



## ***Ridge Meadows Retired Teachers' Association***

### ***March Newsletter 2018***

***From the desk of the President ~ Julie Zoney [jbz@telus.net](mailto:jbz@telus.net)***

'Tis the season to welcome Spring!! Crocuses and tulips blooming!!  
Hope to see you all at some of our upcoming activities. (see below for dates)

#### **Our 2017-2018 Executive:**

|                   |                    |  |              |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|--------------|
| Julie Zoney       | President/Editor   | <a href="mailto:jbz@telus.net">jbz@telus.net</a>                           | 604-467-1370 |
| Elizabeth Jakeway | Secretary/Sunshine | <a href="mailto:ejajakeway@hotmail.com">ejajakeway@hotmail.com</a>         | 604-467-6608 |
| Don Sears         | Treasurer          | <a href="mailto:donsears@telus.net">donsears@telus.net</a>                 | 604-817-6402 |
| Molly Falcon      | Social             |  | 604-467-7927 |
| Nell Plotnikoff   | Member-At-Large    | <a href="mailto:nellplotnikoff@hotmail.com">nellplotnikoff@hotmail.com</a> | 604-477-1185 |
| Julie Koehn       | Member-At-Large    | <a href="mailto:d-jkoehn@telus.net">d-jkoehn@telus.net</a>                 | 604-467-6028 |

#### **Friendship Potluck/February 13, 2018**

(by Nell Plotnikoff)

**"In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures.**

**For in the dew of little things, the heart finds its morning and is refreshed."**

(Khalil Gibran)

Twenty retirees joined in laughter and sharing at the annual Ridge Meadows Retired Teachers' Friendship Potluck luncheon. The tables, set with a Valentine theme, provided a warm welcome to all in attendance. Thank you to everyone for contributing such a variety of delicious food to the potluck table and for all those who helped with the setup and clean up.

Ross Dunning was our first speaker. Ross Dunning put up a display table of items, textile and other, depicting Peruvian culture. After the meal, he gave a very interesting and educational presentation about Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas in Peru. Machu Picchu is one of the world's most extraordinary archaeological sites. Its name comes from an ancient Quechua word that means "old mountain" and, indeed, its location (elev. 2400 meters) is on a mountain slope high above the Urubabamba River. This "Lost City of the Incas", though known to locals at the time, was "discovered" by Professor Hiram Bingham in 1911. Its construction possibly dates to the times of Tupac Inca Yupanqui, the final era of the Inca empire. In 1983, UNESCO declared it a World Cultural and Natural Heritage site. Unfortunately, due to technical



problems, we were unable to enjoy a slideshow of Ross' adventures to, and at, Machu Picchu. It will be rescheduled for our Sept. Breakfast.

Judy Bergen from “Love Guatemala” was our second speaker. In 2010 Judy and Philip Bergen sold their home in Abbotsford, BC and moved to Guatemala for 6 months, on a mission to help improve the lives of villagers in Guatemala. In 2013 they were granted temporary residency and since then have homes in Guatemala and Canada. Judy has been involved in construction of family housing projects, in providing books for children from kindergarten to grade 7, in organizing soup kitchens and a community feeding program. Judy's mission work, Love Guatemala Canada, is associated with Commission To Every Nation. CTEN is a servant organization whose mission is "FINDING those who are lost, SERVING those who are under-resourced and LOVING those who have been forgotten.”

We enjoyed a very informative slideshow about the projects of CTEN in Guatemala. Many of us enjoyed shopping at Judy's table of Guatemalan items; the bracelets were especially sought after, with orders placed for more.

Love Guatemala Canada is well-worth supporting.  
"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service to other."

**"When the world is so complicated, the simple gift of friendship is within all our hands." (Maria Shriver)**



Visit their website: [loveguatemala.org](http://loveguatemala.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***Update from Ken Holmes:***

Ken's “Change for Change” Project or “Love Guatemala” is continuing. We will continue to accept donations to this worthwhile cause at all our gatherings. Ken's project has helped 10 Libraries get started and this year the funds will help those 10 increase their number of books. He is also helping a new school that is just starting up in Belize. They require **English** books in good condition. Please bring them along to our get togethers and Ken will get them shipped over there.

### ***Mark Your Calendar***

All loft Luncheons: Please be responsible and **RSVP** to Elizabeth Jakeway [ejajakeway@hotmail.com](mailto:ejajakeway@hotmail.com) 604-467-6608 or Molly Falcon 604-467-7927

All other events please RSVP to Julie at [jbz@telus.net](mailto:jbz@telus.net) or 604-467-1370.

- Wed. Mar. 7/2018/School Dist. #42 Retired Staff/Loft Luncheon
  - Thurs. Mar. 15/2018 St. Patrick's Pub  
Lunch/at Sam's/by Pantry in Pitt Meadows  
RSVP to Julie at [jbz@telus.net](mailto:jbz@telus.net) or 604-467-1370.
  - Wed. April 4 /2018/School Dist. #42 Retired Staff/Loft Luncheon  
\*\*\* April/2018 Spring Road Trip/See more info below
  - May/2018 RMRTA AGM (time and place TBA)
  - Wed. June 6/2018/School Dist. #42 Retired Staff/Loft Luncheon
  - Tues. June 12/2018 School District #42 Retirement Tea Garibaldi Secondary 3:30
  - \*\* Be responsible and RSVP for Loft Luncheons to Elizabeth 604-467-6608 [ejajakeway@hotmail.com](mailto:ejajakeway@hotmail.com) or Molly 604-467-7927
- At our Loft Luncheons and other get togethers we will be accepting donations to Ken Homes "Love Guatemala" providing books to needy children in Guatemala and the Fossils Group (they put together hygiene baggies for needy people in our community) donations of NEW (not opened or used) SMALL packages of kleenex, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, bars of soap, mouthwash, chewing gum, breath mints, wash clothes, toothbrushes, pens, pencils, and notepads.
- Tues. Sept. 4 THWTB Breakfast 10:00 A.M.  
RSVP Julie [jbz@telus.net](mailto:jbz@telus.net) or 604-467-1370



### ***Having problems with Green Shield??***

The move to Green Shield was a decision of the Teachers' Pension Board of Trustees – not the BCRTA. The decision was made following an open competition; other insurance companies were invited to submit proposals and GSC won the competition. The BCRTA plays no role in this as we have no direct contractual relationship with GSC.

- 1 The GSC plan is like the former Blue Cross plan both in design and service. GSC has worked to ensure affordability by not increasing premiums this year and has also worked to be more precise, strict and consistent in interpreting the agreement and in accepting or denying claims.
- 2 If a problem occurs:
  - a) Contact Green Shield directly and try to solve the problem with an agent of GSC.
  - b) If not satisfied escalate your demands by asking to speak to a supervisor. To request an escalation in service call toll free 1-888-711-1119 Mon. to Fri. 5:30am to 5:30pm or email: [customer.service@greenshield.ca](mailto:customer.service@greenshield.ca). Be specific.
  - c) If still not satisfied, access Green Shield's Customer Complaint Resolution process at the following URL: <http://www.greenshield.ca/en-ca/get-in-touch/we-re-happy-if-you-re-happy>  
You may also write the Teachers' Pension Board. [TPBT@pensionsbc.ca](mailto:TPBT@pensionsbc.ca)

***Our Sunshine Coordinator...*** Elizabeth Jakeway will send cards to members who are ill or to family members in the case of bereavement and birthdays... if she knows about them. She can be contacted at [ejajakeway@hotmail.com](mailto:ejajakeway@hotmail.com) or 604-467-6608.

## ***Your Pension!!***

We can look forward to twelve payments this year but, if we look back one hundred years, our predecessors had less to celebrate as the New Year began. In fact, teacher pensions were a concern. In 1918 outstanding teachers could be rewarded for long and faithful service only by a special act of the legislature. This was done in a few isolated cases. The then fledgling BCTF advocated for a pension of 1/60 of the average salary for the last ten years' work for each year of service. In 1921 changes were made to the Civil Servant's Pension Act to allow for teachers to receive pensions - but pensions were to be given only where school boards chose to give them and school boards could only grant them after receiving permission from local municipal councils. In the end not one teacher in the province ever collected a pension under this provision. In 1918, very few teachers received money upon retirement; in 2018, over thirty-six thousand retirees will receive monthly TPP payments. Your years of hard work and well-managed contributions have paid off.

Join us as we travel to Whistler!!

**Monday April 16/2018**

**Audain Art Museum + Fairmont Chateau Whistler**

**\$139 | Activity Level: Easy**

**8:00am - 6:15pm**

**Pickup and drop off at Maple Ridge Alliance Church. Park your car along wooden fence.**

The Audain Art Museum is Canada's newest Art Museum which opened March 12, 2016 in Whistler. The Audain Art Museum's permanent collection of nearly 200 works of art is a visual journey through the history of art from coastal British Columbia. Experience the art of British Columbia, from the traditional works of the province's First Peoples through to its contemporary masters, in one of Canada's most treasured wilderness destinations.

- Audain Art Museum admission
- Docent led tour
- Museum free time
- Fairmont Chateau Whistler lunch
- Free time Whistler Village
- All fees and taxes

9:30am - Squamish Adventure Centre (washroom/ coffee)

10:00am - Depart

11:00am - Audain Art Museum Whistler - Docent led tour

- Museum permanent collection free time

12:45pm - Fairmont Chateau Whistler lunch

2:15pm - Whistler Village free time

3:15pm - Depart

4:15pm - Tim Horton's Squamish (washroom/ coffee)

***Book soon with Enjoy Tour and Travel  
604-630-2434 Ext. 1***

\*\*\*\*\*

At our Loft Luncheons and other get togethers we will be accepting donations to Ken Homes "Love Guatemala" and the Fossils Group (they put together hygiene baggies for needy people in our community) to come and receive our donations of NEW (not opened or used) SMALL packages of tissues, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, bars of soap, mouthwash, chewing gum, breath mints, wash clothes, toothbrushes, pens, pencils, and notepads.

\*\*\*\*\*

**New members?? If you know of any retired teachers or administrators that live in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows and are not presently members... encourage them to join the BCRTA and our RMRTA**