



Summer 2024

### Summer Greetings

What a glorious day, I can handle more days like this. I've finally stopped squishing when I walk in my waterlogged shoes! It was an election year at our AGM and we were delighted to add a few new faces as Members-at-Large and to welcome back many familiar ones. As usual for the LRTA, we have a full slate of members volunteering for LRTA Executive positions – lucky Langley. We passed a revised set of our Policies and Procedures including many small changes as well an executive motion stating we can elect/appoint an unlimited number of Members-At-Large. Training new executive members ensures we have experienced people to step into vacated executive positions as needed.

We were delighted to welcome five lifetime members with two companions and three distinguished members and one companion to our May luncheon. Lunch for all these guests are paid for by the LRTA and our Lifetime and Distinguished members are adorned with corsages/boutonnieres. The table flowers and draws for gifts added to the festivities.

As is the requirement we elected three representatives to the 2024 BCRTA AGM: Gail Chaddock-Costello, Yole Prosperi-Porta, and Laurence Greeff with Susan Fonseca as our alternate. We are expecting a full agenda in an in-person meeting in Vancouver – a welcome change from Zoom!

Your executive are already busy planning the “No Bell Picnic” on September 3rd and a full day trip to Harrison Hot Springs, including a boat tour, on October 7th. We hope to host the ‘new’ BC Seniors’ Advocate Dan Levitt this fall, so keep checking your email for updates. I hope you all have a wonderful summer with family and friends – see you in September!

*Gail Chaddock-Costello, LRTA President*

### Annual ‘No Bell’ Picnic -- September 3, 2024



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 2024 “No Bell” picnic at Derby Reach on the outskirts of Fort Langley on September 3, 2024, from 11:00 - 2:00 PM. It will be a BYOL (Bring your own lunch) event. 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 hotdogs and 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.**

***We will send out a reminder and more information in August. In the meantime, mark it on your calendar.***

## 2024-25 LRTA Executive Members



Back: John Salmon, Sue Mackenzie, Susan Fonseca, Judy de Vries, Yole Prosperi-Porta, Bob Power, George Main  
 Front: Laurence Greeff, Gail Chaddock-Costello, Sharon von Hollen, Maureen Wilson

<b>President</b>	Gail Chaddock-Costello	<b>Past President</b>	Sue Mackenzie	<b>Secretary</b>	Sharon von Hollen
<b>Vice President</b>	Yole Prosperi-Porta	<b>Treasurer</b>	John Salmon	<b>Webmaster</b>	Maureen Wilson
<b>Programs/Events</b>	Yole Prosperi-Porta	<b>Sunshine/Showers</b>	Jacquie Hollybow	<b>Newsletter/ Membership</b>	Maureen Wilson
<b>Members At Large</b>					
• Judy de Vries		• Eileen Ferguson		• Susan Fonseca	
		• Laurence Greeff		• George Main	
				• Bob Power	

### LRTA Executive Celebrates the End of Another Successful ‘School’ Year

~Submitted by George Main~



L-R: Eileen Ferguson, Maureen Wilson, Sue Mackenzie, Susan Fonseca, Judy de Vries, Gail Chaddock-Costello, Yole Prosperi-Porta, John Salmon, Laurence Greeff, George Main  
 Missing: Jacquie Hollybow, Bob Power, & Sharon von Hollen

There are times when we hard working members of the LRTA Executive take time out for a deserved lunch leaving all diet restrictions at home. Tomato basil soup at Ricky’s is “to die for” and the salt content could help.



INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT  
~Submitted by John Salmon~



Receipts and Payments Statement -- July 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Membership (BCRTA)	\$4760.00	Administration	\$721.50
		Membership (COSCO)	200.00
		Miscellaneous	170.88
		Programmes	899.30
		Technology	<u>429.51</u>
	<u>\$4760.00</u>		<u>\$2421.19</u>
 INCOME			 \$4760.00
EXPENDITURE			<u>-2421.19</u>
Excess income over expenditure			<u>\$2338.81</u>
 Bank Balance July 1, 2023			 \$14,232.21
Excess income over expenditure			<u>2338.81</u>
Bank Balance April 30, 2023			16,571.02
Cash On Hand			<u>200.00</u>
			<b><u>\$16,771.02</u></b>

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](mailto:jhollybow@gmail.com)) if you are aware of a member who fits either of these criteria

*Since our last newsletter, we have lost the following colleagues. Our condolences go out to their families.*

Madeleine DeLittle – January 2024

Malcolm Bailey - February 2024

Merv Grigg - April 2024

Jeannie Tam - May 2024

Bill Fumagalli – June 2024

Arlene Wiebe - June 2024



Arlene and Wayne Wiebe



## Retired Educators' Scholarship Team Report

~Submitted by Sue Mackenzie~

The Langley Retired Educators are pleased to award eight scholarships of \$750 each for the 2023/2024 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.

<b>Cally Say</b>	Aldergrove Secondary	<b>Elena Facer</b>	Walnut Grove (In honour of <i>Dorothy Peacock</i> )
<b>Amy Clegg</b>	Brookwood Secondary	<b>Ella Kiesz</b>	Langley Secondary (In honour of <i>Maureen Pepin</i> )
<b>Sacha Mitchell</b>	Langley Fine Arts (in honour of <i>Bob McCubbin</i> )	<b>Saw Lu</b>	RE Mountain (In honour of <i>Rick Buck</i> )
<b>Hayden Carmichael</b>	Langley Fundamental (in honour of <i>Helen Woolley</i> )	<b>Katie Arbo</b>	DW Poppy (In memory of <i>Marg Hunter</i> )

In addition to the eight scholarships, The Denny Ross Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to **Nathaniel Hoedemaker-Purvis**, 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 2024 /2025 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.

For more information, please feel free to contact me:

Sue Mackenzie, on behalf of the Retired Educators' Scholarship Team -- REST

[lta.suem@gmail.com](mailto:lta.suem@gmail.com)

604-831-7234

On behalf of the Langley Retired Teachers Association, we send congratulations to all Langley graduates of 2024!



I hope your dreams take you...  
to the corners of your smiles,  
to the highest of your hopes,  
to the windows of your opportunities,  
and to the most special places  
your heart has ever known."

## *IT'S RETIREMENT TIME AGAIN!*

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 [lrita.35@gmail.com](mailto:lrita.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.

### 2024 Retirees

<i>David Ames</i>	<i>Karen Ferguson</i>	<i>Lindsay Langill</i>	<i>Darrin Ponak</i>
<i>Doug Bilesky</i>	<i>Lynn Gibson</i>	<i>Amanda Leach</i>	<i>Jody Primeau</i>
<i>Richard Branswell</i>	<i>Phillis Giovani (A)</i>	<i>Daniel Lee</i>	<i>Jack Reise</i>
<i>Julia Bryant-Taneda</i>	<i>Scott Gordon</i>	<i>Dameon Lorensen</i>	<i>Karen Rudyk</i>
<i>Shelley Burrows</i>	<i>Laura Hansen</i>	<i>Kim Luteijn (A)</i>	<i>Janice Sawatsky</i>
<i>Penny Carnrite</i>	<i>Shelley Hegedus</i>	<i>Nadine Luteijn</i>	<i>Ron Stare (A)</i>
<i>Margo Donovan</i>	<i>Natalie Hoodikoff</i>	<i>Joanne Macpherson</i>	<i>Christine Sutherland</i>
<i>Susanna Eppich (A)</i>	<i>Beatrice Howell</i>	<i>Marcy McColl</i>	<i>Kim Timoshyk</i>
<i>Shane Fawkes</i>	<i>Carolyn Kenney</i>	<i>Deah Paton (A)</i>	<i>Lori Villeneuve</i>
<i>Suzanne Fengler</i>	<i>Kathy Keyworth (A)</i>	<i>Marlene Petersen</i>	<i>Gord Yu (A)</i>

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

Join the BCRTA and receive your first year FREE!!



Here is a direct link <https://bcрта.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 ([lrita.35@gmail.com](mailto:lrita.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/>

In the meantime, I have pared down my 'group' lists for Shaw customers so I am sending messages to fewer than thirty people (as opposed to over 150) at a time. Please check your 'junk' or 'spam' folders at least once a week to see if you have messages that should NOT be in there. You may find other important messages that should not have ended up there, too!

## 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 2024)

Erica Blackstock	Jean Hope	Fay Morelli	Donald Urquhart
Isabelle Clark	Eleanor Leblanc	Jean Ritchie	Kathleen Wagner

### DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS - aged 85-89 (as of December 2024)

Ynolde Adams	Lois Gibbons	Wayne Orser	Keith Watson
Lou Anthony	Ronald Hill	Robert Power	Linda Weinberg
Jean Blair	Peter Holuboff	Arnold Richardson	Lindsay Weir
Margaret Bland	Joan MacLoughlin	John Salmon	
Lois Comerford	Jean Mark	Lily Suzuki	
Marlene Dams	Trixie Martyn	Alice Thomas	

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](mailto:Lrta.35@gmail.com).

We were so pleased to have eight of our distinguished and lifetime members join us for our May luncheon at Adrian's at the Airport this past month.



Back: John Salmon, Bob Power, Lou Anthony  
Front: Trixie Martyn, Margaret Bland, Joan MacLoughlin, Fay Morelli

## Photos from the LRTA luncheon/AGM



Isabelle Clark, one of our lifetime members and her daughter, Leslie



Draw Prize winners:  
Joan MacLoughlin, Jane Adler and Lou Anthony

Old teachers  
never die; they just  
grade away!

Unknown

Retirement is  
wonderful. It's doing  
nothing without  
worrying about getting  
caught at it.

The trouble with  
retirement is that you  
never get a day off.

Abe Lemons





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

### Join us for a Harrison Lake Cruise!

Langley Retired Teachers are invited to a day of fun at Harrison on **October 7, 2024**. *Enjoy the Journey* is providing the bus transportation. The seating limit is 24. Pick-up and drop off is in Langley. Parking is available on the street outside Glenwood Village Estates. **The cost is \$169 (includes lunch)**. **Special discount for LRTA members is ??????**  
Itinerary:



- 9:00 AM - Depart 21746 52 Ave, Langley, BC V2Y 1L4
- 9:45 AM - Tim Hortons Chilliwack (washroom/coffee)
- 10:15 AM - Depart
- 10:50 AM - Boarding 2-hour Charter
- 11:00 AM - Sail
- 1:00 PM - Return
- 1:15 PM - Old Settlers Pub
- 2:30 PM - Harrison Free Time
- 3:30 PM - Depart
- 4:00 PM - Tim Hortons Chilliwack (washroom/coffee)
- 4:20 PM - Depart
- 5:15 PM - Arrive 21746 52 Ave, Langley, BC V2Y 1L4



To register for this trip call 604-630-2434. Seating is limited to 24 and the bus fills up fast.

### Fun in the Sun Opportunity



I have booked 3 weeks at **Friendly Fun Vallarta** from **January 6 to 21, 2025**. It is an all-inclusive resort in Puerto Vallarta. I would like to invite you to join me for fun in the sun. You can book your room and flight with a travel agent or online as I did. You can come for any length of time that suits you. If you decide to come, please let me know. Judy de Vries 604 530 7103





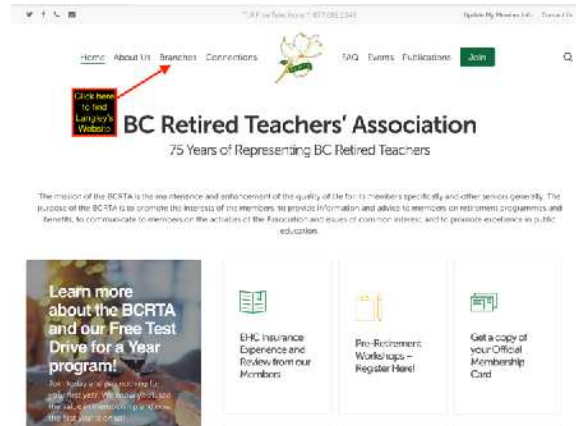
## The Langley Website - A Page – Within a Page – Within a Page

~ Submitted by George Main ~

When we disbanded our website (Langleyrta.ca) we hired a firm to reproduce our website choosing the BCRTA as our host. Our website is embedded within the BCRTA website along with the websites of many branches. Although some changes can be made and articles added we are really limited to making changes to the core articles copied from our old website.

<https://bcрта.ca>

This link opens the home page of the BCRTA Website. Although most home pages can be bypassed, this is not one in that category. It contains important links to the LATEST News affecting retired teachers. Scroll down the page. At the bottom of the home page there is an explanation -- Green Shield was on Strike. . I wish I did this earlier as I had a lot of problems with my Green Shield claims that at my age, was not good for my heart pressure.



When one becomes familiar with the BCRTA website, the home page can be bypassed, and go directly to our website's home page -- <https://bcрта.ca/langley/>. From here, one can link to our History of Langley Schools <https://bcрта.ca/langley/history/>

Our HISTORY, which was researched and written in the late 1990's, went through many reviews and edits before being published in 2004 by a group of LRTA members headed by Norm Sherritt, Maureen Pepin, Harry McTaggart and many resource contributors. Lately errors and omissions have been reported. Each school received a copy, and in 2010 we scanned the pages for our website adding staff pictures. Lately errors and omissions have been reported.

We can't change the history as published, but we can add corrections. We can also add news items or additions. Please feel free to send us any information that can add to our past exciting years in Langley Schools. Here are two such updates recently submitted to us:

### Patricia Elementary School, An Update by Irvin Redekopp

I was the Head Teacher of Patricia Elementary from 1962 when the Otter room was added to the premises, and I stayed at Patricia for those first six years. In 1962, Patricia had Grades 1-3 in one room, and I had Grades 4-6, and it stayed that way for my six years. Susan Toews was the primary teacher when I arrived and stayed until Leona Fritzsche came on the scene. In my first year, we still had two outhouses, had to draw water from the well, and each room had an oil heater. The joining of the two rooms in 1963 was constructed when school was in, making the whole area extremely muddy and boards had to be laid down for student travel. It should also be mentioned that Patricia Hall was made available to us for our Christmas concerts.

Patricia Elementary School - 1907



From the Adirongue Star Collection. Scanned by the Langmann Family

## Topham Elementary School, An Update by Linda Clark

I attended Topham Elementary School when it first opened and if I remember correctly, it was Peter Raymond\* who was the first head teacher and principal. He taught Grade 5/6 and I think Mrs. Hoogey was my teacher in grade 1. Then Vera Paget came the next year for grade 1/2 and she was there long enough to teach my children many years later.

Editor's note:

\*According to The History of Langley Schools, Jim Babchuck held this position. If anyone can clarify this, please contact me.

You may recognize some familiar faces in the staff photo of 1980-81, several of whom are current LRTA members

Back: Esther McCabe, Vera Paget (mentioned above), Meriel Abrahamson, Claire Wilson

Front: George Gray (LRTA), Jean Hope (LRTA), Alan Gregson (LRTA)

Photo courtesy of The History of Langley Schools



## Volunteer Opportunity

One of our newest retirees, Mandy Leach, is an **Elderdog Canada** PAWD Leader, Dog Care Support Coordinator & Volunteer Coordinator for the Langley/Surrey/White Rock area. **Elderdog Canada** is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help support and foster the canine and senior relationship through direct support, education and research. They provide dog walking services, temporary foster care and rehoming of canine companions should a senior no longer be able to care for their dog. All of their services are free of charge and volunteers exist throughout Canada from PEI all the way to Vancouver Island. They have multiple PAWDS in B.C.

If you are interested in volunteering, please go to <https://elderdog.ca/volunteer-roles/> or <https://elderdog.ca> for more information and the application form, foster form and/or adoption form are available there. They support many retired educators across Canada, and they would love more volunteers to continue our valuable work.

Check out their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/elderdogsouthfraserpawd>

They even have a store! Check it out: <http://www.elderdogcanadastore.ca>

On the 'flip side' . . .

If you or someone you know could use the service provided by Elderdog Canada, please contact them by email at [info@elderdog.ca](mailto:info@elderdog.ca) or by phone 1-855-EDOGCAN (1-855-336-4226).



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: [lta.35@gmail.com](mailto:lta.35@gmail.com)

Thanks,

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