



## Christmas Luncheon

\$27.00/person for members

\$35.00/person for non-members\*

(Cheque or Exact Change Please)

Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 11:00 am

**Hazelmere Golf and Country Club**

**18150 8th Ave, Surrey**



On the menu this year a full turkey dinner and a vegetarian pasta dish.

And don't forget the amazing desserts.

**Reserve your space now. We must have accurate numbers for Hazelmere.**

Email [Alice Tiles](#) or Phone: 604-535-0573

**Please reserve before Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

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

## Annual Food Bank Drive

The Food Bank prefers cash or cheque donations as these can go much further with the Bank's purchasing power. They can also purchase food that is in short supply.

Please bring a cheque made out to: **Surrey Food Bank Society.**

**Please do not bring food donations, as we cannot accept them at this time.**

## Cancellations

If you have booked, but at a later date find you are not be able to attend please be sure to call Alice Tiles (even the morning of the luncheon) to cancel your reservation.

If we don't make the number change with Hazelmere, there could be a charge.

Members' meals are subsidized using our fees. Non-members pay the price Hazelmere charges SRTA.

# President's Report

Happy November. I hope this issue of *Chatter* finds you well and enjoying retirement.

I will begin my message by inviting you to join me in welcoming back to the Executive two former Presidents – Tom Hastie and Helen McFadden. Tom has kindly agreed to fill the vacant position of Vice-President and Helen has graciously agreed to fill the vacant position of Past President. Both Tom and Helen bring many years of service to our Association and we will no doubt benefit from their expertise, experience and dedication to task.

Also, Arlene Liang – a Surrey teacher who retired in June 2018 – will be joining the Executive in January 2019. Welcome, Arlene!

We are off to a busy start. Since July, we have had four workshops (one on Nutrition, two on Insurance, and one on Travel), the annual “To Hell with the Bell”, and two Executive meetings.

Aside, start-up would have been even busier had we been able to proceed with the luncheon planned for October. Unfortunately, we had to cancel this special event because of a power outage at the facility that morning. Thank you to the

members of the Executive who worked furiously to notify those who had signed up of the cancellation and to those who had signed up for understanding.

Please see other sections of this issue of *Chatter* for information on upcoming luncheons, workshops, etc.

Also, our opposition to Bill C-27 continues. As of November 6, we have collected enough signatures to petition four of Surrey's five MP's. We are hoping to secure the final signatures at the November luncheon.

Again, thank you for joining the Surrey Retired Teachers' Association or renewing your membership with our Association. We are 899 strong! Also, thank you to the members of the Executive and members who volunteer on behalf of the Association. Your expertise and efforts on behalf of the membership are acknowledged and truly appreciated.

I'll end with a quote from Mark Twain. “Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, dream, discover.”

Al Balanuik

President, SRTA



## Sunshine Report

Condolences were sent to:

Bernie Froebel on the passing of his wife Dianne

Marion Coyne on the passing of her husband Jim

Elva McArthur on the passing of her husband Don

Family of Flora Morton on her passing

Please contact Ann Bayfield: [abayfield@shaw.ca](mailto:abayfield@shaw.ca) or 604-353-1834 if you know of a member who is celebrating a special event (eg. a milestone birthday or anniversary), has been ill, has had an accident, has lost a loved one, is in a care facility or is confined to his/her home.

## Change of Address or Circumstance

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

BCRTA Email: [Laurie Boyd](mailto:Laurie.Boyd@bcrtc.ca) Phone: 604.871.2260

SRTA Email: [SRTA Membership](mailto:SRTAMembership@srtabcc.ca)

## Workshop Report

Both the Johnson Insurance Workshop and the Claire Newell Travel Tips workshops were well attended. We made alternate arrangements for both workshops to accommodate the number of members that were interested. Thank you to everyone who attended and we hope you found both workshops informative and helpful.

For the Insurance Workshop, some members could not attend and wanted more information. Here is a note from Lisa Hansen for members who would like to contact her.

If members missed the workshop or would like further information on the benefits available to BCRTA members through Johnson they can reach out to me directly or call us at 604-881-8840.

Members can also come in for individual appointments.

Lisa Hansen, BA, CAIB, CEBS, FLMI  
Senior Consultant | Group Benefits  
Western Region  
Walnut Grove Commerce Centre  
9440 202<sup>nd</sup> St, Suite 110 | Langley, BC | VIM



claire newell

### Safety Travel Apps

There were many requests for Claire's Safety Apps for the smart traveller. Most of these are free, but it is advisable to upgrade to the paid version if there is one. That usually is an inexpensive upgrade and gets rid of all the annoying ads and often unlocks extra features. All are available in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Here is the list from her presentation and a couple more:



**EmergenSee:** transmit video, audio & GPS to friends/family.



**In Case of Emergency or "ICE":** puts emergency info on your lock screen for 1st responders; works when phone is locked.



**Smart Traveler:** travel alerts & warnings; entry/exit requirements; laws; location of Canadian embassy



**mPassport:** local brand equivalent of medicine; locates medical services



**Google Translate:** easy translation. You can even translate street signs with your camera. You may also consider the iTranslate app.



**XE Currency:** real time currency conversion (free)



**Health App:** iPhone only. Does the work of The ICE app. Track walking and much more. See [Apple Support](#) to set up the ICE feature.



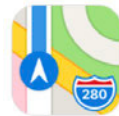
**TripIt:** travel itinerary organizer. The inexpensive pro upgrade is best. Creates an editable itinerary of your entire trip.



**Duolingo:** learn a language. There are many similar ones out there. Some are very expensive.



**Google and Apple Maps:** mapping and directions. For navigation and exploring driving and now for transit and walking directions for most major cities in the world. Use Apple's 3D flyover and Google's Street view to visit your destinations before you get there.



Then use Trivago and Trip Advisor to locate that great \$\$ hotel with a ★★★★★ rating.



## Heritage Report

### Surrey's Early Island School

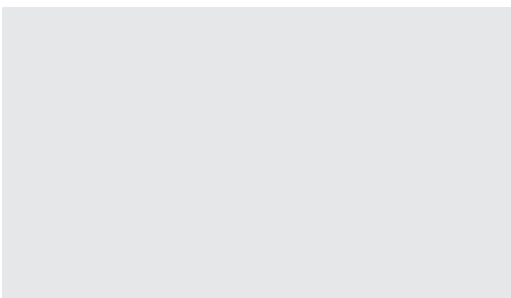
One of Surrey's earliest schools was built on Barnston Island, which is situated in the Fraser River between Surrey and Pitt Meadows. The island is only accessible through a five-minute ferry ride from Surrey off 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue across Parson's Channel.

The original little schoolhouse was built bordering the dike and accommodating a small number of students. Later a larger school was erected in the centre of the island to better meet local student needs. The official name of the structure was Margaret V. McKee School and operated from 1903 to about 1957. Student numbers, however, remained low resulting in the building's closure and its students being transported to Anniedale Elementary. Nothing remains of the old school but a part of the chimney. Surrey School District still owns two acres in the middle of the island

Information source:

[Jack Brown's Surrey History](#)





## This Year's Executive

### Table Officers

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

### Directors

Canada Post Mail-out	Karen Susheski
COSCO Reps	Al Balanuik
	Richard Bury
	Emily Cowen
Heritage	Karen Susheski
Surrey Foundation	Karen Susheski
Sunshine	Ann Bayfield
Workshops	Brenda Jones
Directors at Large	Glen Rabuka

### 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	<a href="mailto:margeryallen@shaw.ca">margeryallen@shaw.ca</a>
Karen Bentzen	<a href="mailto:kbentzen@telus.net">kbentzen@telus.net</a>
Karen Susheski	<a href="mailto:susheski29@gmail.com">susheski29@gmail.com</a>
Alice Tiles	<a href="mailto:feenx2@gmail.com">feenx2@gmail.com</a>



**A VERY MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**and Happy New Year!**