



Summer 2025

President's Summer Greetings

It has been a lovely start to summer with sunny days and cool evenings. Once again, we are fortunate to be fire free in the lower mainland with the Squamish area fire controlled. Let's hope it stays that way so everyone can enjoy our beautiful province.

Once again, the LRTA had a well-attended Annual General Meeting on May 29th at Adrian's at the Airport. We were delighted to honour our 'distinguished' and 'lifetime' members with corsages/boutonnieres as well as lunch, provided by the LRTA. We elected a new mid-term Vice President – *Laurence Greeff*, a new Secretary – *George Main*, and a new Member-at-Large – *George Gray*. We thanked outgoing vice-president and events coordinator *Yole Prosperi-Porta* and outgoing secretary *Sharon von Hollen* for their excellent work on the LRTA executive and hope to continue to benefit from their engagement in the future. John Salmon provided a review of our finances which are in excellent shape and moved a motion to maintain our LRTA dues at \$10.00 for the 2025/26 year. We also elected Vice President *Laurence Greeff* and Secretary *George Gray* who will be our delegates at the BCRTA Annual General Meeting. They will accompany President *Gail Chaddock-Costello*. *George Main* will be our alternate if one of our delegates is unable to attend.

A highlight for 2024/25 was the introduction of day trips via *Enjoy the Journey* organized by Judy de Vries. This past year our members had the opportunity to go on several day trips. These included a Harrison Hot Springs boat tour, a trip to Vancouver to enjoy the Christmas Market and Van Dusen Gardens Christmas Light Show and finally, a Sea to Sky tour to Shannon Falls and a breathtaking ride on the Sea-to-Sky gondola. We are already searching for new adventures for you!

The executive held our final year end meeting on June 18th. We will meet in August to put the final touches on our September picnic at Derby Reach Park. We have a surprise for members this year as we will be providing a light lunch/dessert for attendees! More updates to come via summer communications.

Gail Chaddock-Costello – LRTA President

Mark your calendar! Annual 'No Bell' Picnic -- September 2, 2025

Come and join us for our annual "No Bell" Picnic. We will be welcoming our new retirees into the land of retirement. If you know of anyone who has recently retired, please mention our special event in their honour, as we do not always get contact information for them.



Our 2025 "No Bell" picnic at Derby Reach on the outskirts of Fort Langley is on September 2, 2025, from 11:00 - 2:00 PM. This year we will be providing lunch – sandwiches, veggies and dip, and fruit – and cake, of course. I will be sending out an invitation in early August, so we know how many people to provide food for. Please email me (lrta.35@gmail.com) or contact me by phone (604-916-0653) to let me know that you will be joining us for our picnic.

Please bring your own folding chairs, and picnic items. We have reserved the covered area for the day, and we will keep our fingers crossed for decent weather. We are hoping to have marshmallows to roast over a bonfire. This is dependent on whether there is a fire ban at that time, of course. Derby Reach is part of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, located on the banks of the Fraser River, at 21801 Allard Crescent, Langley BC (Edgewater). There are picnic tables and outdoor washroom facilities available. We hope you might like to join us for a social afternoon.

Please note: This area (including the washrooms) is wheelchair accessible.

2025-26 LRTA Executive Members

President	Gail Chaddock-Costello	Past President	Sue Mackenzie	Secretary	George Main
Vice President	Laurence Greeff	Treasurer	John Salmon	Webmaster	Maureen Wilson
Programs/Events	Vacant	Sunshine/Showers	Jacquie Hollybow	Newsletter/ Membership	Maureen Wilson
Members At Large: •Judy de Vries •Susan Fonseca • George Gray					



INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT ~Submitted by John Salmon~



Receipts and Payments Statement -- July 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Membership (BCRTA)	\$4750.00	Administration	\$845.99
		Membership (COSCO)	200.00
		Miscellaneous	199.32
		Events	1820.70
		Technology	<u>162.61</u>
	<u>\$4750.00</u>		<u>\$3228.62</u>
INCOME			\$4750.00
EXPENDITURE			<u>-3228.62</u>
Excess income over expenditure			<u>\$1521.28</u>
Bank Balance July 1, 2024			\$14,895.16
Excess income over expenditure			<u>1521.28</u>
Bank Balance April 30, 2025			16,416.54
Cash On Hand			<u>200.00</u>
			<u>\$16,616.54</u>

SUNSHINE REPORT



Jacquie Hollybow, our ray of sunshine, sends cards to members who are experiencing a significant 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: jhollybow@gmail.com) if you are aware of a member who fits either of these criteria

Retired Educators' Scholarship Team Report

~Submitted by Sue Mackenzie~

The Langley Retired Educators are pleased to award eight scholarships of \$650 each for the 2024/2025 school year. Several secondary schools have been designated *'in honour of'* with the newest memorial being for our dearly missed colleague, **Maureen Pepin**, who worked tirelessly on this scholarship program over many years.

Morgan Woodley	Aldergrove Secondary	Katrina Hui	Walnut Grove (In honour of <i>Dorothy Peacock</i>)
Emily Ann Condon	Brookswood Secondary	Iris Scott	Langley Secondary (In honour of <i>Maureen Pepin</i>)
Preston Bower	Langley Fine Arts (in honour of <i>Bob McCubbin</i>)	Ella Johnson	RE Mountain (In honour of <i>Rick Buck</i>)
Anna Robb	Langley Fundamental (in honour of <i>Helen Woolley</i>)	Amy Kehler	DW Poppy (In memory of <i>Marg Hunter</i>)

In addition to the eight scholarships, The Denny Ross Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to **Amelia Siefke**, a Langley Fine Arts Secondary student.



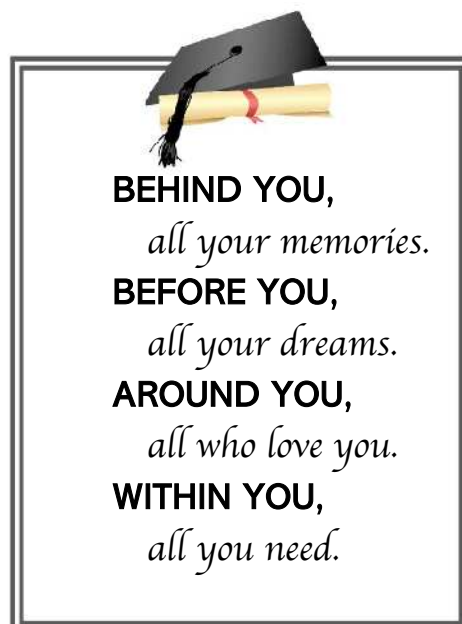
We would like to thank all the retired educators who generously donated to the School District Foundation scholarship program on behalf of the Retired Educators Scholarship Fund. Without your support, we would be unable to fulfill our desire to offer one to eight secondary schools in Langley School District. These are students who intend to pursue a career in education.

If you decide that you would like to contribute to the 2025 /2026 scholarships, please do so at the following link:

[Langley's Retired Educators Scholarship Fund](#)

Be sure to specify that 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.

On behalf of the Langley Retired Teachers Association, we send congratulations to all Langley graduates of 2025!



IT'S RETIREMENT TIME AGAIN!

Old teachers
never die; they just
grade away!

Unknown

The following is a list of retiring teachers and administrators as of press time. I apologize, in advance, if I have left anyone off the list. We look forward to many of them joining our group. If you are in contact with any of our new retirees, please ask them to e-mail me at lta.35@gmail.com with a personal e-mail address or phone number. It is quite possible that their school district e-mail address will have expired by now. We hope to see them at our No Bell picnic on September 2nd when we celebrate their next chapter in their life.

2025 Retirees

<i>Deline Abraham Williams</i>	<i>Dana Ferguson</i>	<i>Kurt Jackson</i>	<i>Gillian Moss</i>	<i>Angela Schweers</i>
<i>Janet Anderson</i>	<i>Sarah Fowles</i>	<i>Luisa Johnston</i>	<i>Linda Murray</i>	<i>Heather Sebastian</i>
<i>Shauna Aranas</i>	<i>Teri Gambrel</i>	<i>Barry Kroeker</i>	<i>Joanne Neveux - Admin</i>	<i>Donna Sharkey</i>
<i>Sandra Averill</i>	<i>Sheridan Grant</i>	<i>Nancy Leard</i>	<i>Kirsten Nordby</i>	<i>Scott Smithson</i>
<i>Wendy Chin</i>	<i>Holly Guinan</i>	<i>Cindy Loeppky</i>	<i>Patsy O'Dell</i>	<i>Terry Stead</i>
<i>Arlana Coady</i>	<i>Carole Guy</i>	<i>Dean Loeppky</i>	<i>Nicole Parao</i>	<i>Tim Stephenson</i>
<i>Diane Courtney</i>	<i>Colleen Hall</i>	<i>Carol Mason</i>	<i>Rhonda Philpott</i>	<i>Patricia Thorpe</i>
<i>Susan Docherty</i>	<i>Louise Hannah</i>	<i>Tanya Matthson</i>	<i>Janet Porowski</i>	<i>Marnie Walthers</i>
<i>Debra Evans</i>	<i>Julia Henrey</i>	<i>Penny Moscanda</i>	<i>Sheldene Reich</i>	<i>Patricia Way</i>
<i>Sandra Fast</i>	<i>Anita Hopton</i>	<i>Rob Moslinger</i>	<i>Heidi Sawatsky</i>	<i>Diana Wilk - Admin</i>

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

Join the BCRTA and receive your first year FREE!!



Here is a direct link <https://bcrt.ca/join/> (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.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

~Submitted by Maureen Wilson



You can imagine how much time it would take me to send an e-mail message to more than 500 of our LRTA members if I did it on an individual basis. By creating 'group' lists, and then sending one message to several 'groups' at a time, I am able to pare down my emails significantly. This used to work great...

But, whether it's due to Shaw beefing up security, or for some other reason, I have been very frustrated with how much of my emails have ended up in our members' 'junk' or 'spam' folders! If you are a Shaw customer, I would urge you to put my LRTA email address (lta.35@gmail.com) on your 'whitelist' so that my messages end up in your regular Shaw 'inbox' and not in your 'junk' or 'spam' folders. Thanks to one of our members' due diligence, I am able to share how to do this. Please follow the instructions below and see if that makes a difference.

For a detailed explanation on how to do this, go to <https://www.whitelist.guide/shaw/>

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 had several new members and now have a total of 524 members. We are pleased to welcome those who have joined us this past year. *And we are looking forward to welcoming our new retirees as members.*

Until a few years ago, the BCRTA gave special recognition to members who reached the age of 85 and beyond by designating them as **LIFETIME MEMBERS** and no longer required the payment of yearly BCRTA or local RTA branch fees. Now, one must reach the age of 90 for such recognition. The LRTA executive felt that our members who were aged 85 to 89 also deserved some special recognition, so we have given them the honour of being our **DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS**.

LIFETIME MEMBERS - aged 90 plus (as of December 2025)

Erica Blackstock	Jean Hope	Fay Morelli
Isabelle Clark	Eleanor Leblanc	Jean Ritchie

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS - aged 85-89 (as of December 2025)

Ynolde Adams	Cam Gesy	Beverley Johnson	Wayne Orser	Lily Suzuki
Lou Anthony	Lois Gibbons	Alice Kennedy	Bert Ponti	Alice Thomas
Jean Blair	Diane Gorton	Joan MacLoughlin	Robert Power	Keith Watson
Margaret Bland	Ronald Hill	Jean Mark	Arnold Richardson	Linda Weinberg
Marlene Dams	Peter Holuboff	Trixie Martyn	John Salmon	Lindsay Weir
Beverly Gesy	Bonnie Jackson	Judy McLaren	Eric Sandstrom	

I apologize, in advance, if I have missed someone who qualifies for one of these prestigious honours. If you know of a member who should be on the list, please contact me (Maureen Wilson) at 604-916-0653, or email me at Lrta.35@gmail.com.

We were so pleased to have **twelve** of our distinguished and lifetime members -- **Ynolde Adams, Lou Anthony, Margaret Bland, Cam and Bev Gesy, Diane Gorton, Alice Kennedy, Joan McLoughlin, Trixie Martyn, Fay Morelli, Robert Power, and John Salmon** -- join us for our May luncheon at Adrian's at the Airport this past month.



Have You Moved?

If you haven't been receiving your copy of the BCRTA Postscript magazine, it may be because they have an old address listed for you. Please let the BCRTA know of your change of address.



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: Lrta.35@gmail.com

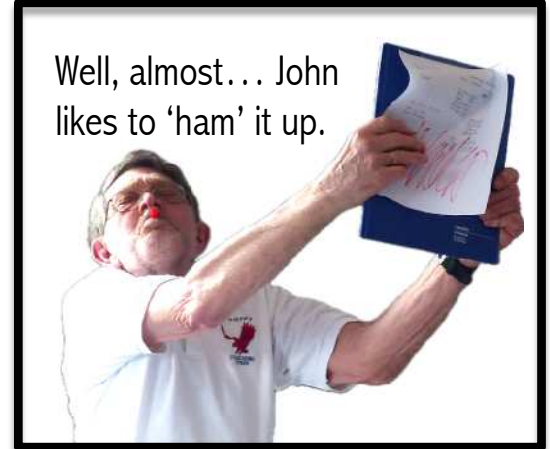
Thanks,

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

Photos from the LRTA luncheon/AGM



Happy faces all around!



Well, almost... John likes to 'ham' it up.

Time to chat



And the winner is....





Let's Go Report ~ submitted by Judy de Vries ~

What Adventures We Had This Past Year!

Over the past year, Let's Go has organized three (3) day trips for members and their friends. All our trips were with *Enjoy the Journey*.

On October 7th, a trip to Harrison consisted of a beautiful fall drive to Harrison, a delicious lunch and a boat tour on the lake.

On December 11th, a trip to the Christmas Market in downtown Vancouver was followed by a walk around VanDusen Gardens putting everyone into the Christmas spirit.

For the third trip on May 7th, the group headed to Squamish. The coffee stop was in Horseshoe Bay. A trip to Shannon Falls provided an opportunity to walk around in the fresh air working up an appetite. Lunch was at the Woodshed restaurant along the banks of the Squamish River. Following lunch, we travelled up the Sea to Sky Gondola for a spectacular view.

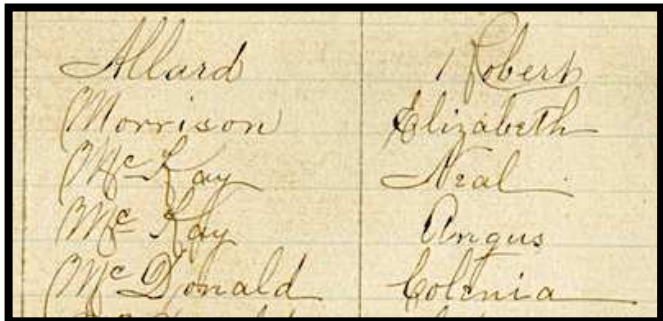
If you would like to join the 'Let's Go Group' and receive information as soon as it is available, send your email address to judydevries@me.com to be added to the list.





East Langley Schools – A Personal Connection

~ Submitted by Maureen Wilson ~



Although much of the following information can be found in 'History of Langley Schools', a collaborative document compiled by Maureen Pepin, Norm Sherritt, and Harry McTaggart (all of whom were LRTA members), Seeing it through a pioneer's family's descendant's eyes would be interesting.

I recently received some documents from **Fran Bolton (née McKay)** whose family had a close connection with the schools in the East Langley area. She provided me with the following timeline, starting with the **McKay twins, Angus (her uncle) and Neil (her father)** who 'snuck' into the school system at the age of 4! She stated that, *"Education was very important to the very early pioneers. They wanted an education for their families and worked hard to achieve this by donating land and volunteering their time for this precious concept"*.

The **first East Langley School** was approved by the province on May 28, 1885 but was not built until the early settlers built the wooden building on W. James Davey's land, on the northwest corner of County Line Road (264th Street) adjoining the Fraser River. The school opened in January 1890. The 1890 Annual School Report-Volume 19-page 191 stated that Miss Calista Worth was the teacher until June 1890. When the school was inspected on April 11, 1890, there were 7 boys, 6 girls (13). By June 30, 1890 the attendance records showed 9 boys and 7 girls (16). **Twins Angus and Neil McKay** were admitted after the April inspection. Although the attendance form stated the twins were 6 by June 28, 1890, they were not even 5 until June 7, 1890. The Report in 1890-1891 stated that Miss Annie Creelman was the teacher. Miss Creelman would become the first full year teacher of **Angus and Neil McKay**. In 1892, a new **East Langley school** was built on an acre on the high bluff of 80th Avenue. Mrs. Calista GIBSON (formerly Miss Worth) was hired in August 1892 until June

30, 1893. This new school, (according to B.C. Annual School Report-Volume 22-1892-1893), was inspected in October 1892 (20 pupils). In August 1893, Kate McKenzie was appointed the teacher until June 30, 1894 (27 pupils). In August 1894-1895, William Smeeton was the teacher (23 pupils). Apparently, this school closed in 1924.

There was a new school-**Beaver School**- built on the Skea property at Coghlan Road (256th) and Roberts Road (56th Ave.). The first teacher, when the school opened in Jan. 1893, was Miss C. Shortreed. Some other teachers at Beaver School were Miss Carter (1907), Miss Bessie Green (1914-1916), Miss Ruth Hector (Mrs. Jim Skea) from Sept. 1916-June 1918. The Beaver School closed June 1918.

The first **Glen Valley School** was built in 1893 on half an acre of **Gilbert McKay's** land on Jackman Road (272nd) north of River Road (88th Ave.). It was a wooden building 20 feet X 34 feet. The school opened January 1894 according to the B. C. Public School-23-24 Annual Report, 1893-1894. Mrs. A. J. McLellan was appointed in January 1894 as the teacher. Then the Report stated Mrs. A. J. McLennan was appointed from Jan. 1894-Sept. 30, 1894. When the school was inspected in April 1894, it had 3 boys and one girl in attendance. By June 1894, there were 9 boys and 11 girls. The official days for Jan. 1894 to June 1894 were short as the Great Flood of 1894 occurred. In October 1894, Miss Emily Parkinson was hired to teach at Glen Valley School. On inspection day on April 22, 1895, there were 5 boys and 12 girls. By June end there were 9 boys and 16 girls. Mrs. Parkinson was still the teacher in June 1899 as she signed **Angus McKay's** Roll of Honor for Department.

When the Glen Valley School was inspected on January 22, 1901, Miss J. F. Harrison was the teacher. There were 10 pupils under 6 at the time. When **Angus McKay** won the Proficiency Award in June 1901, Miss Harrison signed it. In 1901, **Neil McKay** completed the Central Examinations. Miss J. Harrison was the teacher 1901-1902. The inspection on February 18th, 1902, listed 16 pupils. A new **Glen Valley School** was opened in 1924 on land donated by John Cornock. This school existed until 1935. After that, the children went to **Fort Langley School**.

