

Fall 2024



I hope you have been enjoying these crisp fall days. I'm always pleased to see the leaves turn red/orange/yellow and smell autumn in the air. The BCRTA's AGM is always a reminder we are entering a new time of year! I was pleased to attend this important event along with Yole Prosperi-Porta and Laurence Greeff, as your representatives. The BCRTA will be updating their website with full summaries of all the events and I'll send a brief update to members as well.

Our No Bell Picnic was once again a success with lawn games and an on open pit hot dog barbeque! Unfortunately, I was ill and could not attend but Yole, George Main and Laurence Greeff held down the fort and everyone had a lovely time. Our Harrison Lake boat tour, organized by Judy DeVries via *Enjoy The Journey*, happened on October 7th. This is the first time for this event. It was a great success with good weather and good company, a lovely boat tour and lunch in the local pub provided.

We are busy planning our Christmas luncheon and looking forward to scheduling speakers and new events during the winter/spring seasons. We hope to entice our members o join our executive members and their LRTA friends in our social outings.

See you there! Gail Chaddock-Costello

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT ADRIAN'S

We have planned an LRTA 'in-person' pre-Christmas get-together at *Adrian's at the Airport* for **Wednesday, December 4, 2024**. You will have three menu items to choose from:

- 1. chicken souvlaki
- 2. schnitzel neptune
- 3. spanakopita



The luncheon cost is \$35 (NOTE THE PRICE INCREASE). This includes tea/coffee, entrée, dessert AND gratuity.

Pre-registration will be required so watch for the email soon. Your executive is looking forward to sharing some early Christmas cheer with our members.

If you would like to attend the upcoming luncheon and are receiving your newsletter by Canada Post ONLY, as you do not have email access, please phone me (Maureen Wilson) @ 604-916-0653 to pre-register.

Our Annual No Bell Picnic Was a Success!!!

Another successful "No Bell" picnic was held for our retirees at Derby Reach. The weather cooperated and the fire ban was lifted in time for us to have a pit fire for a wiener and marshmallow roast. This year we also had ball toss, ring toss and croquet set up in the park for all to enjoy including the grandchildren who attended. Three lucky members were awarded gift certificates: **Marlene Petersen** and **Sharon Von Hollen** each received a \$25.00 Save-on-Foods card and **Nancy Gleeson** won the \$35.00 gift card for Adrian's Restaurant.

Thanks to all for making it such an enjoyable event! Special thanks to those who helped with the planning and organizing of the event.

















Let's Go!' REPORT

 $^{\sim}$ Submitted by Judy de Vries $^{\sim}$



Perfect weather, bright sunshine, calm waters and a delightful day to tour the Harrison Lake.

LRTA Members Enjoying a Day in Harrison







If you would like to join the 'Let's Go' group and receive information as soon as it is available, send your email address to <u>judydevries@me.com</u> and be added to the list.

Langley Retired Educators' Scholarship Team Report

~Submitted by Sue Mackenzie~



Once again it is time to think about the Langley Educators' Scholarship

program. The program was originally established by the Langley Retired Teachers' Association (LRTA) under the coordination and diligent work of former LRTA Executive member and retired administrator, *Maureen Pepin*. Sadly, Maureen passed away 2 years ago. This past year we were pleased to announce that the Langley Retired Educators' Scholarship for Langley Secondary School will be awarded annually in memory of Maureen.

This scholarship program has been under the coordination and management of the Langley School District Foundation for many years. The amount of the scholarships awarded varies somewhat depending upon the amount of donations collected annually and changing interest rates. Students who wish to pursue their post-secondary education with the goal of teaching are eligible to apply.

For the past couple years, the amount has been \$750.00 each awarded to the following Langley Secondary Schools:

Secondary School	In memory of	Secondary School	In memory of
Aldergrove		Langley Fine Arts	Bob McCubbin
Brookswood		Langley Fundamental	Helen Woolley
D.W. Poppy	Marg Mountain	R.E. Mountain	R.D. Buck
Langley	Maureen Pepin	Walnut Grove	Dorothy Peacock

The Denny Ross Memorial Scholarship of \$1000 is also under the umbrella of the Retired Educators' Scholarships and is awarded to a graduating student intending to enter a social service career, e.g. teaching, nursing.

We would like to thank all of you who have generously donated to the fund in previous years on behalf of the Langley Retired Educators' Scholarship Fund. Without your support we would be unable to fulfill our desire to offer one to eight secondary schools in Langley School District. For more information, please contact: Sue Mackenzie <u>spmackenzie2@gmail.com</u> on behalf of Retired Educators' Scholarship Team (REST) or the Langley School District Foundation (office at the SBO) at 604-617-5140. Reminder - these donations are tax deductible, and receipts will be issued and sent to the email address you provide. If you decide that you would like to contribute to the 2024 /2025 scholarships, please do so at <u>the</u> <u>following link:</u> <u>Langley's Retired Educators</u> <u>Scholarship Fund</u>

**Important. Be sure to specify the donation is for the "Langley Retired Educators'
Scholarships." Please remember to include your email address so a tax receipt can be sent to you.

Also, please note that the campaign is over **December 31st** for donations for this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT



DEVENUE

Technology

Total Expense

Income Statement July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024



~Submitted by John Salmon~

429.51 4,722.05

REVENUE		
Membership (BCRT	4,770.00	
Programmes	615.00	
Total Revenue	1 <u>0</u>	5,385.00
EXPENSE		
Administration	See Note A	836.90
Memberships (COS	200.00	
Miscellaneous	See Note B	434.96
Programmes	See Note C	2,820.68

NET INCOME	662.95

See Note D

Note A: Newsletters, postage, stationery, email, etc. Note B: Membership appreciation, sunshine, etc. Note C: Luncheons, outings, workshops (Net \$2,205.68) Note D: Sound equipment (charged to contingencies)

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

BANK	GENERAL	CONTINGENCIES	ADVOCACY
14,232.21	12,293.83	543.38	1,395.00
5,385.00	5,385.00	0.00	0.00
(4,722.05)	(4,292.54)	(429.51)	0.00
14,895.16	13,386.29	113.87	1,395.00
	14,232.21 5,385.00 (4,722.05)	14,232.2112,293.835,385.005,385.00(4,722.05)(4,292.54)	14,232.2112,293.83543.385,385.005,385.000.00(4,722.05)(4,292.54)(429.51)

Cash on Hand June 30, 2024	200.00	
Bank Balance	14,895.16	Balance per Bank Statement and Account Records
Total Funds Available	15,095.16	

Prepared by: John Salmon Treasurer LRTA

BCRTA AGM 2024

~Submitted by LRTA President, Gail Chaddick-Costello



This year's AGM was held at the Hyatt in Vancouver, an old haunt of the BCTF's for provincial meetings. Our first event was the

Registration, Meet and Greet and a No-host bar on Thursday, September 26th. Friday was our full conference day filled with the President's update (Arnie Lambert), Insurance News (Lisa Hansen), PostScript Golden Star awards (Dave Scott), presentations by Gale Pirie on "Appraisals", David Falconer – "Classrooms without Walls" and Hilde Deprez, a Notary speaking on important legal documents for seniors, followed by the ACER-CART update by David Denyer and Zone group discussions on matters impacting local Retired Teachers' Associations.

It was a full day of gathering and sharing information. All these presentations were valuable in different ways. For me, the most moving was David Falconer's presentation. His program offers on-line courses and conversations with students in war torn countries - mainly girls – who are unable to access/were not considered eligible for, education. He had three students, one from Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Ukraine on a link to speak to us directly – incredibly moving.

Saturday's schedule included the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation's AGM. A powerpoint presentation by President *Barb Mikulec* highlighted our year filled with a full review/rewrite of policies and procedures, our budget and plans for the coming year. I was, once again, honoured to be elected as a Director to the RR Smith Board.

Following another lovely lunch, we said our goodbyes and headed home feeling we had participated in a valuable exchange of ideas.

Respectfully submitted: Gail Chaddock-Costello, President, Langley Retired Teachers' Association



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE -- ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP!

Join the BCRTA and receive your first year FREE!!

Here is a direct link <u>https://bcrta.ca/join/</u> (you can copy and paste the URL into your browser window). **This offer is for anyone who has never joined the BCRTA, not only for new retirees.** So, if you know a teacher who has retired in previous years, but has not yet joined the BCRTA, please let them know of this unique opportunity.

MEMBERSHIP/BCRTA WEBSITE LIAISON REPORT

~ Submitted by Maureen Wilson~



The Langley Branch of the BCRTA is one of the largest and most actively supported branches in the province. This year, we have a total of 534 members. We are pleased to welcome those

who have joined us this past year. We are hoping that some of our recently retired members who enjoyed their first year free, will consider continuing with us.

This year all retired teachers who have not yet joined the BCRTA, should fill in a registration form to receive a year of free membership in both the BCRTA <u>AND</u> Langley branch.

Here's a direct link to the BCRTA membership page - <u>http://www.bcrta.ca/membership</u> - where you can either *download* a BCRTA membership application, fill it out and mail it in, or fill one out online and e-mail it to <u>laurie@bcrta.com</u> Don't forget to note that you would like to join the BCRTA **AND** the Langley Branch.

Belonging to the BCRTA provides us all with benefits and privileges that would otherwise not be possible. Yearly dues are necessary to support the effort of those that advocate for the rights and interests of retired teachers. At the branch level, the yearly fee is important as it allows the executive to plan luncheons, pay speakers and organize special activities. In addition, the Langley School District Foundation provides scholarships (the dollar amount depending on how much is donated that year by our members) each year to several Langley school graduates planning a teaching career.



Check out our website at <u>https://bcrta.ca/langley/</u>. Special photo credit goes to *Glen Mackenzie*, who took this beautiful photo of the Fraser River in Fort Langley.

What's New with Gluu?



The LRTA has a special connection to Gluu Society from the days that Linda Fawcus, founder, provided us personal instruction on how to use our technology devices.

Here is a link to a TEDxSurrey presentation by Fawcus on <u>The Surprising Ways</u> <u>Technology is Transforming the Way We Age</u>: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcUEGSXLFLI</u>

She has some very interesting concepts on how smart technology can help us in the ageing process and keep us more independent.

If you are interested in learning more about how to use your technology devices (both Apple and android), check out what is being offered on their website: https://gluusociety.org/learners/



You can also follow Gluu Technology Society on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/gluusticks

One of their most recent topics has been regarding using public Wi-Fi (eg. When you are in a restaurant or coffee shop). They list four things you need to know:

- 1. Only use secure networks Pick a secure Wi-Fi network by choosing one that has a lock icon to the left of its Wi-Fi network name. Ask someone who works there for the password.
- 2. Update your operating system Hackers often rely on outdated operating systems (OS) to get into a device. Maek sure to update your OS before using public Wi-Fi.
- Don't give away too much info Be wary of using public Wi-Fi that asks for personal details, like your email address or phone number. If you must connect to a network like this, stick to a Wi-Fi that you trust. Consider using your 'throw-away' email address – not your primary email address.
- 4. Download at home Try not to use public Wi-Fi at all. Download articles, videos and music before you leave home. Don't download or install anything over public Wi-Fi unless you absolutely must.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

~Submitted by Maureen Wilson~



In past years, more and more people are getting comfortable with electronic communications. Of the

500+ members, all but 30 people receive our newsletters via Canada Post,

a far cry from the 125+ that were being sent out when I first took over the publication of the LRTA newsletter many moons ago.

As we progress with technology (much of it because of COVID restrictions in past years), it is wonderful to see how many of our members feel

more comfortable with their smart phones and tablets. I know so many seniors who are enjoying visits with their families via Zoom.

I do have an issue with some Shaw customers. If you haven't been receiving my emails, they may be in your 'spam' or 'junk' folder. Be sure to add <u>Irta.35@gmail.com</u> to your Shaw 'whitelist'. Here is a link for setting that up. <u>https://www.whitelist.guide/shaw/</u>

If you are receiving this email by SNAIL MAIL ONLY and are interested in receiving a phone call regarding future luncheons, please phone me (604-916-0653).

SUNSHINE/SHOWERS REPORT

~Submitted by Jacquie Hollybow~



The LRTA sends cards to members who are experiencing a s ignificant illness and to the family of members who die. Our '85 years plus' members also receive a Christmas card.

Please contact Jacquie Hollybow (604 888-7020; e-mail: <u>jhollybow@gmail.com</u>) if you are aware of a member who fits either of these criteria.



Often we have former colleagues who pass away while they are either still actively teaching, or who have retired, but have not chosen to join the LRTA. Because many of our members may have taught with them, we report on their passing, as well.



We are trying to be environmentally aware, as well as save on printing and mailing costs, by sending electronic copies of our newsletters, wherever possible. If we do not have your current e-mail address and you would like to be part of our 'green team' and receive your newsletter via e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing us at: Irta.35@gmail.com

Thanks,

Maureen Wilson ~ editor of 'Open Road', the LRTA newsletter