



Surrey Retired Teachers' Association



Please Note!

Venue Change

Chatter

Newsletter of the Surrey branch of the BC Retired Teachers Association
2018 Fall Edition

Workshops You Need to Register For

Claire Newell: Travel Trends, Tips & Trips

Claire Newell is a travel expert, media personality, author, journalist and luggage designer. She is also the founder and president of Travel Best Bets, one of the largest travel agencies in Canada, with 3 locations and more in the works.



For the past 25 years she has appeared 5 times per week on Global TV (BC) and is a regular guest on Global TV (National) The Morning Show as well as CKNW Radio (BC). Claire has appeared multiple times on NBC's Today Show, Fox & Friends, CNN, and other national programs. She has written articles for Success, Professional Woman, Today's Parent, Readers Digest and various other print and online publications.

Claire was a co-host on the television series Operation: Vacation (30 episodes) which aired in the US & Canada. Having visited over 65 countries, with many more on her bucket list, Claire provides her audience with the tips and deals to make their travels happen too!

Please note which workshop your are registering for

Register

You may also phone Brenda Jones at (604) 531-2590.

Because of the high demand for this workshop, we have changed the venue to accommodate more members and allow guests to attend.

IF you have already registered and want to add a guest. Click the register button and let Brenda know.

IF you haven't registered, there is still time. Click the register button or phone Brenda.

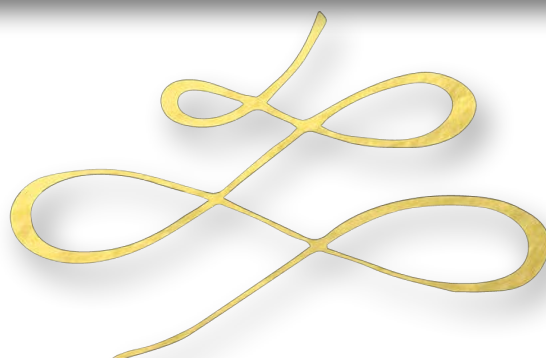
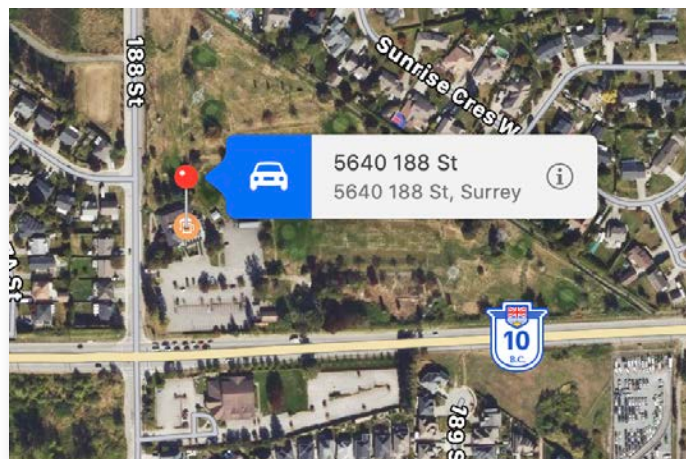
Tuesday, November 6

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

5 Star Catering Ltd.

(the old Sunrise Golf Club)

5640 188th Street, Surrey



BCRTA & Johnson Expanded Insurance Plans

Please Note!

Second Workshop Added
You May Change Your Workshop

Overview of all the BCRTA Member Exclusive Insurance Programs

Presented by:

Lisa Hansen

Senior Consultant

Group Benefits Western Region

Johnson Insurance

Tuesday, October 23

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Newton Public Library

Registration Limited to: 60 people in each session

Members and Guests invited to attend. No Charge



The workshop will provide a detailed overview of the benefit plans and will include the following:

- ☒ Prestige Extended Health Coverage, Dental & Travel Insurance
- ☒ Prestige Extended Health & Dental plan without Travel Insurance
- ☒ Prestige Travel Insurance
- ☒ Medoc Travel Insurance
- ☒ Home Insurance
- ☒ Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance

Click the button below to register

Please note which workshop you are registering for

Register

Or phone Brenda Jones at (604) 531-2590





Get Your Calendar Out!

Thursday, October 25 th	Surrey Golf Club
Thursday, November 29 th	Hazelmere Golf & Country Club
Thursday, February 25 th	Hazelmere Golf & Country Club
Thursday, May 9 th	Hazelmere Golf & Country Club



October Luncheon

Thursday, October 25th.

Surrey Golf Course



7700 168th Street

Doors open at 11... Lunch served at 12 noon.

Menu

Vegetarian Soup

Salads

Assorted Sandwiches

Desserts

Coffee & Tea

SRTA Members: \$16.00

Guests: \$18.00

Please pay at the door using either cash (exact change is appreciated) or cheque (made out to "SRTA"). Reserve your space now.

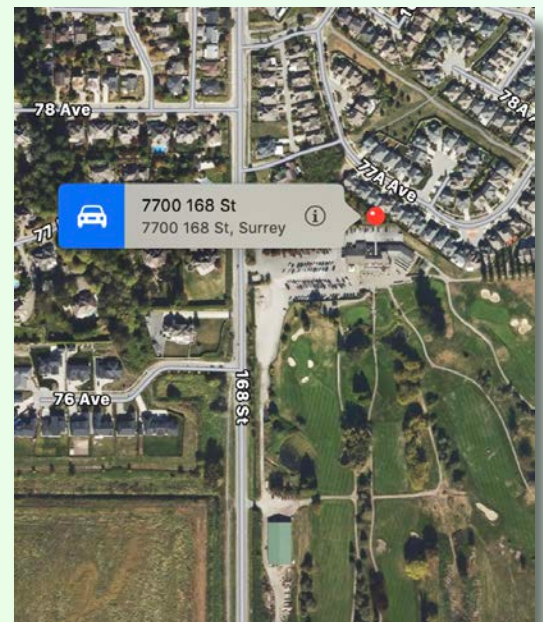
Contact Karen Bentzen

Email: kbentzen@telus.net

Phone: 604-572-5783

You must make your reservation before Wednesday, October 18th.

Make sure to give the names of those for whom you are making



President's Report

Happy Fall 2018!

I hope this issue of CHATTER finds you well and enjoying the best that retirement has to offer.

Looking back, 2017/18 was another busy year for the Surrey Retired Teachers' Association.

Highlights for this period included:

- * THWTB brunch (September 5);
- * Six Executive meetings (September 6, October 4, November 1, January 10, March 14, June 6);
- * Four luncheons (October 26, November 30, February 8, May 10);
- * A Night at the Races (November 24);
- * Three presentations (January 25, February 20, March 7);
- * Four CHATTER mailouts (September 27, November 16, January 24, April 12);
- * One mailout to teachers retiring from the employ of SD36 (Surrey) (June 1);
- * Email blasts (as needed);
- * A joint meeting with representatives from the DRTA and the LRTA (December 15);
- * A joint survey (February 1 to June 30);
- * Attendance at the Metro Fraser Valley Zone meeting (April 11);
- * Attendance at the STA's retirement dinner (June 1);
- * Ongoing committee work (Heritage, Sunshine, Surrey Cares); and
- * Our AGM (May 10).

I am pleased to introduce your Executive & Directors for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

Executive

President	Al Balanuik
Vice-President	
Past President	Tom Hastie
Secretary	Karen Bentzen
Treasurer	Karen Susheski
Membership Coordinator	Floyd Smith
Newsletter Editor	Floyd Smith

Directors

Canada Post Mailout	Karen Susheski
COSCO Representatives (3)	Al Balanuik, Richard Bury, Emily Cowen
Heritage	Karen Susheski
Sunshine	Ann Bayfield
Surrey Cares	Karen Susheski
Workshop Coordinator	Brenda Jones
At-Large (2)	Glenn Rabuka, Alice Tiles



Change of Address or Circumstance

Email or other change of address? Here's what to do... Call/email BCRTA and SRTA.

BCRTA Email: laurie@bcrt.com Phone: 604.871.2260

SRTA Email: srta@shaw.ca

President's Report cont'd

Your Executive and Directors will be meeting in the fall to plan for 2018/19. More information to follow.

Joint Survey Results (SRTA only)

- 26 of 966 members (2.7%) participated in the survey
- Average length of retirement for the respondents: 11 years
- 62% of the respondents live in Surrey/White Rock
- 91% described the pre-retirement workshops as helpful
- 57% said they were adequately informed about medical coverage
- Several members questioned the move from Pacific Blue Cross to Green Shield
- 67% said they were adequately informed about dental coverage
- Some members expressed dismay, frustration, etc. with the current provider
- 52% said they did not know about Prestige/Medoc benefits (with some members requesting information on these benefits)
- 71% said they knew about BCRTA's Advantage Program
- 71% also said they would like more opportunities to socialize with other retired teachers
- **Suggestions for local area day trips included:**
 - Walking or hiking with a guide/naturalist;
 - Shopping trips to Bellingham;
 - Trips to wineries, plays and casinos; and
 - Trips to local tourist destinations including Capilano Suspension Bridge and Steveston.
- **Suggested topics for future workshops included:**
 - Health & Wellness;
 - Pension Plan;
 - Financial Planning;
 - Downsizing;
 - Assisted Living;
 - Preparing a Last Will & Testament; and
 - Technology (computers, tablets, smartphones, etc.).
- Aside, one respondent described the continuing education opportunities offered by post-secondary institutions as excellent.
- Two respondents encouraged us to continue to publish information on volunteer opportunities.
- Further aside, two respondents called for greater advocacy for medical benefits and care facilities for the elderly.
- Preferred meeting locations by percentage of votes cast:
 - Central Surrey – 40%
 - Cloverdale – 23%
 - Langley – 20%
 - Delta – 17%
- Preferred meeting time: Afternoons (1:00 to 3:00)

Bill C-27

The following letter was sent to:

- Mr. John Aldaq, MP
- Mr. Sukh Dhaliwal, MP
- Mr. Ken Hardie, MP
- Mr. Gordon Hogg, MP
- Mr. Randeep Sarai, MP

President's Report cont'd

Dear --, MP:

As Canadian citizens, we want stable and reliable pension plans. They are good for us, good for our society, and good for our country's economy. We know that the ideal pension plan is one with risk shared equally between employers and employees, with oversight by a board composed of active work, employer and retiree representatives. Such a plan is like the one you yourself enjoy – a defined benefit pension plan.

However, we have Bill C-27. It has been introduced in the House, it has had first reading, and it threatens defined benefit pension plans in Canada. It enables the conversion of defined benefit plans to target benefit plans, jeopardizing the retirement income security of workers and retirees, who have negotiated pensions as a form of deferred wages. The text of the Bill includes 14 references to secure pension benefits being “surrendered” by workers and retirees!

The Federal government pledged to improve the well-being of the middle class. But, rather than ensuring the pension security of all Canadians, it has introduced this bill, which removes responsibility from employers, which transfers all risk of financial market volatility to workers and retirees, and which clearly threatens the security and predictability offered by defined benefit pension plans.

We are fiercely opposed to Bill C-27. It allows employers to simply abandon their commitments and walk away from their pension obligations. We call upon the government to withdraw Bill C-27.

We are mounting a campaign across our province. It will ask our Members of Parliament, in petitions originating across British Columbia, to voice our objection to Bill C-27.

We ask that as our MP, you commit to introducing our issue to the House so that we may voice our opposition to Bill C-27. We shall be calling you in the next little while to set up an appointment to discuss our petition. We will be asking you then whether you will read out our petition to Parliament.

With thanks,

Al Balanuik, President

Surrey Retired Teachers' Association

Update on Bill C-27

We collected signatures at the Annual General Meeting in May, at “To Hell with the Bell” in September and at the Surrey Teachers' Association office from September 17 to 21.

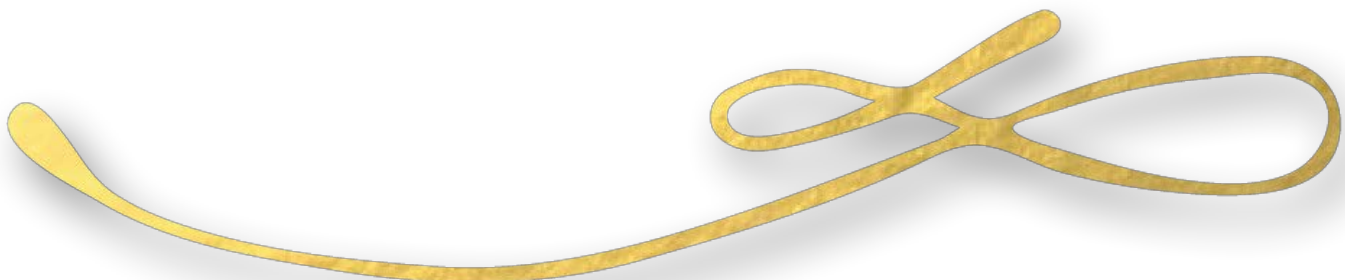
The good news is we've collected 98 signatures to date. The not so good news is we have not yet collected the minimum 25 signatures for any of our five MP's.

I contacted the organizers a few days ago. They were empathetic. They told me that while the deadline was September 22, it would be better to submit our petitions late than not at all.

I also emailed the Executive to update them on our progress and to suggest that we invite attendees at the upcoming luncheons and workshops to sign one of the petitions (if they have not done so already).

Bottom line, I remain confident that we will secure the minimum 125 signatures (5 MP's * the minimum 25 signatures) early this Fall and that collectively, we will join the many others opposing Bill C-27.

Thank you to those who have signed to date and to those who will sign in the weeks to follow!



Sunshine Report

Cards of condolence were sent to:

- Gerry Tiede on the passing of his father
- Jean Rollins on the passing of her husband, Keray Rollins
- Linda Muise on the passing of her husband, Robin Muise

In memoriam:

- Colin Buckoke
- Peter Ruginis
- Jean Paul Salaun
- Jack Cooper

Thinking of you/Get well cards were sent to:

- Mollie Hedley
- Karen Susheski

Thank You card was sent to:

- Han, catering manager at Surrey Golf Club for such a wonderful brunch for THWTB!

If you know of any SRTA members who could use some sunshine in their lives due to illness or loss in their family, please let our Sunshine Chair, Ann Bayfield know.

Please contact Ann Bayfield:
abayfield@shaw.ca or 604-353-1834.



The SRTA Education Fund

The SRTA, as directed by the BCRTA, has had to make some minor changes to the donation procedure to the SRTA Education Fund. Members wishing to donate to the Fund must do so directly to Surrey Cares (originally the Surrey Foundation). Two scholarships of \$1000 each are awarded in June to two Surrey applicants who intend to pursue a career in education and demonstrate financial need.

Donors can mail their donations to Surrey Cares at P.O. Box 34089, Surrey, B.C. V3S 8C4. Please make cheques payable to the Surrey Education Fund. An income tax receipt will be emailed to the donor. Online you can click this link:

[Donate to SRTA Scholarship Fund](#)

Or navigate yourself to: <http://www.surreycares.org>, then click Donate in the upper right corner, then click on Surrey Education fund, then login as a guest and donate.

If you have any questions please contact

Karen Young of Surrey Cares
604 591 2699 or at
karenyoung@surreycares.org

Karen Susheski
604 307 2694
susheski29@gmail.com



Remember, the new BCRTA site is live and getting better all the time. The SRTA branch site will be moving to within the BCRTA site very soon. Watch for the announcement.

Check it out here:

<http://bcрта.ca>

Heritage Report

Heritage School Finds A New Home

With the goal of preserving one of Surrey's valued historical buildings, in the early morning of Sept. 7, the Anniedale pioneer school was moved from its location at 176th Street and Highway 1 to its new home on the grounds of the Surrey Museum in Cloverdale. The old school is slated to become a significant part of the museum's programming and will enable presentations of 19th Century school lessons in a historical context. This will be a unique opportunity for children to 'experience' being pioneer students. The preservation of this heritage school was thanks to the untiring efforts of countless volunteers and community groups.



An Invitation To Join The Heritage Committee

If you have an interest in local history you are invited to join our committee of dedicated retirees who are delving into the history of the Surrey School District – many funny stories, personalities and events. For more information contact one of our committee members:

Margery Allen
Karen Bentzen
Karen Susheski
Alice Tiles

margeryallen@shaw.ca
kbentzen@telus.net
susheski29@gmail.com
feenx2@gmail.com

A place to go after you learn all your Travel Tips and get your BCRTA Travel Insurance.

