

RRTA NEWSLETTER



November, 2020
(AGM Edition)

Letter from the Editor

RRTA President's Christmas Message

I hope all of you are finding ways to continue to enjoy life in these strange times of Covid.

On behalf of all our Directors I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we had to cancel our annual Christmas Luncheon due to Covid concerns, I wish to remind all who wish to help those in need to go to: Richmond Food Bank Website:

www.richmondfoodbank.org

After the site comes up, go to the Donate button at top right of your page to make a donation to the food bank.

This has been a charitable donation that many of us have supported in the past and they welcome all the help they can get. Each donor is sent a tax receipt.

Thank you to all, and remember,

Keep Smiling
David Bell



This will be a brief newsletter as not much is happening these days due to the Covid-19 lockdown. As you may already know, we have cancelled the Christmas Luncheon at Mayfair Lakes, but have left the door open with Mayfair for a possible Spring Luncheon if there is a change in the health measures.

The BCRTA held a virtual AGM and we have a full report in this edition prepared by our delegates Bob Jackson and Lynne Farquharson.

At this time, it looks like it will be okay for us to postpone our RRTA 2020 AGM until 2021, provided it is completed by November 2021, but I hasten to point out that if anyone wishes to join our Board of Directors, please let us know and the board can vote in some additional directors. Cathy Wozny would like to step down as Treasurer so we would really appreciate someone stepping up and taking on that role. Cathy is prepared to stay on the board to assist the new Treasurer.

In this newsletter, in addition to the BCRTA AGM report, you will find information about the RRTA Trust Fund Foundation (Scholarship). We have one thank you letter for your reading pleasure as well as the minutes of the RRTA Trust Fund Foundation AGM 2020. There is also a request for donations to the fund, and the form to submit with your donation.

Gordon Smith
RRTA Newsletter Editor

Reports from the October 21st Zoom RRTA Directors Meeting

Treasurer's Report

I have just deposited the annual dues from the BCTRTA, bringing our cash on hand to \$10,371. Normally this would take us comfortably to the end of June, which is our year end. Due to Covid-19, the situation is complicated. We have too much money!

Too much money for a nonprofit that is not permitted to donate to anything is as much a problem as not enough money. The situation directly affects the mothership, BCRTA, because Canada Revenue Agency considers all branch money to be BCRTA money, also a nonprofit is not permitted to donate to anything. Presumably CRA is setting up protocols to allow for a temporary blip.

At this point I have to say thank you for continuing your membership. Our activities are curtailed, but our very existence as a part of an organized membership that communicates, observes, lobbies for and supports seniors and education is of great value and must not suffer loss of membership.

That value, this newsletter, Sunshine, scholarships (separate entity for tax purposes and with no access to our funds) are the only Covid-safe enterprises we have been able to continue for now. Of course many of you, our individual members, have continued or joined outreach to provide support to foodbanks, toy drives etc., but these are not, and cannot be, official RRTA activities. There must be many contributions that I haven't mentioned, and I appreciatively apologize. So thanks to you for your considerable contributions.

Your ideas for spending some extra cash may be helpful. If it requires a significant new workload for us, please consider helping. If it needs storage, please consider helping. We struggle every year with budget and suitable expenditures. Member benefit is really the only justification permitted. At this point, we can offer a greater subsidy to the luncheons when they start up. Again, the difficulty is of reaching all members and not just those able to attend luncheons and speaker events.

May I suggest you write to richmondrt@gmail.com with any suggestions? Please be helpful and kind! Who knows what a fresh take we might get?

Cheers,
Cathy Wozny, acting Treasurer

RRTA Directors 2019-20

www.richmondrt.ca

TABLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -- David Bell

president@richmondrt.ca

VICE PRESIDENT - Vacant

SECRETARY -- Amanda Hufton

TREASURER -- Vacant

PAST PRESIDENT - Gordon Smith

DIRECTORS (CHAIRS)

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS -- Loraine Martin

richmondrt@gmail.com

FINANCE -- Vacant

HERITAGE -- Loraine Martin

richmondrt@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP / PHONING -- Denise Gobbo

PROGRAMME -- Munjeet Booton

WELLNESS -- Lynne Farquharson

SUNSHINE -- Pat Walach (604) 278-9530

NEWSLETTER -- Gordon Smith

SOCIAL -- Mary Hardy

CHRISTMAS PROJECT -- Karen Holden

TRUST FUND FOUNDATION -- Glenn Kishi (Chair)

(604) 317-5554

gkishi@shaw.ca

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Bob Jackson

Michael Gilles

Cathy Wozny -- Acting Treasurer

Heritage Report - Loraine Martin

The Heritage Committee has had a very challenging start to the 2020-2021 year.

In the first week of July, Loraine was contacted by Umur Olcay, Manager of Facilities Planning for SD38, letting us know that General Currie's large portable would be the new home for the District Early Learning Centre. Consequently, the ELL classes were moving to Sea Island and the General Currie Heritage Building would now be home to the school's music teacher from Monday to Thursday.

We discussed 'ways and means' that the Heritage Committee could still function, eg. what heritage items could be put in storage, what was required to earthquake proof the room and what furniture we required as Continuing Ed took all their furniture with them.

In the first week of September, Gordon and Loraine met with the music teacher and worked together to organize the room.

The committee will be able to continue to work on the database project and to update displays but we will have to spend part of every meeting moving furniture so that we can access cupboards and supplies and we have limited space for any new donations. We will not be able to host workshops or an Open House and the General Currie Centenary has been postponed for a year. It will be re-examined in the Spring.

Membership/Phoners Report - Denise Gobbo

As of October 14, 2020 our membership stands at 499.

Christmas Project Report - Karen Holden

There are currently 21 lifetime members and there may be additional members suggested by the Sunshine committee who may be receiving cards this year.

Cards for this years poinsettia project will be available at the RTA office if members want to add a signature or short note to people they might actually know. All of them have been signed with "From your RRTA friends" but there is room for people to add additional greetings if they wish to do so.

They will be at the RTA office from November 16th to December 4th

Sunshine Report Pat Walach

It was decided to send cards to non-members for bereavement and health issues.

Well-Being Report - Lynne Farquharson

David Bell joined this committee and will contribute.

Social Committee Report – Gordon Smith and Mary Hardy

The Christmas Luncheon has been officially cancelled. Yvonne Yick said we would be welcomed back whenever we are ready to resume our luncheons.

**Report by Bob Jackson & Lynne Farquharson
for the
2020 BCRTA Conference and Annual General Meeting
October 2nd, & 3rd, 2020**

Preamble

The 2020 BCRTA Annual Conference and the 75th BCRTA Annual General Meeting was a virtual meeting held on zoom. It was hard to tell the actual number of delegates for you don't see everyone. The BCRTA had hired some extra information technology specialist to assist with both meetings. This also included a secure method for casting ballots to vote at the AGM. As a delegate for many years, I missed the opportunity of socialization with other delegates. One could send an individual chat message to a friend as the meeting was in session. I feel this format was successful for both the Friday Conference and the Saturday AGM.

Friday, October 2nd - 8:45 a.m.

The meeting commenced with introductions, review of the virtual meeting procedures and comments from the BCRTA President, Gerry Tiede, a former RSB employee.

Speaker #1 – Isobel Mackenzie – Seniors Advocate for B.C. – 9:00 a.m.

Topic – Long Term Care in B.C.

<u>Where Seniors Are Living</u>	<u>65 or older</u>	<u>85 or older</u>
% Living Independently (80% homeowners)	94%	74%
% Living in Retirement/Assisted Living (AL)	3%	10%
% Living Long Term Care (LTC)	3%	15%

560 LTC and AL sites (40,000 people) under Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders
55 facilities experienced 62 outbreaks (56 LTC and 6AL)

- 38 had no deaths
- 27 were contained to a single staff member
- 7 were contained to a single resident
- 6 were contained to 2 - 5 residents/staff
- 11 involved between 6 – 15 residents/staff
- 11 involved more than 15 residents/staff

This session was an excellent and informative presentation that highlighted the effects of the pandemic on seniors and the best practices into the future that is relevant to seniors. She indicated that “one size does not fit all” and that in BC we should work toward a “relationship model” rather than the current “medical model.”

Lisa M. Johnson Insurance Representative for the BCRTA

The evolving COVID-19 situation tested our collective resilience in many facets of their business. The Prestige and Medoc Travel Insurance has been extended for 4 months for current policyholders until the end of December 2020 at no additional costs. New premiums should be circulated for new policies stating on January 1, 2021.

Gold Star Winners (10:15 a.m.) – Tecumseh (Vancouver) & Thetis Island One Room School

Speaker #2 – Dr. Steve Morgan – School of Population & Public Health – UBC - 10:30 a.m.

Topic – Universal Pharmacare

- Every high-income country with universal health care system provides universal coverage of prescription drugs, except Canada.
- There are more than 100 different public drug plans in Canada and thousands of different private drug plans.
- 1 year of generic atorvastatin (Lipitor) \$64 in Canada and \$9 in New Zealand
- 1 year of generic sertraline (Zoloft) \$110 in Canada and \$9 in New Zealand
- Our patchwork system provides worse access at higher overall cost, with greater financial risks, and attracts less investment from Pharma companies than universal public pharmacare systems do.
- Pharmacare saves Canadians more than it costs to implement, so it is **not** pharmacare or other health care, it is pharmacare and other reforms.

This was an excellent presentation. Universal Pharmacare in Canada would actually save the government \$\$\$\$. This presentation is available on the following URL.

<https://bcрта.ca/pharmacare-2020-conference-presentation-by-steve-morgan/>

Speaker #3 – Dr. Roger Wong – Faculty of Medicine – UBC – 1:30 p.m.

Topic – Older Adults During COVID-19 – Knowledge Translation in Pandemic

He is a regular contributor to the BCRTA PostScript magazine.

A good part of Dr. Wong's presentation was about all the published articles in journals, appearances on TV and radio, and newspaper articles. To get more information from Dr. Wong on staying safe for retirees and their families please go the URL below.

<https://bcрта.ca/dr-roger-wong-on-staying-safe-for-retirees-and-their-families/>

Saturday, October 3rd - 9:00 a.m.

This meeting was a lot shorter than past years due to being a virtual meeting. Very little debate, in fact all delegates were on mute and could NOT speak. At the beginning of the meeting there were a couple of motions to suspend a couple of by-laws that would then allow for a virtual AGM.

The BCRTA Executive elected for the 2021-2022 year is as follows:

President – Grace Wilson – Kootenay Lake West Chapter

1st Vice-President – Arnie Lambert – Parksville-Qualicum Chapter

2nd Vice-President – Caroline Malm – Coquitlam

Inside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions – Barb Mikulec – Vancouver

- Dave Scott – New Westminster

Outside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions – Janice Androsoff – Rossland

- Harriet McGall - Courtenay

The BCRTA Membership Fees in 2021-2022 will go up to \$42.

The RRTA Delegates to the BCRTA AGM were David Bell, Lynne Farquharson and Bob Jackson



Scholarships

June 21, 2020

Dear Mr. Kishi,

I am writing to thank the Richmond Retired Teacher's Association for their generous donation towards the Jean Myron Memorial Scholarship. I am thrilled and honoured to be receiving this award and I deeply appreciate your support.

Throughout my high school years, I have been involved with many environmental organizations to advocate awareness for sustainability. These include being one of the co-presidents of my school's Green Team, volunteering for Iona Island Bird Observatory and the David Suzuki Foundation. Volunteering with these organizations helped me realize the positive impact that we can make if we work together to tackle our world problems.



In the fall, I want to further pursue this passion, combined with my love for the sciences and technology through studying environmental engineering at Princeton University. One of my biggest aspirations in life is to develop sustainable technology in areas such as solar energy and water treatment for developing countries, especially in communities which are most vulnerable to climate change. I am grateful for your financial assistance, which will be invaluable in helping me to pay for my educational expenses. This will relieve much financial stress, allowing my university years to be more positive and meaningful.

Thank you again for your support. Your generosity is inspiring. I also hope to give back to others by relieving the stresses that arise from global environmental issues for communities in need. I am forever grateful and humbled and I assure you that your support towards my education is invaluable. I promise that I will work hard and take advantage of all the opportunities that come with a university education.

Sincerely,

Edward Zhang
Richmond Secondary – Class of 2020

**Richmond Retired Teachers' Association
Trust Fund Foundation
Annual General Meeting – Sept 29, 2020 - Minutes**

Virtual Zoom Meeting – 9:30 AM

Chairperson – Glenn Kishi

Secretary – Donna Matheson

1. Agenda Approval – **Motion:** Pat Walach **Second:** Donna Matheson
2. Minutes of the Wednesday September 4, 2019 meeting – **Motion:** Glenn Kishi **Second:** Donna Matheson
3. Chairman's Annual Report – Glenn Kishi – see written report with change of Cindy Ho as Chartered Accountant – **Motion:** Charan Gill **Second:** Pat Walach
4. Treasurer's report – Jim McLeod – see written report. Increase in over \$18000.00 assets. Have diversified investments into different sectors. – **Motion:** Jim McLeod **Second:** Pat Walach
5. Approval of Auditor – Cindy Ho – DBO Canada. **Motion:** Donna Matheson **Second:** Charan Gill
6. Ratification of June 2020 Scholarship recipients - 30 scholarships given out virtually at Secondary Schools in June 2020- twenty at \$2000 each, nine at \$1000 from RRTA and one at \$1000 for SLSS from Louise Campbell Scholarship funds. – **Motion:** Donna Matheson **Second:** Jim McLeod

School	\$2000 Jean Myron	\$2000 Jean Myron	\$1000 RRTA/ Campbell
Boyd	Himari Honda	Sarah Stephenson	Alice Liu
Burnett	Alison Marsh	Kaia Manhas	Evan Statham
Cambie	Elliot Evans	Taaseen Jilani	Daryl Solidum
MacNeill	Tony Tan	Karen Liu	Tony Smith
McMath	Natalie Der	Hod Kimhi	Orr Kimhi
McRoberts	Emma Hodgins	Jaya Sidhu	Sayyidah Jaffer
McNair	Danika Viel	Rajeet Dhillon	Nimra Askari
Palmer	Jasmine Manango	Rana Ghadyimahani	Eleen Yang
Richmond	Rachel Wen	Edward Zhang	Pamela Bai
SLSS	Noah Argao	Jenna Curtis	Christopher Ison

7. Approval of signing officers (Glenn Kishi, Donna Matheson, Jim McLeod) be approved for the 2020-2021 year. Now required 2 signatures on all cheques. – **Motion:** Charan Gill **Second:** Pat Walach
8. Motion to approve the extension of all officers for another year due to COVID 19 issues. **Motion:** Jim McLeod **Second:** Pat Walach
9. Motion to approve the 2021 scholarships
Twenty Jean Myron Scholarships \$2000 each (two to each Secondary)
Nine RRTA Scholarships \$1000 each (one to each Secondary except SLSS)

One Louise Campbell Scholarship \$1000 (one to SLSS) – **Motion:** Donna Matheson **Second:** Glenn Kishi

10. Sign-up sheet for 2021 presenters if there are to be any “in person” valedictories. Pat Walach will reach out as necessary
11. Fund drive in October/November - the fund drive will be an email drive again and only mailed to those without email address. Email will be sent out to all members with approximately 40 mail out letters.
12. Other business - Change in scholarship criteria (see below) **Motion:** Pat Walach **Second:** Charan Gill

Richmond Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship

- **No 1 criteria:** to students whose parents, grandparents or great grandparents who are or were **teachers**. If there are no applicants who meet this criteria, then the scholarship committees can select other students based on the criteria as set out by the Richmond Retired Teachers Association Trust Fund criteria below.
- academic achievement in all subjects taken in the two final years of secondary school
- active participation in school and/or community activities
- demonstration of good citizenship within the school and the community
- where all other criteria are equal, financial need shall be considered

Richmond Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship (Jean Myron)

- **No 1 criteria:** to students whose parents, grandparents or great grandparents who are or were **teachers**. If there are no applicants who meet this criteria, then the scholarship committees can select other students based on the criteria as set out by the Richmond Retired Teachers Association Trust Fund criteria below.
- academic achievement in all subjects taken in the two final years of secondary school
- active participation in school and/or community activities
- demonstration of good citizenship within the school and the community
- where all other criteria are equal, financial need shall be considered

Richmond Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship (Louise Campbell Memorial) Steveston-London

- **No 1 criteria:** to students whose parents, grandparents or great grandparents who are or were **teachers**. If there are no applicants who meet this criteria, then the scholarship committees can select other students based on the criteria as set out by the Richmond Retired Teachers Association Trust Fund criteria below.
- academic achievement in all subjects taken in the two final years of secondary school
- active participation in school and/or community activities
- demonstration of good citizenship within the school and the community
- where all other criteria are equal, financial need shall be considered

13. Adjournment – **Motion:** Jim McLeod **Second:** Glenn Kishi
-

Richmond Retired Teachers' Association
Scholarship Trust Fund Foundation
Box 97114, Richmond Station Main, 7871 Westminster Highway,
Richmond, BC V6X 8H3

November 2020

Dear Colleague:

This communication is written asking you to consider sending a donation to the RRTA Scholarship Trust Fund. All contributions to the RRTA Scholarship Trust Fund are eligible for income tax deductions, so please give generously.

Like many other charities, the donations to the RRTA Scholarship Trust Fund were down from previous years, but thanks to the monies received from the Jean Myron estate, the Directors were able to continue to award 30 scholarships for the "Class of 2020" in each of the ten Richmond secondary schools. Every school received two scholarships of \$2000.00 each in the name of Jean Myron and one award of \$1000.00 as either a Richmond Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship or as the Louise Campbell Scholarship. The Directors hope that contributions can return to their previous levels so that the \$1000.00 awarded in the name of the Richmond Retired Teachers' Association can continue to be presented to all ten schools.

The costs of post-secondary education continue to increase each year and the scholarship monies are greatly appreciated by the recipients as they continue their studies and their journey to achieve their goals. It is due to the generosity of the retired teachers of School District 38 (Richmond) that the Foundation can continue to grant these scholarships.

A donation form is attached to this email.

Please make cheques payable to: **RRTA Scholarship Trust Fund**

Please mail your donations to: **RRTA Scholarship Trust Fund: Box 97114, Richmond Station Main, 7871 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC V6X 8H3**

For your interest and information, the 2020 awards were presented to the following students:

<u>Secondary School</u>	<u>Jean Myron Scholarship - \$2000</u>	<u>RRTA Scholarship - \$1000</u>
Boyd Secondary	Sarah Stephenson, Himari Honda	Alice Liu
Burnett Secondary	Jain Manhas, Alison Marsh	Evan Statham
Cambie Secondary	Elliot Evans, Taaseen Jilani	Daryl Solidum
McMath Secondary	Hod Kimhi, Natalie Der	Orr Kimhi
McNair Secondary	Rajeet Dhillon, Danika Viel	Nimra Askari
MacNeill Secondary	Karen Liu, Tony Tan	Tony Smith
McRoberts Secondary	Jaya Sidhu, Emma Hopkins	Sayyidah Jaffer
Palmer Secondary	Rana Ghadymimahani, Jasmine Manango	Eleen Yang
Richmond Secondary	Edward Zhang, Rachel Wen	Pamela Bai
SLSS Secondary	Jenna Curtis, Noah Argao	Christopher Ison (Louise Campbell)

Directors of the RRTA Scholarship Trust Fund:

Chair: Glenn Kishi, **Treasurer:** Jim McLeod, **Secretary:** Donna Matheson

Members at Large: Charan Gill, Don Lintott, Pat Walach



RRTA Scholarship Trust Fund DONATION FORM

Please complete and send this form with your donation.

I would like to donate _____ to the Richmond Retired Teachers' Association
Scholarship Trust Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Please mail your donations to:

Richmond Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship Trust Fund
Box 97114, Richmond Station Main,
7871 Westminster Highway,
Richmond, B.C., V6X 8H3

We appreciate your generous support!