

Summer 2020

Greetings from Sue Mackenzie (LRTA President)



Hoping everyone has managed to keep healthy and found different ways to connect with family and friends in spite of the restrictions COVID-19 has inflicted upon everyone.

I have included an article I submitted to the BCRTA about "Lifelong Learning and The New Normal". As someone who has not embraced social media and have been a late bloomer when it comes to technology, I must say it was with considerable hesitation that I became familiar with "Face Time" and "Zoom". I am so proud of our entire executive for all of their willingness and effort to hold our executive meetings this new way. Many thanks for our current executive for their continuing support and efforts.



September Celebration To Be Held Outdoors



Covered Picnic Area at Derby Reach
(Fort Langley)

It would appear that September will continue to be a challenge for us to get together to host our “No Bell” brunch, welcome new retirees to the LRTA, and to have our AGM. In the interest of safety for our members, we have arranged a **“No Bell” picnic at Derby Reach on the outskirts of Fort Langley on September 8, 2020 from 11:00 - 2:00 p.m. It will be a BYOL (Bring your own lunch) event** and you would 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. Derby Reach is part of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks, located on the banks of the Fraser River, at 21801 Allard Crescent, Langley BC. There are picnic tables and outdoor washroom facilities available. We will not try to host a meeting at this picnic but hope you might like to join us for a social afternoon.

We will send out a reminder and more information in August.

Since we will not be able to have a formal AGM, please look at the following nominations for the next executive. We have volunteers for all positions at this point. If you would like to nominate any other members, please let Maureen Wilson (lta.35@gmail.com) or myself (spmackenzie2@gmail.com) know before the end of August. If we have no further nominations, we will declare these members elected by acclamation.

Nominations so far for our 2020-2022 executive are as follows:

President	Sue Mackenzie	Newsletter/Membership	Maureen Wilson (Past President)
Vice President	Gail Chaddock-Costello		
Treasurer	John Salmon	Member-At-Large:	(4 to be elected)
Secretary	Annette O'Connor		Heather Anderlini
Program	Jan Bryce		Judy deVries
Sunshine	Jacque Hollybow		Maureen Pepin
Website	George Main		Yole Prosperi-Porta

BCRTA AGM Delegates - 2020-2021

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the BCRTA AGM will be an online zoom meeting. Sue Mackenzie and Gail Chaddock-Costello will participate in that meeting on behalf of our branch.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Wayne Wiebe, who has been our secretary for many years. He (in his own words) made sure that he “tried to capture the flavour of the meeting as well as all the pertinent points raised, information shared, and motions made.” Thank you, so much, for recording what otherwise would have been forgotten by the time the next executive meeting rolled around. The time has come for Wayne to pass along his role on our executive as secretary. Wayne’s contributions to the LRTA and other community organizations are immeasurable and appreciated. We know Wayne will continue to be a familiar face at our LRTA luncheons and events for years to come.





Many of our members have been taking the online computer classes with Linda Fawcus and “Gluu Society”. They have been terrific lessons with replay options. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful expert and dedicated presenter offering her classes to all seniors. We are still hoping we can organize the photo workshop in the coming year.

Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see you in September.

~ Sue Mackenzie ~

Lifelong Learning And The New Normal by Sue Mackenzie (Langley branch)

We are all tragically aware of the personal devastation the corona virus has caused for so many families, our medical system and our economy. The loss of life, the stress on our medical system and the everyday fear about what happens next, is overwhelming. For most of us, it came as an unbelievable shock that such a virus could alter our entire sense of “normal” while leaving a sense of fear and worry behind.

We are all grateful beyond words for the front line workers, first responders and essential service employees that have managed to keep going, in spite of their own fears and well-being. There are stories that surface everyday about the heroes in our midst who have stepped up and have found ways to make life somewhat more bearable and safer for others.

Many people have commented on the positive opportunities that have surfaced during these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the surprising outcomes that I am impressed with has been the willingness and enthusiasm many have had to keep connected with others online. We have many older seniors in our branch who have a limited knowledge of technology, but who have taken the challenge to learn more! Special thanks goes to Linda Fawcus from Gluu Technology Society for helping many of us develop some confidence and jump into the online world.



As President of our Langley branch, our executive meetings have taken on a new online format. During our meetings, we have watched grandkids patiently assisting grandparents, and friends helping friends with the process. We have had several “Zoom” meetings and have discovered it wasn’t as difficult as we thought it was going to be. Yes, we managed to laugh at a few of the issues we faced such as: seeing only a facial portion of participants, trying to find audio buttons, delays in getting started as we navigate finding passwords and ID information within the last email, phones ringing not to mention pets meandering through, but it has all been with remarkable desire and persistence to make it work. I would like to personally acknowledge our entire executive, who are bravely attempting to overcome the obstacles in order to find ways to do our business and find ways to keep our members supported.

We have always told our students to seek lifelong learning opportunities. It’s great to see retired teachers practice what they have been advocating throughout their careers. This may be the new “normal” for some time and I, for one, am grateful that we can connect with others in so many different ways that keep us safe.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

~Submitted by Maureen Wilson~



Invitations have been sent out this past year for our brunch and luncheons by email or phone. Thank you to Jan Bryce for coordinating the phoning part of our invitations. **Lois Comerford** and **Trixie Martyn** have volunteered their time doing phoning over the past years. We would like to thank both ladies for their dedication in getting out the word. Lois will be stepping down from that role this year, so if you are interested in helping out with the phoning, please contact Jan Bryce at <jcmbryce@gmail.com> or phone her at 604-854-1582.

Over the past several years we have transitioned from 100% phoning with 18 “phoners” to mainly email communication. There were some intermediate steps along the way and likely will be more refinements in the future. As we wrap up this year, I’d like to say thank you to all of you, in advance, for your patience as we make changes due to COVID -19. I have enjoyed “communicating” with you and hope we have as successful 2020-2021.

RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Retired Educators' Scholarship Fund, through the School District Foundation, collected donations from Langley retired educators through Direct Ask, silent auction, and donations at the LRTA luncheons. There were 9 scholarships of \$750 each awarded to successful applicants who intend to pursue their career in education.



ACSS
BSS
DWPSS
LEC
LFAS

Miranda Campbell
Ethan Billings
Kurt Morrill
Marissa Pimentel
Lily Colbourne

LFMSS
LSS
REMSS
WGSS

Anika Brandow
Jordan Baerg
William Huang
Bethany Meszaros

It has been a difficult spring and may be a difficult fall season as well to try and raise funds without any fund-raisers. We depend upon the kindness and generosity of those educators who have retired and would like to contribute to the scholarships that are awarded to Langley students who wish to have a career in education. If you would like to contribute directly, donations may be mailed to:

Langley School District Foundation
c/o Maureen Pepin
25323 12th Ave,
Aldergrove, BC
V4W 3N2

Please make cheques payable to 'Langley School District Foundation', include your email address for tax receipts as they are only via email.

LRTA Luncheons for 2020-2021

Stay tuned for information regarding future LRTA events.

SUNSHINE REPORT

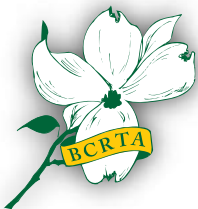
~Submitted by Jacquie Hollybow~



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

Did You Know?



Doreen King, a former Langley RTA member, designed this logo around 2007-08. Doreen was a retired art teacher from Langley Senior Secondary and was asked by the BCRTA Membership Committee to design a new dogwood logo. This was the last piece of art that Doreen created before her death. She did not live long enough to know that her last work of art would be known, admired, and proudly worn by BCRTA members throughout the province.

IT'S RETIREMENT TIME AGAIN!

The following is a list of retiring teachers and administrators (A), 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 lrta.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. Also, please feel free to forward them the attached poster to any teacher contemplating retirement.

Roberta Anderson
Doreen Babiuk
Annie Charron
Erin Dawson
Cornelius De Geus
Carmen Demarzo
Maria Denis
Catherine Dyck
Kristine Elliott

Lea Francis
Larry Goldsack
John Greenshields
Elizabeth Hadley
Brenda Hobbs
James Joly
Karen Labrash
Mary Ann Lochbaum
Carol Manary

Derek McCracken (A)
Dena McGratten
Sally Milligan
Riki O'Byrne
Joanie Proske
Warren Purdy
Harvey Reynolds
Louise Robb
Donna Robins

Warren Schmidt
Esther Schmit
Margot Stewart-Lee
Vera Sutton
Arden Thomas
Esther Warriner
Peggy Wickenden
Annette Wolfe
Bruce Young



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

Join the BCRTA, and receive your first year FREE!!

Here is a direct link <https://bcrta.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 14 new members, and now have a total of 489 members. We are pleased to welcome those who have joined us this past year.

Our branch is represented on the web at www.bcrta.ca and on our very own web page at <http://www.langleyrta.ca>

By investigating these sites you will be able to find an abundance of information about our branch! All executive members' names and contact information are listed on both sites. As Membership chair, I

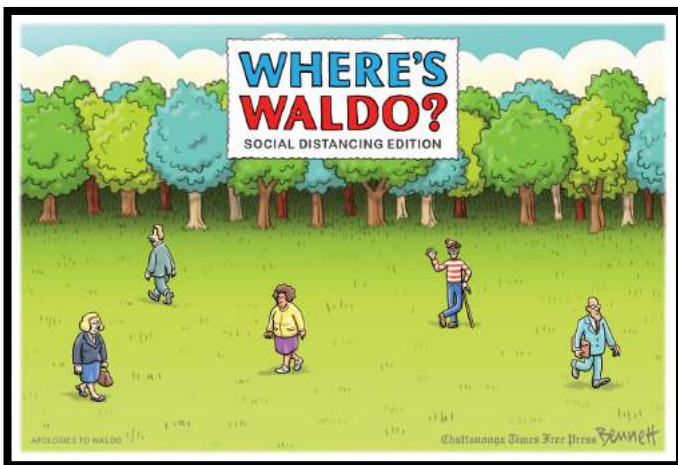
encourage both members and non-members to contact me with any membership questions or concerns at lrta.35@gmail.com.

This year BCRTA is encouraging all retired teachers to 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.bcrta.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@bcrta.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 \$750 scholarships each year to Langley school graduates planning a teaching career.

A bit of COVID humour (is that possible??)



If you mix Tabasco in your hand sanitizer it will not only kill germs but also teach you not to touch your face and eyes. 🔥🔥😬



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: lra.35@gmail.com

Thanks,

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