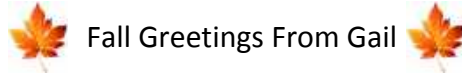




Fall 2022



I hope everyone is able to enjoy this delightful warm fall weather. The months keep ticking by and recently **Sharon Von Hollen, Yole Properi-Porta** and **I** were in attendance at the BCRTA AGM – the first in-person/hybrid meeting in two years. We were delighted to be present representing the LRTA.

Plans are currently underway to host a late fall luncheon at Adrian's at the Airport on **Monday, December 5th**. As costs for all event spaces have skyrocketed, including Newlands Golf and Banquet, renting the large room for the traditional Silent Auction was prohibitive. We will continue our planning for the December 5th luncheon and if the School District Foundation would like to sponsor a scaled down version of a small silent auction, a raffle or some other fund-raiser for the Langley Scholarship Fund, we will notify you.

Elected Positions for 2022-23	
President	Gail Chaddock-Costello
Vice President	Yole Prosperi-Porta
Treasurer	John Salmon
Secretary	Sharon von Hollen
Appointed Positions:	
Program	Heather Anderlini
Sunshine	Jacque Hollybow
Webmaster	Vacant: George will continue to assist until position is filled
Newsletter/Membership	Maureen Wilson
Past President	Sue Mackenzie
	Members-At-Large:
	• George Main
	• Judy de Vries
	• Annette O'Connor

AND ... FOR OUR NEXT GET-TOGETHER, LET'S MEET AT ADRIAN'S

We have planned an LRTA 'in-person' pre-Christmas get-together at *Adrian's at the Airport* for **Monday, December 5, 2022**. You will have three menu items to choose from:

1. chicken souvlaki
2. spanokopita
3. schnitzel neptune

The luncheon cost is \$30. This includes, tea/coffee, entrée, dessert AND gratuity.

Pre-registration will be required so watch for the email in the next few weeks.

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 Third Annual No Bell Picnic Was a Success!!!

We had a beautiful sunny day for the "No Bell" picnic and enjoyed the opportunity to get together outdoors. Several of our new retirees joined us for the occasion, as well. We hope that they had a good time and may decide to join us on a regular basis.

Due to the fire ban, we were unable to have our bonfire to roast wieners and marshmallows, so we had cake, instead!!

Thanks to everyone for making it such a fun day! Special thank you to those members who helped us with the tasks to make the day successful.

More photos will be posted on our new website at <https://bcrt.ca/langley/> soon.



TREASURER'S REPORT
~Submitted by John Salmon~

Abbreviated Financial Statement	July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022
Bank Balance July 1, 2021	\$13,300.91
Receipts	\$4,730.00
Balance before Payments	<u>\$18030.91</u>
Payments	\$3795.01
Bank Balance June 24, 2021	\$14235.90



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
~Submitted by Maureen Wilson~

In past years, more and more people are getting comfortable with electronic communications. Of the 500+ members, I currently send out notifications via e-mail to 442 of our members.



Approximately 50 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.

I am pleased to see so many of our members becoming more comfortable with their smart phones and tablets. I am hoping that someday I might be able to convince Linda Fawcus from Gluu to set up some workshops for us again. I know that she is extremely busy, some of it due to the fact that one of the main communications that people had during COVID was digital.

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 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@hotmail.com) 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.

RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The following is a message from the Langley School District Foundation Scholarship Fund:



Our local SD Foundation offers a scholarship on behalf of our retired teachers to a graduate student from 8 of our secondary schools in Langley (1 less than in previous years) . These scholarships are awarded to successful applicants who are pursuing a career in education. In 2021/2022, there were 8 scholarships @ \$750 each. This is a reduction from the 9 scholarships offered in the previous year. As inflation and poorer investment returns continue to make life more expensive, it becomes more difficult to collect charitable donations.

With appreciation for past donations you may have contributed, we are sending a reminder requesting you to consider sending in a donation as soon as you are able to, so we can determine what we will be able to offer in the coming year.

The SD Foundation will have convenient envelopes available for your donations at the December 5th luncheon. Receipts sent to all donations over \$25.

Please remember to request a tax receipt for those donations over \$25, along with your email address or, if you prefer, mailing address to:

School District Foundation Scholarships
(Retired Educators Scholarship Fund)

c/o Mrs. Maureen Pepin
253 2312th Ave
Aldergrove BC
V3W3N2

LET'S GO

Submitted by Judy deVries



Our group's activities are starting up again.

Our first adventure was a "Mystery Tour" with **Enjoy The Journey**, which took place on October 21st. Due to its popularity, there was a waiting list for tickets. Watch for it when it comes around again.

Members have also been invited to attend the Langley Little Theatre production "The Savannah Sipping Society" on Sunday, October 30th at 2:00 pm. Unfortunately this date is sold out but there are other dates still available.

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 and be added to the list.

BCRTA AGM 2022 NEWS FROM YOUR DELEGATES



The BCRTA AGM began on September 30, National Truth & Reconciliation Day. **Shishona Austin**, an Indigenous Education Resource teacher in Burnaby, opened our BCRTA conference with a powerful and inspirational story of her journey toward understanding what Truth and Reconciliation means to her.

As an infant, Shishona Austin was adopted by a supportive non-indigenous family. The most compelling part of her story was presented through a video she created about the time she spent in a classroom and with family members on Denny Island just east of Waglisla (Bella Bella). What began as a Trinity Western University assignment became her “walk with others” to better understanding the meaning of Truth and Reconciliation. It was an encouraging and hopeful message.



Our first keynote speaker, **Sue Lantz**, encouraged us to take that walk with others for a better understanding of how to ensure successful aging within a community. She encouraged us to reflect on our own life experiences and models to create a frame of reference by using a “travel planning” approach to define what we want and don’t want in our aging journey. She emphasized the necessity to be proactive in maintaining our best health, building supportive networks, making timely housing decisions, establishing a care-giving team, and leveraging all types of resources. For further information, you might be interested in Sue’s book, ***Options Open: The***

Guide for Mapping Your Best Aging Journey, which is available on Amazon or through her website: <https://collaborativeaging.com/>

Everyone has a story; **Noel Bentley**, a speaker and humorist, challenged our members to tell their stories. He



took us through a series of exercises to help us identify why it is difficult for some to tell their story, and the importance of telling the right story at the right time. His quirky sense of humor and modeling of personal storytelling created a safe and positive atmosphere for participants, which ultimately led to the sharing of several poignant stories by our members. It was a positive experience and a reminder to all that everyone has an important story to tell, and we need to take the time to listen.

Submitted by Yole Proserpi-Porta (LRTA Vice President)

First Time Delegate’s Report

I want to thank LRTA members for sending me, as one of your delegates, to this year’s BCRTA AGM. My first time at this event was educational & inspirational.

There was genuine excitement & buzzing chatter in the conference room each day, as delegates participated in the first in-person AGM in two long COVID years! Hopefully some of you were also able to join in virtually, as the meeting was hybrid. It was great to reconnect and share stories with friends from around the province who I haven’t seen since BCTF days.

As a first-time delegate, I was impressed by many things:

- Inspiring guest speakers: **Shishona Austin** sharing her personal Truth & Reconciliation journey, **Sue Lantz** suggesting we approach and prepare for our aging journey the same way we do when we make travel plans, and **Noel Bentley’s** belief that there is a story and a storyteller in each of us.
- The careful, considered stewardship of members’ fees and BCRTA finances and our programs.

- How frequently our Board members and Association reps used these phrases: “*We are a member-driven organization*” and “*advocacy for members*”, when discussing practices and policies that affect all B.C. retired teachers.
- The talents, creativity, knowledge and adventures of retired teachers that seems boundless, as evidenced by the awards given to educational, literacy, social justice charitable initiatives and the writing, photography and artwork Postscript awards.
- The planning and organization that made the conference run so smoothly was done by 3 talented & dedicated full time staff of the BCRTA (Yes, we only have 3 & they are amazing.) And for those members who “don’t do technology”, they reminded us they are always just a phone call away.

Most of all, I was amazed by the amount of hard work & the many goals accomplished, through countless volunteer hours of the retired teachers working on our behalf! I have a new appreciation for the benefits we get through BCRTA.

Submitted by Sharon von Hollen (LRTA Secretary)

BCRTA AGM 2022 – New Fee Schedule

It was energizing as well as exciting to be in person at the AGM. I think I had forgotten how much conversation depends on the immediate interactions/responses/body language of others when debating topics of interest to all attendees. The rich conversations kept the room buzzing all day long.



While we enjoyed several excellent presentations, speeches and information dissemination sessions, it was the restructuring of the fee schedule that prompted some of the liveliest debates, motions and amendments prior to approval. Tim Anderson provided the background comparisons between BC and the rest of Canada. It appears some provinces have more income generating programs while still requiring higher membership fees. With only three full time staff, BC provides a rich diversity of services for members and a very low annual fee. Had BC been keeping up with fee increases for the last ten years at the level of TPP COLA we would currently be charging \$52.00 per year.



After a healthy discussion, the following motion was passed: **THAT we increase the membership fee in September 2023 by \$10 and for the following years that we raise the fee by TPP cola each year.**

This motion provides a full year notice to members of the fee increase from \$42.00 to \$52.00 per year. It also establishes a plan for future increases to cover operating costs for the BCRTA as well as maintaining current programs while initiating new ones.

Any questions regarding the fee increase may be addressed to myself at lrtc.gailcc@gmail.com

Many thanks for sending me to the BCRTA AGM as your president and LRTA representative.

Submitted by Gail Chaddock-Costello



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.

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 519 members. We are pleased to welcome those who have joined us this past year.

This year all retired teachers who have not yet joined the BCRTA, should fill in a registration form in order to receive a year of free membership in both the BCRTA **AND** Langley branch. Here's a direct link to the BCRTA membership page - <http://www.bcрта.ca/membership> - 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 laurie@bcрта.com. 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 brand new website at <https://bcрта.ca/langley/> Special photo credit goes to *Glen Mackenzie*, who took this beautiful photo of the Fraser River in Fort Langley.

Stories of Interest

The following two articles highlight former Langley colleagues -- **Brian Thomasson** and **Melanie Carlbeck**

Thomasson's legacy lives on in Aldergrove

Room at the Rotary Field house renamed to celebrate a man who worked tirelessly for the community.



A room inside the Aldergrove Athletic Park's Rotary Fieldhouse has officially named the Brian Thomasson Community Room. Friends and family, including (left to right) **Neil Roberts**, **Nolan Thomasson**, **Laurie Thomasson**, and **Nancy Roberts** were on hand for last week's dedication. (Township of Langley/Special to Aldergrove Star)

The following excerpt was taken from the story, which appeared in the Aldergrove Star:

"Mr. Thomasson was an integral part of determining the future of Aldergrove," said former Langley Township mayor Froese.

He participated in the development of the Aldergrove Core Plan, adopted by Township of Langley council in 2010.

[Brian] Thomasson passed away in July 2020 after a battle with cancer.

"He will be remembered as a constant advocate for community service through the Rotary Club of Aldergrove, the Langley School District, and as a community builder dedicated to improving those living in and enjoying Aldergrove," said the mayor.

For the complete story, click on the link below:

<https://www.aldergrovestar.com/community/thomassons-legacy-lives-on-in-aldergrove/>

Urban Pedestrian Accessibility

Whether you walk to work, roll to the market to run errands in your wheelchair, take your dog for a stroll, or enjoy an afternoon of window shopping, almost everyone is a pedestrian at some point. In urban planning, the term has expanded to include all those who move along sidewalks at a walking or running pace, including those in wheelchairs and scooters. It's important to consider all the pedestrians' accessibility and safety in the urban landscape. ICBC's crash and injury data (five-year average between 2016 - 2020) shows that 79% of crashes involving pedestrians in British Columbia, happen at intersections.



Melanie was born in Kimberley, grew up in Trail and graduated from High School in 1968. Melanie was born with the medical condition called *spina bifida*, which is a birth defect that leaves a gap in the spine, and in her case, paralysis below the waist and impairment of lower-body functions. She has had 18-20 surgeries till date. She describes her experience with school with highs and lows depending on the hospital visits she had due to the surgeries. Her good memories from childhood were being a part of Girl Guides as it gave her a chance to experience things like hiking, candle making.

She graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Education in 1972, and she taught for about 10 years in Trail. Melanie moved to New Westminster in 1981 and got a teaching job in Langley, where she was Learning Assistance teacher and taught a Special Program in Langley until 2006.

In 2005, she won the 'Courage to Come Back Award'. After retiring, she tutored for the Learning Disabilities Association of BC from 2006 to 2013.

You may wish to watch the following video that shows the need for consistencies in designing and constructing curb ramps and pedestrian amenities in urban areas.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUYTbtCoIKs>

Sheila Mary Winnifred Pither (nee Moores) was a mother, grandmother, friend, teacher, traveler and activist. She passed peacefully on September 19, 2022 at her home in Vancouver.



Sheila was born on October 5, 1932 to Arthur and Ann Moores at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, close to her hometown of Big River. Sheila came to Vancouver in 1948 where she graduated from Kitsilano high school in 1950. She married Bill in 1951. They travelled to England, other parts of Europe and Africa on their honeymoon and came home to have and raise a family of 4 boys. Once the youngest was in school, Sheila continued her education, on a part-time basis initially, and obtained a teaching degree from UBC.

Sheila was passionate about, her family and friends, travel, the arts and her work. A woman that was always interested and moving forward.

Sheila lived to assist others through her work. She was an activist for high quality education, labour rights and seniors' rights. Her 5 trips to Namibia to advise and assist teachers fighting for better working conditions allowed her to combine two of her passions. She held leading positions in several organizations throughout her life. Sometimes these positions were paid and sometimes they were not. These efforts caused her to receive, the Fergusson Award and Honorary Life Membership from the BC Teachers Federation, Honorary Life Membership to the Retired Teachers Association, Council of Senior Citizens' Organization of BC - Life Member and Woman of Wisdom and Passion - Vancouver Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma along with special recognition from the Jewish Seniors Alliance for her work with Council of Senior Citizens' Organization. Always pushing for more care and equality in this world. She embodied integrity with a soft heart but was a tough fighter for her values -- a leader who will be dearly missed.

Sheila travelled to China and she took numerous trips to her favorite destinations of Hawaii, the UK, and Alaska. The typical Christmas gift to the family was a week-long trip to "Where are we going to go this year?" -- sometimes a cruise to Alaska or Mexico, sometimes a flight to Newfoundland, the southern states or elsewhere, sometimes a BC road trip. More recently, with pandemic travel restrictions and other factors, Sheila was spending a lot of time at her Gabriola Island home. She loved to breathe the ocean air, watch "the mood of" the ocean and the humming birds at the feeder.

She was a long time subscriber to the Vancouver Symphony, Vancouver Opera and the Arts Club Theatre.

Her sons Mike, Steve, Greg and Jeff; Jeff's wife Norma and their two children Mathew and Dylan survive Sheila. She was pre-deceased by her parents, and elder siblings, Arthur and Freda.

The following link will take you to a BC Labour Heritage Centre 2019 interview with Sheila:

<https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/oral-history/sheila-pither/>.

Sheila was a tireless worker for the rights of elders. Even as her own health deteriorated, she continued to meet and participate in workshops. She said, "I'll just work until I die." And she did just that. Her passing leaves a huge hole in COSCO. We will miss her quiet but iron leadership. We will miss her experience and knowledge. We will miss her ability to synthesize a discussion in a way that helps move us forward. She did all this with graciousness and respect for everyone involved. It is with great sadness and love that we say goodbye to our good friend and inspirational leader.

Are You Prepared?

It is very wise to have a personal plan in place. Various legal documents are needed to fully express your wishes regarding personal care, certain financial matters, and end of life care, particularly if you are unable to speak for yourself.



www.seniorshelpingseniors.ca

Personal Planning Series
Seniors Health and Wellness Institute Society, COSCO
JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT **FREE** SERIES
Offered weekly via ZOOM
Wednesdays, October 26 – December 7, 2022

Seniors' Health and Wellness is pleased to host this series via Zoom. It is your information guide to start and/or complete the planning and documentation for your future personal, medical, and legal requirements. It will answer many of your questions and help you prepare to put documents in place, so your loved ones have clear and specific guidelines to follow. While you may opt for only those sessions you feel are currently most relevant for you, it is highly recommended that you attend all seven sessions to get as complete a picture as possible of the various options available to you.

TO REGISTER for these sessions, go to this link:

<https://seniorshelpingseniors.ca/fall-2022-personal-planning-series/>

Topic 1: Personal Planning Overview	Wed. Oct. 26 @10:30 AM
Topic 2: Advance Care Planning	Wed. Nov 2 @10:30 AM
Topic 3: Powers of Attorney	Wed. Nov 9 @10:30 AM
Topic 4: Representation Agreements	Wed. Nov 16 @10:30 AM
Topic 5: Advance Directives	Wed. Nov 23 @10:30 AM
Topic 6: Palliative Care	Wed. Nov 30 @10:30 AM
Topic 7: Wills	Wed. Dec 7 @10:30 AM

Looking For Workshop Ideas

We are looking for workshop ideas that may be of interest to our members. Hopefully, these can be done 'in person'

The following are some suggestions that have come to light:

1. Storytelling workshop
2. The Indispensable Binder (with Diana Crutchley) -- We've had several requests for a repeat of this one
3. Spring planter workshop (presented by Port Kells Nurseries) -- This has been very popular in the past and may warrant repeating
4. 'Stay on the Road' workshop (sponsored by COSCO)

Gail Chaddock-Costello noted that the following workshops were presented at the BCRTA AGM. There will be more information on the BCRTA website at some point:

5. Five Practical Strategies for Aging in Place Transitions - Sue Lantz
6. "Everyone Has A Story" by Ted Talk Presenter Noel Bentley
7. Insurance News - Lisa Hansen

ATTENTION HISTORY BUFFS

John Salmon has a box of archived material from various schools. The following items are available:

1. **LRTA Photo Album** 2006-2010
2. **History of Langley-Surrey-Delta RTA** 1940-1989
3. The **Story of Historic Murrayville**
4. **History of the BCTF** 1945-1999
5. A collection of **HD Stafford yearbooks** 1974, 1977, 1981-1994



If you would like to have some, or all, of the above, you can contact John Salmon at salmonz1717@gmail.com to arrange delivery (perhaps at the Christmas luncheon on Dec. 5th).



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

Thanks,

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