your parents. Do talk over your experiences with your wife for she will be a tower of strength.

6. Strangers will tell you that teaching is a cushy job. I like to reply, "Well, you could be a teacher too if you were willing to spend 6 years in University." If that doesn't do the trick, try, "Some of us are better at choosing jobs than others."

7. Do more than teach your classes. Start a club for students. Help coach a team. Join the staff choir at Christmas or begin one! After a few years, join a committee of teachers to promote the cause. Join the school's staff committee.

My aim as a teacher has always been to help the kids. The teacher is primarily there to promote the education of students. This seems self-evident but too often the School Board, the

District admin, or the School admin. think you are there to fulfil their agenda. I have gotten into hot water a few times over this so tread carefully.

8. Just about done. In the classroom, if you make a mistake, admit it right away. Students will appreciate it and give you more respect. If you mark something wrong and the student shows that there could be another answer, accept it and praise her for it. Can't go wrong here!

Enough of my ramblings. You have begun a great career and we are all very proud of you. A teacher can make a big difference in a student's life and it is a worthwhile occupation. Teachers are often undervalued but you will know differently. Stick with it. Parts of it get easier as time passes but the challenges will always remain and each year begins with a new slate so stick with it.

Love, Grandpa CXXXXXX

## T.G.I.F.

BY PETER SCURR, DELTA RTA

It's a sentiment that will be heard echoed around offices and workplaces throughout the day today. But I don't know if many of these utterances will be as loaded as mine: For many, "T.G.I.F." carries with it the notion that one can't wait for the horror and drudgery of the work week to be over. For me, I'm thinking "Thank-God-it's-Friday-because-I've just-had-the-most-wonderful-week-and-will-now-enjoy-an-incredible-weekend-but-I-have to recharge-my-batteries-before-embarking-on-another-amazing-adventure-next-week".

Over the years, I've come to understand that teaching is really all about learning. And that deep learning often hinges on making connections outside of the bricks and mortar of the classroom and working with people in the greater learning community. While working with networks of artists, friends, and colleagues maybe pose certain creative and professional challenges, it has offered my students all kinds of authentic, "real life" experiences that keep them both curious and engaged.

To that end, my Multimedia 9 class ventured to Galiano Island for a day of printmaking, poetry, and photography. They had the opportunity to learn in an artist's studio, hike through a beautiful rainforest, and scramble around on the rocks of Bellhouse Park. Together we organized carpools, a potluck lunch, constructed group poetry, and made an edition of collaborative prints. It was a grand and memorable adventure and it set the tone for the months ahead.

Our Galiano trip has evolved over four years. Originally hosted by two retired teachers, Peter Scurr and Kit Grauer; our ranks have

now been bolstered by Lucy Liu, a bright, young part-time teacher currently working at Sands, two retired Delta administrators; Iris Scott and Gary Gordon, and the Grade 9 counselor; this year, Karen Kilpatrick. This is one heck of a team so it's no wonder that the students walk away wishing the day could have been longer. As Kit would say, "It's too much fun" – but it's powerful stuff.

The excitement will now bubble over into next week as my Drawing and Painting students are my greatest focus. We will embark on a portrait project with our local seniors. Thanks to George Andres, yet another retired Delta administrator and Joanne Sebela, a senior recreation coordinator, there will be initial interviews and photo sessions. I suspect that there will be some discomfort and risk-taking too. But in my wildest dreams, we will break down some long-held, stereotypical thinking between teenagers and seniors in our community. We will forge some new connections with groups at Tsawwassen United Church and Augustine House as our students meet face to face with these older, wiser souls and then tenderly recreate their stories and their portraits back in the art studio. Exposure to more "real life" – hopefully building more classes of empathetic, thoughtful and engaged students.

Teaching in this day and age is a complicated and oftentimes messy business. But our district's invitation to be more innovative and create atmospheres of wonder and authentic learning of is an exciting one.

So with that, I bid you a hearty "T.G.I.F.!" – It's going to be a great year.



## HERITAGE COMMITTEE VISIT TO STRATHCONA SCHOOL

*SUBMITTED BY THE BCRTA HERITAGE COMMITTEE*

On May 12, 2015 five members of the heritage committee made a visit to Lord Strathcona School in the Vancouver downtown eastside. There we were welcomed by the principal Harjinder Sandhu. Originally called the New East School it opened its doors in 1891 on Pender Street at Princess Avenue. It was an eight room brick building. Strathcona is Vancouver's oldest elementary school. Today it is composed of four separate buildings the oldest of which was built in 1897. The second oldest building dates from 1915. The newest building dates from 1971. Each building houses a different program. French Immersion and the library are in the New Building. As well there is a primary building, a juniors' building and a seniors' building.

Strathcona has a rich history of diversity and has welcomed students of many ethnic groups. The early students were English, Scots and Irish but by the turn of the 20th century the district had become an area of new immigrants. It reached a record enrollment of 1458 in 1937 with more than half of the student population Japanese Canadian. A survey undertaken in 1987 determined that 93% of the students spoke a language other than English at home. The four main ethnic groups of the past century have been Chinese, Jewish, Italian and Japanese.

Today Strathcona has a student population of 580. Of these 125 are in French Immersion and 120 are aboriginal. The school functions as a community centre, public library and a school. It was designated an Inner City School in 1989. The designation provides extra personnel and material resources from the VSB. There are 110 staff members including teachers, assistants, resource personnel and inner city support workers. It runs a community kitchen, breakfast program and a

lunch program as well as a backpack program that sends non-perishable foods home with children for the weekends.

The school is presently preparing for a seismic upgrade. The buildings will be gutted but the exterior facades will be maintained and windows will be reinforced. We were unable to see the many artifacts and documents because of the preparations going on for the seismic upgrade. Most of the artifacts had been packed up and stored until the work is over. One of the artifacts that we were able to look at was a record of staff meetings dating from 1901. It seems that some of the concerns of the staff in 1901 are still concerns today—locking doors for student safety and recess supervision.





# An INVITATION



The Let's Go Group originated in the Langley RTA. For the past three years LRTA members have met, discussed trips and planned outings. LRTA members have enthusiastically embraced the travel group with about one-quarter of the membership joining. Single members like the idea of traveling with colleagues and taking advantage of double occupancy pricing. Go to <http://www.langleyrta.ca> for complete background.

With the help of Enjoy Tours, this group has planned a winter vacation to Maui for Feb. 2016 which has sold out. For 2016 two other hosted trips are planned. A trip to Newfoundland and Labrador for August and a trip to France in September are just being advertised. These trips are fully escorted by both Enjoy Tours and Collette Vacations.

Working together, the BCRTA Membership Committee and the Langley Let's Go Chair offer

this "Let's Go" concept to branches and members throughout the province. Branches are encouraged to start their own travel group or individual members can join the "Let's Go" list-serve to keep informed of events. 21 branches throughout the province now have contacts on the Let's Go List-serve. Branches outside the Lower Mainland should note that Enjoy Tours will facilitate transfers and accommodation should a group from a branch wish to go on any of their tours or trips.

Troy Oppen, the CEO of Enjoy Tours, supports RR Smith by making a donation to the Foundation every time a BCRTA/RR Smith member lets them know they are a member when booking a trip. Travel companions for members also qualify for a donation.

For more information or to join the "Let's Go" List-serve contact Judy de Vries [devriesj@telus.net](mailto:devriesj@telus.net)



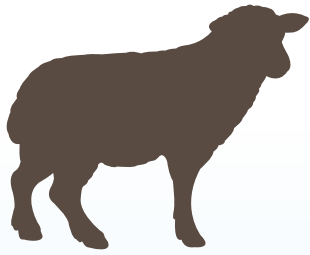
*Regina Day wins \$100 toward a trip with Enjoy Tours as well as a backpack and sleep mask. Troy Oppen, CEO Enjoy Tours and Judy de Vries, President RR Smith made the presentation.*



*Tom MacLean presents a basket donated by Collette Vacations to Norma Westrom.*



*Stephanie Moulton wins \$100 toward a trip with Enjoy Tours as well as a backpack and sleep mask. Troy Oppen makes the Presentation.*



# ANIMALS *IN MY* COUNTRY LIFE

BONNIE CHAPMAN, DELTA RTA



**W**e have entered our fourth year of being country folk on a small farm in Grand Forks, BC. It has been a steep learning curve at times since we were big city people before moving here, but almost always it's been an enjoyable lifestyle. We've had run-ins with some wild animals over that time and of course the interactions with our own domestic critters adds pleasure and some humorous episodes.

Too bad if you are born male on a farm because unless you're the Adonis ram or the Alpha rooster, life is short. We again have three lambs, neutered males who will be filling our freezer come November. But in the meantime their antics keep us and our visitors entertained. Even though neutered they have enough testosterone left to enjoy regular head-butting sessions, sessions which go on long enough to make us wonder sometimes that they don't render each other unconscious.

Just after sunset when the temperature cools down, the boys have running races, chasing each other around the pasture, first one and then the other taking the lead and as the finish line of the barn comes up, they all stop galloping and instead become fluffy toys on springs, all four legs held rigid and hitting the ground at the same time as if they have four pogo sticks instead of legs under them.

Romeo was born on February 14th and Iago and Othello are black twin brothers born a week later. Iago is the brains of the outfit. He studies the bolt of the feed shed intently, and returns to it after the evening grain ration has been gobbled, mouthing the metal bolt slowly, his mouth like the sensitive fingers of a safecracker knowing it **SOMEHOW** can be made to slide and once inside he and his pals would be in food heaven. He also works carefully on the metal snap which keeps the gate to the vegetable garden closed against their trespassing. The other lambs seem to look up to him, silently acknowledging his potentially greater puzzle solving ability.

We have five chickens this year, one a Silkie rooster named Harpo because of his insignificant beeps instead of a loud crowing and topknot of fluffy white feathers which remind us of an Einstein hairdo or that particular Marx brother. All the chickens are crazy about water melon and they line up at the gates in the evening knowing that watermelon sundowner time is near. They can clean a large one down to the rind in less than ten minutes, and they strut about 'til bedtime, licking the juice from their chops.

I had the big garage door open to circulate air into the house during the recent heat wave. As I



walked through the garage a few minutes later a loud 'screek' greeted me. I thought it was just an especially aggressive grasshopper that had ventured inside so ignored it. Later in the afternoon I started downstairs and saw a furry face looking up at me from the bottom step. It had beady intelligent eyes and a long flat body – a weasel. It 'screeked' again and ran behind a bookcase and I quickly continued downstairs and opened both doors to the yard so it could escape. I checked all around the rooms later and could find no trace of Mr. Weasel and so concluded he had found his way outside.

At 7 pm we descended to the downstairs TV room to watch the nightly Jeopardy show. One question was about the artist Margritte and I reached over the arm of the sofa for an art reference book. Lying just beside the book on the lowest shelf in the corner was the same furry little body, snuggled comfortably among the books. I didn't shriek and neither did he. I slowly got up and found a large jar with a lid and some heavy gardening gloves. Carefully I slid the book aside and was able to quietly slip the jar over the animal. With the lid tightened we got a good look at the little fellow who was now baring his teeth and scratching furiously at the jar sides. We finished watching Jeopardy and then drove jar and weasel a few miles away to a scenic spot beside the river away from any farms, and let him go. They are lethal around chickens and I feel a bit safer knowing he's far away.

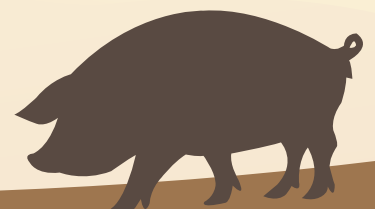
We have a huge extended family of hummingbirds in our yard. Norm is kept busy keeping their feeder

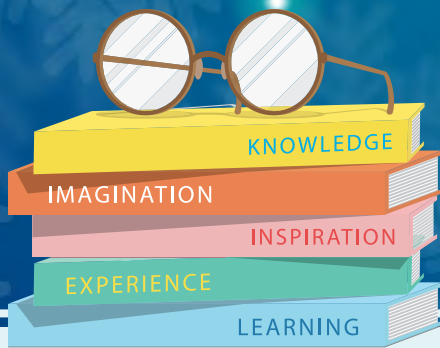


filled as they can consume two litres a day of sugar water. They sit four at a time around the feeder, lapping up the energy drink placidly until an aggressive member decided he wants it all to himself. Then hackles are raised and tail-feathers spread in a fierce show of dominance until they get hungry enough to all sit down again and share the food.

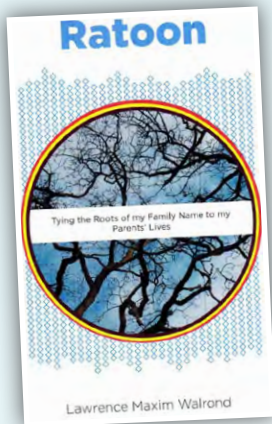
We have smelled the presence of a skunk several times around the neighbourhood but never seen one until I was driving out of our road and one ambled leisurely in front of my car, coming from nowhere. He looked neither left nor right, just slowly crossed the highway with his head down and it was a miracle that no one hit him. They are the centre of their world and take the straight path, oblivious to the traffic racing down Highway 3. I can't imagine the trouble it would be to deodorize one's car after a collision with that beast.

So our life in Grand Forks continues to be the happy retirement holiday we looked forward to during long report-card writing sessions of yesteryear. We would welcome any visitors to our sunny valley. Come walk through the gardens, visit the animals (the tame ones) and have a taste of Norm's Spencer Hill Brew.





# RETIRED TEACHERS *write books*



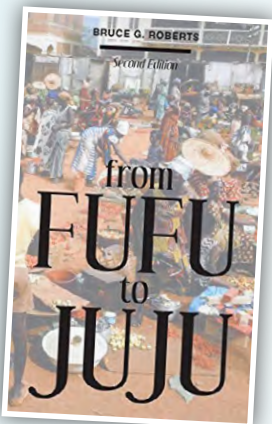
## **Ratoon** by Lawrence Walrond

In *Ratoon*, Lawrence Walrond describes his quest for the history of his family name. Research takes him from 7th-century Germany through 11th-century France and England and eventually to 17th-century Caribbean islands. He links customs in ancient New Guinea to trade practices of Mediterranean countries. He follows the Walrond name from the battlefields of England across the Atlantic to the sugar plantations of Barbados, where African slaves adopted the names of English landowners.

Lawrence then turns to the more recent past and pieces together a tapestry of his parents' lives, using his childhood memories, pictures, interviews and his father's collection of documents. His father's vocation as a successful elementary school principal in Trinidad is paralleled by Lawrence's own equally effective career as a French and Spanish teacher in Nanaimo.

This novel is a unique blend of history, biography and memoir, and explores the value of travel, how people relate to world events and how we make sense of the past.

Books are available by googling Friesenpress Bookstore Walrond



## **From Fufu to Juju** by Bruce Roberts

*From Fufu to Juju* tells the story of Bruce, his wife Dawnie, and their infant daughter Shelley, during three years from 1965-68 in the small village of Nkwatia-Kwahu in Ghana. Bruce had been assigned by External Aid (Canada)... now C.I.D.A.. to teach school at St. Peter's Secondary School, a boys' boarding school established and administered by the S.V.D. Catholic Mission. Follow the experiences; at times humorous, occasionally frightening, often poignant, and always unusual and unexpected; with the Roberts family as they immerse themselves in the lives of students of St. Peter's and the fascinating people and culture of Ghana.

Bruce Roberts • broberts2@shaw.ca

Copies may be obtained from the author, Friesen Press, or Amazon.ca



## **Soviet Princeton: Slim Evans and the 1932-33 Miners' Strike** by Jon Bartlett, Rika Ruebsaat

The winter of 1932-33 saw the small interior town of Princeton, BC divided. Charges of outside agitators and charges by mounted provincial police into picket lines of workers, Ku Klux Klan threats and a beating and cross-burning, the kidnapping of legendary labour organizer Slim Evans who was bundled onto the next train out of town (though he returned soon enough) — Princeton's few thousand citizens saw much of the human drama of the Great Depression play out right in their own lives over the course of just a few months.

[www.jonandrika.org](http://www.jonandrika.org)

**OOPS.** We gave half a title to Jacqueline Swann's book. It should have read *Chance and Carter Visit McLean Mill*. Books are available from Friesen Press or Chapters Indigo.





Harold Dawes, Prince George RTA Member



Florence Wright, RTA Member

THE WEATHER OUTSIDE  
IS FRIGHTFUL – BUT SPRING  
IS AROUND THE CORNER



Mt. Garibaldi - Merv Magus, Burnaby RTA Member



White Rock - Gayle Greveling, Coquitlam RTA Member





## LAST WORD FOR THE *crossword* NOT FORGETTING THE SUDOKU



**I**mportant stuff first: our six winners for the puzzles in the last issue are Patti Weiss (Coquitlam), Laura Mousseau (Chemainus) and Linda Anderson (Nanaimo) for the crossword puzzles and David Gale (Burnaby), Judy Yep (Maple Ridge) and Reta Gagnon (Prince George) for the Sudoku. Cheques will be coming in the mail.

There were 201 envelopes to open and one of the first had a lovely card and inside the words “I just love you guys! Keep up the good work! And Michelle S. put in an extra happy face too! Another lovely card illustrated with a pen and ink sketch by a grade seven student came from Anne T. who said : Arrived home from the cottage to find the front lawn dug up by skunks looking for Chafer bugs. Luckily the Postscript was here to ease my nerves. Thanks for another fun crossword.

A note here for new readers. Cut out your puzzles or photocopy them and leave the magazine whole. Send them to the address inside the front cover of the magazine watching the closing date – which we have lengthened for those who pointed out extra time was needed. Solutions will be on the website once the deadline has passed. We will check with the publisher re the positions of the puzzles.

### BACK CHAT:

We are aware that you are a talented bunch but Paul S. sent his Sudoku in with all of the blank squares filled in with pictures and words, very much like a rebus. Looked lovely and was much admired. Poet Doug H sent the following lines:-

The wind was howling, the power was out  
T’was the storm of the year there was no doubt  
So what could I do by candlelight?  
Why, the Postscript crossword – I’ll get it right  
And now it’s done and the Sudoku too  
I’ve sent it off – the rest is up to you!



FROM ALL OF US  
*at the* BCRTA



From Linda L. When the fall postscript arrives we know that summer is coming to an end. It's always a treat to read the magazine and see the photos. I appreciate your hard work on behalf of members.

Muriel L. wrote I am a crossword fan and always complete the Postscript puzzle but this is my first submission. I'd also like to add my kudos to the great job you do as editor of our magazine. I've been retired for many years and always look forward to reading Postscript from cover to cover. Many thanks for the enthusiasm and hard work you put into your job.

More thanks from Nelson W. and Melba H. Marjorie M. wondered if I had made the puzzle a little easier this time and appreciated the size of the squares. Note from Rose K whose very first entry had won a prize, and notes from Elizabeth and Jim's wife, who thanked him for his input. Bob M. said the puzzle was the first thing he turned to and Susan B. said her non-teaching guests also enjoyed the magazine. Chuck and Mary C. have sent in for the first time and Lois M., thanked us for the insert.

Leo S. wrote 'Thank you for the crossword/sudoku puzzles – for the first time I decided to enter. Thank you too for your work as editor of Postscript – a big job I am sure (not so, lots of help SG) and I really appreciated the middle section of BCRTA Seniors issues for the 2015 federal election. I also enjoyed everything from pages 1 – 48!!

Others who looked forward to the puzzles were Dagmar K. and Sheena and Tom M., Sharon P. and Elaine W. who said she learned something by reading every issue. (which is as it should be!) Pat B. appreciated the paper copy of the magazine. Sonja W. will be pleased to see more time given with a later deadline, but said she had checked six things off her bucket list this summer.

From Cheryl H: I would just like to say how much I enjoy Postscript. As a person with many eye problems I find the type face and size just perfect for readability. It makes me quite happy to be able to do the crossword without straining to see the printed word. Thank you

A note from Rheta asks if the Sudoku is getting harder or are her skills slipping? Lyle P. on the other hand says his wife finds them easy. From Gene B. comes this note. Again you have edited a thorough issue, covering diverse subjects and interesting entries from subscribers. And – fewer nit-pickers were noticed re your wonderful crosswords which I do every issue. I miss the deadline but not this time.

From Lois C., Once again thank you very much for such a wonderful, colourful, interesting magazine. Cover choice photo was stunning. The puzzles are always tedious but fun while the updated news and various articles make for an enjoyable read. Keep up the great effort on behalf of retired teachers. The longer allowable mail-in time is very appreciated as often I only have two or three days to return puzzles.

And on an entirely different note a crossword puzzle page with a letter written around the edges from Del and Eugenia M. who report: For the 'no bell' month going out on our thirty foot boat for the month of September – into Desolation Sound, along the Sunshine Coast and perhaps toward Bowen Island if we need civilization! Jazzy fest on Pender Harbour from September 19th to 22nd with lots of free entertainment. On August 22nd we enjoyed a quiet time overlooking Georgia Strait and looking towards Quadra and other islands and the mainland.

And that last short note will help you all recall summer memories as we slide into fall. Thank you all for your contributions which are welcomed and appreciated. – Sheila



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

**TO SOLVE SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

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

**SEND COMPLETED PUZZLES TO:**

100 – 550 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

**FOR MORE ONLINE SUDOKU PUZZLES:**

[www.fiendishsudoku.com](http://www.fiendishsudoku.com)

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS:**

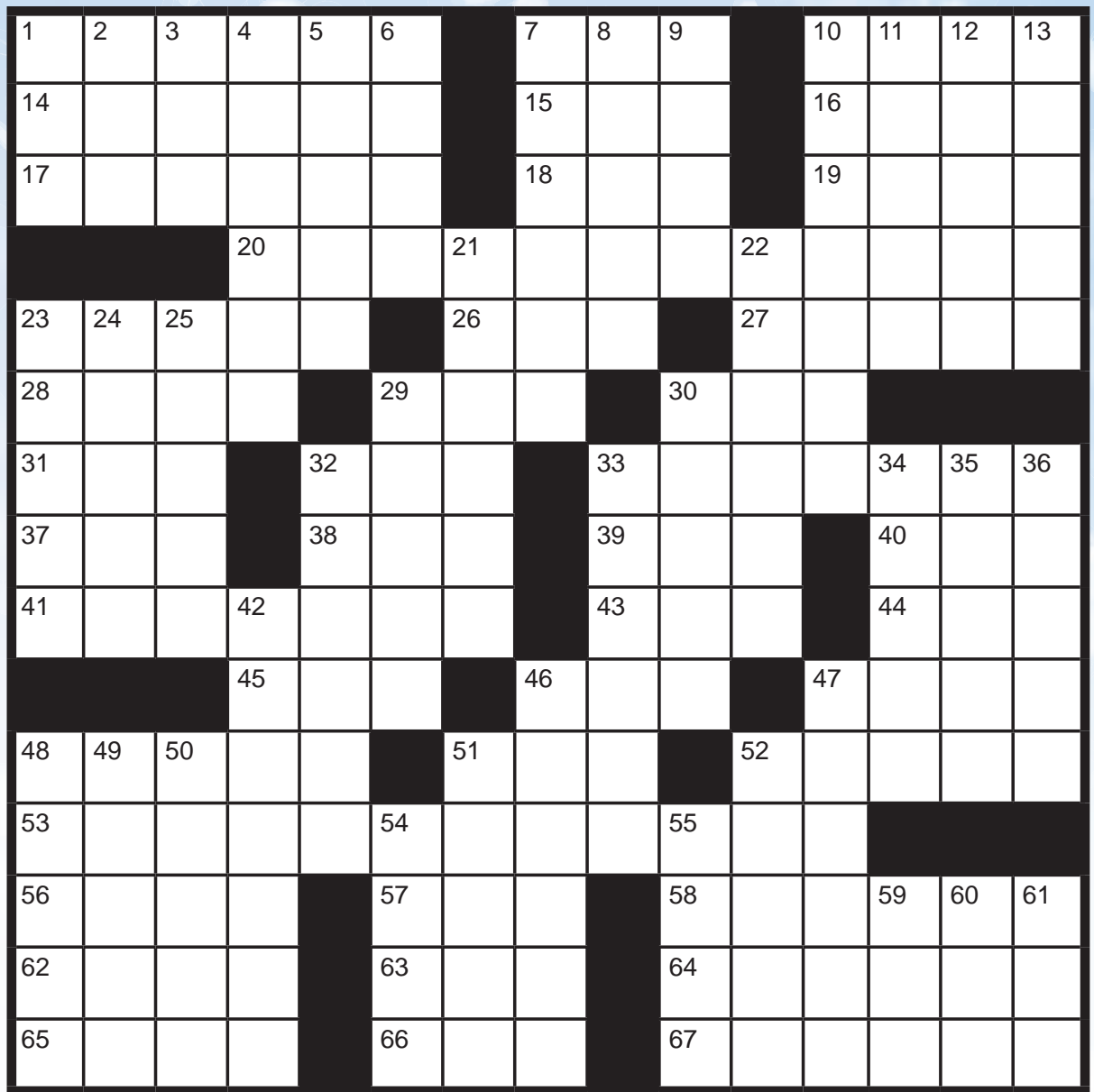
January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016



**POSTSCRIPT IS NOW  
AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL.  
SEND YOUR EMAIL TO  
[KRISTI@BCRTA.COM](mailto:KRISTI@BCRTA.COM)**



# Crossword



## ► ACROSS

1. GAME \_\_\_\_\_
7. PRIOR TO
10. CHURCH SERVICE
14. TEXAS TOWN
15. WAGE LESS TAXES
16. GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ CAESAR
17. BEFUDDLE
18. \_\_\_\_\_ BUDDHISM
19. COSY & WARM
20. EGYPTIAN ENTERTAINMENT
23. LIVER SPREADS
26. CARTER DAUGHTER
27. DEATH POETRY
28. EAGER
29. BILLIARD STICK
30. JAMIE \_\_\_\_\_ CURTIS
31. GRAB
32. PEA HOLDER
33. SOAPIER
37. THREE IN LATIN

38. NATURAL RESOURCE
39. OPPOSITE OF POST
40. \_\_\_\_\_ CHI
41. BAGGAGE PICKED UP
43. THROW OUT
44. ON OUR WALLS
45. DEANS' LIST LETTERS
46. RIVER BOTTOM
47. CLAY POT
48. GRAND OR UPRIGHT
51. FRENCH GOOD
52. CHASM
53. BUG STUDIER
56. OVER THERE
57. AUNT OR BRO
58. PAINTS WOOD
62. MAKE WELL
63. CHURCH SOC. ACT
64. GETS UP
65. WIFE OF GERAINT
66. FIRE RESIDUE
67. CHINESE SOUP

## ▼ DOWN

1. PART OF WWW
2. LIGHT BEER
3. LP SPEED
4. FINGER PAINTED
5. HIGHWAY BENDS
6. CHRISTMAS
7. PEPSIN EG
8. RIVER BANKS
9. VOLCANO
10. MOVE LIMBS
11. ORPHAN \_\_\_\_\_
12. BESET BY WASPS
13. WATERLOGGED
21. OVER PRAISED
22. HAD TO HAVE
23. WIDESPREAD FRIGHT
24. USE AS NEEDED
25. LEG BONE

29. CHICK \_\_\_\_\_ JAZZ PLAYER
30. TABLOIDS CONTENTS
32. CHEERLEADERS ACCESSORY
33. TRAPS CAN BE \_\_\_\_\_
34. CARUSO'S COUNTRY
35. NOBILITY
36. RUDNER & MORENO
42. LET GO BY
46. SLANG FOR CASH
47. GET
48. DOVE SYMBOL
49. DONE FOR A LAUGH (2 WD)
50. EARLY GAME
51. \_\_\_\_\_ THIS HOUSE
52. KIND OF TURF
54. KILLER WHALE
55. PAST TENSE I SEE
59. DEVOTEE SUFFIX
60. NEW PREFIX
61. W-2 INFO

# RR SMITH MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting of the R.R.Smith Memorial Fund Foundation the following directors were elected for 2015-2016: Beverly Anderson, Dave Carter, Judy de Vries, Andy Hattrick and Sheila Pither.

In recognition of her many years of valued service to the Foundation, President Judy de Vries presented Patricia Laursen with a certificate awarding her Honorary membership in the Foundation.

The draws held during the BCRTA Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting raised \$1,240.00 The winners of the draws were:

### Thursday night September 17

Tote bag donated by Beverly Anderson  
**JANIS NAIRN**

Backpack, sleep mask and \$100.00  
gift certificate donated by Enjoy Tours  
**REGINA DAY**

### Friday, September 18

Quilt - a member donation  
**MIKE STEVENS**

Gift hamper donated by the Hilton Hotel  
**KENDRA LITKE**

One night stay and breakfast for 2  
donated by the Holiday Inn  
**DIANNE SMITH**

Gift hamper donated by Collette Tours  
**NORMA WESTROM**

Backpack, sleep mask and \$100.00  
gift certificate donated by Enjoy Tours  
**STEPHANIE MOULTON**

### Saturday, September 19

iPad donated by Johnson  
**RUTH JANTZ**

Gift basket donated by the BCRTA  
**JO ANN LAUBER**

Gift basket donated by the Hilton Hotel  
**HEATHER ANDERSON**

One night stay and breakfast for two  
donated by the Hilton Hotel  
**PUMMY KAUR**

First Aid kit donated by the St. John's Ambulance  
**LES ELLIS**

The directors wish to thank those who donated prizes and all who participated in the draws.

A reminder that requests for grants must be received by March 1, 2016 Application forms may be obtained at [www.rrsmithmemorialfundfoundation](http://www.rrsmithmemorialfundfoundation) or the BCRTA Office 604-871-2260, 1-877-683-2243 or fax 604-871-2265

*Submitted by Andy Hattrick, Director*

*At the 2015 RR Smith Annual General Meeting, President Judy de Vries granted Patricia Laursen an Honorary Membership in the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation. Patricia is retiring as Office Manager at the end of December. Her work on RR Smith's behalf is greatly appreciated.*





Crossword and Sudoku submissions can be mailed, faxed or emailed to the BCRTA office.

The answers to the crosswords can be found on the Postscript section of the BCRTA website ([www.bcrta.ca](http://www.bcrta.ca)) after the contest deadline date.

**Deadline for Submission:**  
January 15, 2016

**Here comes your payment!**



**PENSION PAYMENT DATES  
FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2015:**

**NOVEMBER 27  
DECEMBER 23**



**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

**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@bcrta.com](mailto:laurie@bcrta.com).

Do it now before you forget!

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:**

DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>  
SCHOOLS CLOSE

JANUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
SCHOOLS REOPEN



**STATISTICS AS OF  
OCTOBER 31, 2015**

**ACTIVE: 14,152**

**ASSOCIATE: 28**

**LIFE MEMBERS: 1,372**

**TOTAL: 15,552**

**MEMBERSHIP STATS**

# - CLASSIFIEDS -



## NEW ENDLESS SAVINGS DISCOUNT PROGRAM FOR BCRTA MEMBERS

This new program is available to all BCRTA Members. Save

with hundreds of discounts available all the time on your smart phone. For more information, view the BCRTA Member Welcome Letter (the letter has been posted to the home page of [bcrt.ca](http://bcrt.ca) - you can direct link to the app website from there) The 1st page explains the program and the 2nd page is "how-to-install" the BCRTA icon on your smart phone and register to save. View at: <http://www.esmobileapp.com/files/WelcomeBCRTA.pdf>

New retail focus: Discounts now available all the time at Mark's, The Brick, Lordco, Dulux Paints, SoftMoc, Flaman Fitness, and more.

Endless Savings & More

Tel: (604) 532-1033 • Toll Free: (877) 514-2723

4683 222A St. Langley, BC V2Z 1M3

Email: [info@ESMobileApp.com](mailto:info@ESMobileApp.com) Web: [www.ESMobileApp.com](http://www.ESMobileApp.com)



## DO YOU BELIEVE THAT LITERACY IS A RIGHT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK ONE-ON-ONE AND IN GROUPS WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, OR ADULT LEARNERS IN AN INTERCULTURAL SETTING?

Frontier College is a national literacy organization. Our goal is to bring literacy and learning to Canadians everywhere. In Vancouver, Richmond, South Burnaby, and New Westminster we partner with

community organizations and schools to offer programs for children, youth, and adults.

We have heard from our program partners just how much they enjoy the expertise (and patience!) that retired teachers bring to their programs, and we are always looking for new tutors to join us.

Volunteers commit two to four hours per week to a program until June.

For more details, phone 604-713-5848 or email [atallack@frontiercollege.ca](mailto:atallack@frontiercollege.ca). To read about our programs in and around Vancouver, please visit: <http://www.frontiercollege.ca/english/literacy/vancouver.html>

## FRANK AND WENDY'S BEST OF IRELAND TRIP

May 31 — June 11, 2016

Price \$2679 per person

Land only based on twin occupancy. Please ask about the best available airfare on the day that you book.

For more information or to book, please contact Wendy Dunham at 902-463-5393 or email [wendy@wendydunhamtravel.ca](mailto:wendy@wendydunhamtravel.ca)



## DEAR JOHN OLIVER CLASS OF 1966 CLASSMATES

Reunion committee members

are busy trying to locate as many of our fellow classmates as possible. If you know of folks from our class, please get in touch with them, and share the Reunion news... or send us their name and contact information on our contact page at [www.jayo66reunion.com](http://www.jayo66reunion.com)

While you are on the Jayo Class of '66 Reunion website you will find that you can:

- Register and pay for the Reunion online
- The cost of tickets will increase by March 1, 2016, so buy your tickets early
- Find out who will be attending the Reunion
- Contact us

Don't forget to revisit the website for updates as we get closer to our big event.

## TEACH IN VIETNAM

On behalf of my organization, I would like to introduce myself as Ms. Thao Nguyen - Vice Director of the Victory Foreign Language Center, a part of Tra Vinh University, located in the Mekong Delta of the South of Vietnam.

Our school was established in 2006 under the Vietnam - Canada Community College Project, and was financially and technically sponsored by CIDA, ACCC, SIAST, and Malaspina College (now Vancouver Island University). Although ours is a young university, it is growing extremely fast, with 500 staff and about 20,000 students this year.

My center is a part of the university and its mission is providing lessons to learners in the province—including young learners and adults—in order to improve their English. This helps them with job applications, higher education and study. My center has many Canadian volunteers, Filipino teachers, and TEFL teachers. Students at my center really love to learn with them.

I have been reading about your association, and wish to invite your members to follow their teaching interests at my center. Even though they are retired, I strongly believe in their qualifications and ability. I think this is a chance for any of your members who are interested to work in an overseas language school, helping Vietnamese students.

My center has provided many special offers for teachers, such as accommodation, allowances, etc. For further details of my center and my university, please visit us at Trang chủ or [www.victory.tvu.edu.vn](http://www.victory.tvu.edu.vn)

Ms. Thao Nguyen, Vice Director  
Victory Informatics and Foreign Language Center  
Tra Vinh University  
Email: [maithaotvu@yahoo.com](mailto:maithaotvu@yahoo.com)



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**PALMSPRINGS** April 2016-Vacation Rental Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage - exclusive gated community with tennis, swimming pools, kayaks, bikes, 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom lake front condo. Central location for all desert fun.

Info - [www.mylakemirage.weebly.com](http://www.mylakemirage.weebly.com)

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### SUN PEAKS RENTAL

2 bedroom - 2 bath condo at Settler's Crossing in Sun Peaks. Available for long term rental (December 2015 to March 2016) Contact Linda Bennie at [linbennie@shaw.ca](mailto:linbennie@shaw.ca) for more pictures and more info.

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### PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEW - BOWSER, BC

This relaxing, private 2 bedroom cottage is located in Bowser, B.C. (north of Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Is.) It is the perfect place to use as a home base to explore this section of Vancouver Island or to enjoy the view of Denman and Hornby Islands from the deck. It is just steps to the beach and an easy walking distance to a small strip mall. Contact us for more information at [Seacroft18@shaw.ca](mailto:Seacroft18@shaw.ca)

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### PALM SPRINGS

\$2300 US; Palm Springs; 11 nights; March 2016

\$2300 US Palm Desert, Spring Break for 11 nights, March 10 - 20/16 inclusive. (California)

Escape to fabulously warm and dry Palm Desert for Spring Break! World class tennis tournament nearby!

\* Enjoy a studio with king bed, beautifully furnished, decorated, and outfitted at the 5-star extraordinary Club Intrawest.

\* Sleeps two; 450 sq feet; patio with fireplace and eating area; parking; exclusive use of adult pool, hot tub; mini-kitchen with fridge, blender, coffee maker, dishes and utensils; free common use of washer/dryer; free local telephone; heat/air conditioned; TV/DVD/CD; Free in-suite Wi-Fi; shower-no tub.

\* No pets/no smoking in unit

\* Onsite amenities: barbecue area; pools; hot tubs; clubhouse; gym; internet kiosk; lighted tennis courts; basketball court; close to shops, restaurants, mall and highway.

\* Price for 11 nights is \$2300 US and includes all taxes and fees, payable at time of booking. Cancellation fee of \$180US, no refund after January 22/16.

Kindly call Carol 250-389-2295; or email [newcarol@shaw.ca](mailto:newcarol@shaw.ca) to reserve your vacation.

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### REMEDIAL TEACHERS/TUTORS REQUIRED:

The Learning Disabilities Association Vancouver Branch would like to

Hire you as a remedial tutor : Special Education experience preferred.

We are an up and coming Non Profit with locations in Vancouver, Coquitlam and North Vancouver. We have a collegial and happy work environment. Choose your days and hours!

If you would like to join us in our pursuit of supporting children with Learning Disabilities and their families please contact our Executive Director, Kate Raven at [kater@ldav.ca](mailto:kater@ldav.ca).

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### SPRING TIME IN NEWYORK? SUMMER IN SANTA FE?

Join the Vancouver Opera Guild on their spring tour to New York April 15 - 21, 2016. Tour includes airfare Vancouver to New York, hotel within walking distance of Lincoln Central, Central Park, museums and art galleries., and opera tickets to Simon Boccanegra: (Domingo, Calleja, c. Levine), Elektra: (Meier, Pieczonka, Owens), Roberta Devereux: ( Radvonovsky, Polenzani), Otello: (Antonenko, Gerzmava Lucie).

Summer in Santa Fe.

This tour includes: 6 nights hotel, airfare Vancouver - Santa Fe, four operas: La Fanciulla del West (Puccini), Vanessa (Barber), Romeo et Juliette (Gounod), Don Giovanni (Mozart) and excursions to Taos and Allan Houser Sculpture Gardens. There is also opportunity to explore the architecture and culture of the Native American, Hispanic and Anglo cultures in the oldest capital city in the USA.

More information from Great Expeditions 604 257 2040 (toll free 1 800 663 3364) [tours@greatexpeditions.com](mailto:tours@greatexpeditions.com), [www.greatexpeditions.com](http://www.greatexpeditions.com) or the Vancouver Opera Guild: [www.vancouveroperaguild.com](http://www.vancouveroperaguild.com)

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### FRANCE

France Alsace and Vosges Mountains - 3 bedroom heritage house on wine route, all furnished with modern kitchen - very close to Germany (Freiburg) and Switzerland (Basel) CA\$600/week (all included) [mano936@gmail.com](mailto:mano936@gmail.com)

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### CUBA1TOURS - PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP TOURS (20 MAX)

Tour the most spectacular, interesting, historic areas of Cuba with your personal guides and driver throughout. All tours are paced for a leisurely experience and you will get to know the REAL Cuba.

Tours operate through Square1travel of Courtenay, a BC licensed travel agency. Early booking is VERY important.

Visit [www.cuba1tours.com](http://www.cuba1tours.com) or you can contact Tom Robertson at [tom@cuba1tours.com](mailto:tom@cuba1tours.com)

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### BIG WHITE



Great ski in/out condo (Graystoke), on night ski run, 5 minute walk to village. Two bedroom/two bathroom (lock off for separate rental is an option); full unit sleeps eight; outdoor shared hot tub; quiet, family oriented building.

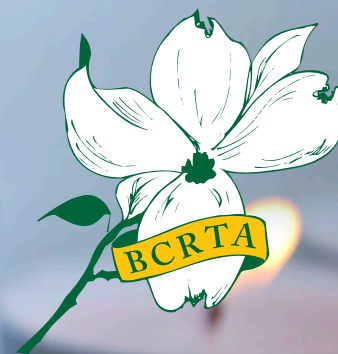
REASONABLE RATES... Regular season, holidays, weekends... SPECIAL RATE MID WEEK (MONDAY TO THURSDAY)

For further details, availability and rate information call 250-860-6183.



# OBITUARIES

*Location listed is the area given as "last taught"*



ADAMS, Alice, Beneficiary of Harold  
AYLEN, Don, Vancouver  
CAPPOS, Deborah, Nicola Similkameen  
CATHERWOOD, Carole F., North Vancouver  
CLERIHUE, E. Jean, Prince Rupert  
COCKCROFT, Geoffrey, Vancouver  
COPLAND, Stanley P., Vancouver  
DAHL, Annie M.  
DURICK, Diane, Fernie  
ELDRIDGE, Rod, Okanagan Skaha  
FARIS, Peter W., Nelson  
FIELD, Arthur E. J., Nelson  
FRANK, Aileen, Terrace  
GREENHOUGH, Charles F., Summerland  
HAMMAR, Mildred, Surrey  
HAVERSTOCK, Alice, Richmond  
HEWLETT, Edward S., Surrey  
HO, William, Richmond  
HOBSON, Earl S., Richmond  
HOLTZ, James, Central Okanagan  
HORVATH, James G., Prince George  
JOHNSON, Frances, Vernon  
KELLY, Frank D., Princeton  
KELLY, Rhona S., Sunshine Coast  
KLASSEN, John, Langley  
KOSHELANYK, Christine, Cariboo-Chilcotin  
LESSMAN, Eric F., Coquitlam  
LONG, Linda Elizabeth, Vernon  
MacKAY, Ross Andrew, Vancouver  
MACKAY-SMITH, Helen E., Summerland  
MacLEOD, W. Barrie, Sea to Sky

MAWDSLEY, Jeanne, North Vancouver  
McFADDEN, Nellie, Terrace  
McINNES, Beverly M., New Westminster  
MINHAS, Dhirendar, Terrace  
PALMER, Francis E. O., Nanaimo/Ladysmith  
PERSON, Roy Everett, Bulkley Valley  
PIGGOTT, Albert, Sooke  
PLASKETT, Jacqueline M., Vancouver  
RABOCH, Margaret M., Shuswap & District  
RADELET, Rosemary, North Coast  
RELKOFF, Alex, Coquitlam  
SAUNDERS, Isabel J., Alberni  
SCOTT, Colin, Prince George  
SMITH, James G., Prince George  
STOBIE, Margaret, Saanich  
THIESSEN, Anita I., Cowichan  
THOMPSON, Anne M., Vancouver  
TYLER, Irene C., Chilliwack  
van KUYK, Aggie, Surrey  
WELLMAN, Roger F., Vancouver  
WEST, Dorothy J., Alberni  
WHITLEY, Dale, Langley  
WIEBE, John P., Maple Ridge  
WILSON, Donald A. S., Vancouver  
WONG, Janet, Burnaby  
WOOD, Michael A., Victoria  
WOODWARD, Dianne, Coquitlam  
WRIGHT, Sarah E.  
YORK, Marion, Kamloops  
ZWARYCH, Gloria J., Alberni



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