

# Vancouver Tabloid

Vancouver Retired Teachers' Association AUGUST 2020 Newsletter



## WELCOME TO NEW RETIREES!

A BIG WELCOME to the newly retired...no more student marking to do! May you begin a great retirement!

While the COVID-19 virus makes a comeback in some parts of our province and around the world, the VRTA continues to adapt to our New Normal and promotes a video conferencing by ZOOM for our AGM. Read inside at your leisure our complete AGM materials as well as what the New Normal means for some of us.

## JOIN OUR FIRST VIRTUAL AGM

**PLEASE JOIN US** for our AGM on Tuesday Sept. 8 ONLINE via ZOOM Invitation. To join ZOOM online, you must give your email address to [vrta.president@gmail.com](mailto:vrta.president@gmail.com); if you cannot use the Internet, then you are invited to register by phone to 604 872-1859.

Guest speaker BCRTA Director and former VRTA executive member, **Arnie Lambert**, will give us an update on BCRTA & Pension Matters and answer your questions. Then comes the business of the Annual General Meeting. There will be a Door Prize!

So on the morning of Tuesday Sept. 8 at 10 am, make yourself a fresh pot of tea or coffee, stay safe at home and JOIN us online, using the ZOOM INVITE details sent out early that morning. The waiting room opens at 9:45 am to provide time for you to connect successfully.

Excellent videos on how to JOIN a ZOOM meeting are available on Youtube or at website [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) ***Pre-registration with President is required; a limited number of invitations available for this meeting.***

## Annual General Meeting VRTA

### Zoom Meeting

**Tuesday SEPTEMBER 8**

At 10:00 AM via your Desktop, laptop, iPad or Cell phone  
This is a Virtual Meeting

REGISTER with the Online Host  
by SUNDAY Sept. 6 using EMAIL and send to:

**Anastasia Mirras, HOST of VRTA ZOOM**  
[VRTA.president@gmail.com](mailto:VRTA.president@gmail.com)

**OR PHONE Register with 604 872-1859 Winola**  
**IDENTICAL REGISTRATION ON BACK PAGE**

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# President's Greetings



A generous welcome to all our new retirees and returning members. I want to invite you to all of our meetings and social events (now virtual!) and to participate in one or more of the VRTA activities - See the choices below. A big thank-you to the retiring executive members: Tom Brunker, Art Rempel, Patricia Wright, and Volunteers: Carol Perdue and Bea Raymond. Your service was invaluable.

Please come to our virtual AGM on Tuesday September 8 - details can be found in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you online and getting to know you. And do come to our executive meetings, held virtually now. See Calendar below for the dates.

**-Anastasia Mirras**

## TURNING TO CRAFTS TO CELEBRATE RETIREMENT



*Bed quilt made by Barb Mikulec during start of Pandemic.*



*"Captain Cook arriving"-section of Elaine Anderson's wall quilt.*

**NEW to RETIREMENT?** When Barb and Elaine retired from fulltime teaching both of them turned to crafts to meet new people and develop new skills. Both took courses in quilting and Elaine joined a Guild. Elaine's first quilt in a show earned her first place! That spurred her on to make even more complex quilts that tell stories.

## NEWSFLASH: ACTIVITIES CAN MEET IN PERSON (UNDER PANDEMIC RULES)

**The Book Club will continue to meet on Zoom  
LEADERS for Activities**

**\*BOOK CLUB:** Diane Smith frandia@shaw.ca—3rd Wed at 2 pm  
-Feel free to Join Waiting list; then Second Book Club can form

**BOARD GAMES:** Sayoko Saimoto— sai389@telus.net —4th Wed at 1:10 pm

**STROLLERS:** Norma Westrom normawestrom@hotmail.com—Wed 10:45 am

**WALKERS:** Margaret Yoshida margyoshi@gmail.com—Wed 10:00 am

## Vancouver Tabloid

**A publication of the Vancouver  
Branch of the British Columbia  
Retired Teachers' Association**

#100, 550 West 6th Ave,  
Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4P2

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**WEBSITE: [www.bcrrta.ca](http://www.bcrrta.ca)**

### VRTA EXECUTIVE 2019– 2020

**President** - Anastasia Mirras

vrta.president@gmail.com

**Past President** Winola Chu

604 872-1859 wderechu@hotmail.com

**First VP -**

**VACANT**

**Second VP** - Edie Wood

604 228-0830 edithwood@gmail.com

**Treasurer** - Dave Ellis

604 327-7734 dellis7734@gmail.com

**Secretary** - Denis Ottewell

604 526-7561

dennyottewell@outlook.com

**Editor-Tabloid** - Rosalind Kellett

604 873-0568 roskelett@gmail.com

### SUBMIT POSTAL CHANGES TO:

**Membership**—Elaine Anderson

604 929-3306 ebanderson@shaw.ca

### SUBMIT eMAIL CHANGE TO:

**TABLOID-eDistribution—**

Elaine Anderson 604 929-3306

VancouverTabloid@gmail.com

### Members at Large

Tom Brunker, Barb Mikulec,  
Sheila Pither, Ali Pollard, Art Rempel,  
Les Rowe, Diane Smith,  
Norma Westrom, Patricia Wright

### Volunteers

Lil Cumberbirch, Ora Fraser,  
Carol Perdue, Bea Raymond

**WEBSITE: [www.vrta.ca](http://www.vrta.ca)**

## Calendar

*\*Please feel free to join us - \*Notify  
vrta.president@gmail.com*

**Aug. 21 Fri.** Workshop on ZOOM

**Aug. 25 Tue.** Exec. Meeting

**Sept. 8 Tue.** VRTA AGM

**Sept. 22 Tue.** Exec. Meeting

**Oct. 2-3 BCRTA Conf. —AGM**

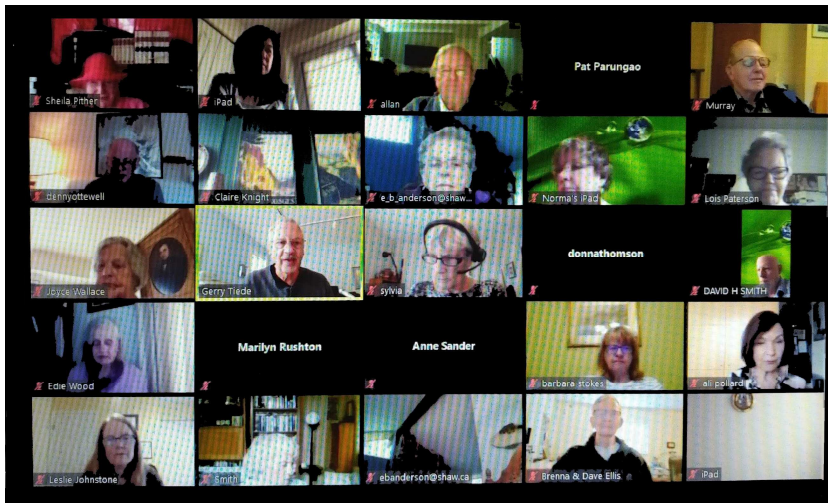
**Oct. 27 Tue.** Workshop (TBC)

**Nov. 6 Fri.** —Deadline TABLOID

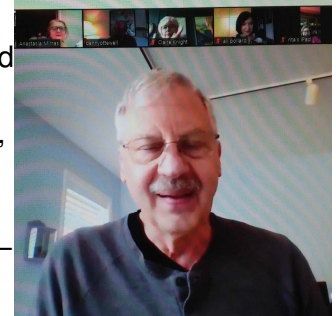
**Dec. 8 Tue.** —Xmas Social (TBC)



# VRTA Zoom Social attracts 30 Members



More than 30 people attended the June 2 ZOOM Social (*see left*) hosted by President Anastasia Mirras and facilitated by Social coordinator Ali Pollard. BCRTA President Gerry Tiede (*below, right*) reassured members that our pension plans are securely invested and asked for our opinions on certain topics, such as whether to host the AGM of the BCRTA in-person or online.



**LEARNING to ZOOM**—On July 21 (*see photo below*) starting after 10 am a number of members (*see below*) JOINED the practice ZOOM meeting, co-hosted by Barb Mikulec and Anastasia Mirras—the latter helping to coax those who were having trouble joining to either End their participation in the ZOOM meeting and reconnect or to keep moving their mouse or finger on the iPad to find those hidden features of ZOOM that emerge once your cursor finds them—and lo, your Audio or Video then finally clicks in. Social coordinator Ali Pollard knows that only by practicing to “Join Zoom meeting” can you gain confidence and skill! The next session is Friday August 21 at 10:30 am, with pre-connecting starting at 10 am.



*Wayne Ulian, former TABLOID Editor, joins in the June 2 discussion meeting.*



## IT'S FUN BEING A ZOOMER!

-Now I can “chat” to another participant without interrupting the whole meeting & change my background!

-I prefer SPEAKER view.

-I always mute my “mic” to listen

-To vote I “raise” my hand!

## SOME ADVICE ON HOW TO ADAPT TO THE “NEW NORMAL” from Dr. Henry



**"You have to THINK DIFFERENTLY.** ...you are not going back to March 15 2020...[if you are returning to school]... connect with your school and help put their plans into action...we have layers of protection that will be used...Schools have also had measles and flu outbreaks over the years...we KNOW how to cope!"

**- Dr. Bonnie Henry**

## NOTICE OF 2020 AGM

Note: to attend the 2020 Annual General Meeting by Zoom please  
PRE-REGISTER by emailing [vrta.president@gmail.com](mailto:vrta.president@gmail.com)

### **Agenda -VRTA 2020 AGM Tuesday September 8, 2020 (10:00 am)**

1. President's welcome
2. Approval of the proposed Agenda
3. Acceptance of the Minutes from the June 4, 2019 AGM
4. Reports:
  - a) President's Annual report: Anastasia Mirras  
MOTION: That a quorum at the VRTA AGM should be at least 20 members.
  - b) Treasurer's Financial Report & Proposed Budget: Dave Ellis  
MS/C that the membership fee remain at \$12:00. June 3, 2020 Exec. Mtg.
  - c) TABLOID Editor: Ros Kellett
  - d) Committee Reports: Included in AUGUST TABLOID—to be received by AGM.
5. Election of the Executive for 2020-2021—Nominations Report: Winola Chu  
Thanks to retiring Executive members and volunteers:  
Art Rempel, Tom Brunker, Patricia Wright, Carol Perdue, Bea Raymond
6. VRTA Delegates to Other organizations, as approved by VRTA Executive June 2020
  - a) Delegates to the AGM of the BCRTA (5) October 1 - 3, 2020;  
Dave Ellis, Barb Mikulec, Anastasia Mirras, Sheila Pither, Norma Westrom.  
Alternate delegates: Ros Kellett, Les Rowe
  - b) Delegates to the COSCO monthly meetings (4);  
Anastasia Mirras, Sheila Pither, Les Rowe, Diane Smith. Alt. Denis Ottewell
7. New Business and Announcements; Door Prize

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### **Agenda of 2nd Annual General Meeting of the FRIENDS OF VRTA**

This meeting will start immediately after the completion of the VRTA AGM: Noon or sooner

Agenda, Minutes of June 4 2019 AGM (see page 10), President's Report,

Treasurer's Report, Election of Directors

Friends of VRTA Fund- Positions for Election—5 Directors—1 year terms:

President

Treasurer

Secretary

Members-at-Large (2)

**MINUTES of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Branch, BCRTA on Tuesday June 4, 2019 at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club**

1. **The meeting was called to Order** by President, Winola Chu, at 1:35 pm, following the lunch and musical entertainment provided by the VSB Choir. Rita Manzo won the Free Lunch door prize. Written reports were printed and available ahead of time. Thirty-seven people attended.

2. Tylka/Ottewell moved adoption of the Agenda. Carried

3. Kellett/Mikulec moved adoption of the Minutes of the June 5, 2018 AGM. Carried

4. Reports: all were adopted.

a) President's Annual Report. Winola Chu

b) Treasurer's Proposed Budget. Dave Ellis

Ellis/Wood moved that the Vancouver Branch membership fee remain at \$12.00 for 2020 – 2021  
Carried

c) Tabloid. Ros Kellett, editor. Suggested themes eg. cataract surgery and asked for other theme ideas.

Committee Reports: Website, Membership, Social -on luncheons, poinsettias, shared travel, Workshops, Clubs and Volunteer Activities – all received.

5. Elections of the Executive and Delegates:

Norma Westrom, as Past President conducted the elections (took about 17 min.) See Results below.

The VRTA would like to thank the following for their service and contributions this past year.

On the Executive: Arnie Lambert, Carol Perdue, Bea Raymond; As a Volunteer: MaryAnn Nelson.

Norma Westrom presented Winola Chu with a necklace in recognition of her past two years as president.

6. Other Business:

a) Notice of Motion to be forwarded to the AGM in 2020.

Mirras/Mikulec moved that a quorum at the VRTA AGMs should be at least 20 members. Carried

b) Barb Mikulec presented a BCRTA pin to Anastasia Mirras, the new president.

7. Announcements:

a) Friday, June 14, the stuffing group will meet at Norma's home, at 1:00 pm.

b) Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> will be the next VRTA Executive meeting at the BCTF; food provided.

8. . Adjournment: at 2:17 pm. Recording secretary, Denis W. Ottewell

+++++  
Nominations Report: Westrom/ Chu moved these nominations. All elected for 2019/20.

Table Officers:

President: Anastasia Mirras  
First VP: open  
Second VP: Edie Wood

Treasurer: Dave Ellis  
Secretary: Denis Ottewell  
Editor: Ros Kellett

Membership: Elaine Anderson  
Website Coordinator: Patricia Wright

Members-at-Large:

Tom Brunker, Barb Mikulec, Sheila Pither, Ali Pollard, Art Rempel, Les Rowe, Diane Smith, Norma Westrom

Delegates to the AGM of the BCRTA (6). October 3 to 5, 2019.

Elaine Anderson, Dave Ellis, Ros Kellett, Anastasia Mirras, Sheila Pither, Les Rowe, Norma Westrom. One will serve as an alternate delegate.

Delegates to the National Pensioners Federation ( NPF ) - September 10 to 12, 2019, in Mississauga, ON.

Barb Mikulec, Anastasia Mirras. Alternate: Elaine Anderson

The VRTA Executive approved the following:

a) Delegates to the ten COSCO monthly meetings (4): Anastasia Mirras, Sheila Pither, Les Rowe, Diane Smith. Alternate: Denis Ottewell b) Volunteers: Lil Cumberbirch, Ora Fraser, Carol Perdue, Bea Raymond



## Vancouver Retired Teachers' Association

# Budget for 2020-2021

## TREASURER'S REPORT

This financial summary represents the state of the VRTA Branch as of June 30, 2020. Regarding our revenue, the overall income from lunches and workshops was reduced as the Pandemic closed down all gatherings as of mid-March, 2020. Yet there was more income from Interest earned from the maturing of two Term Deposits. Regarding our expenses, less was spent on lunches and workshops overall and a significant price reduction by a local retailer on the cost of poinsettias this year saved us money. A new expense was a yearly Zoom subscription; this allows the executive to hold virtual meetings after mid-March. Looking at the Budget for the year ahead, there is much uncertainty about when in-person lunches and workshops will resume. We

anticipate more costs related to Zoom communications and hiring of a part-time technical support manager. A line item "Office and Administration" was created in the budget to include envelopes, stamps, photocopying, etc. (not pertaining to the TABLOID newsletter). These changes are part of the "new normal", as we move forward and should leave the VRTA with a healthy balance of nearly \$17 000 by June 30, 2021.

Respectfully submitted - **Dave Ellis**

## Current Assets

Chequing & Savings Accounts	\$1,430.50
Term Deposits	<u>\$17,000.00</u>
	\$18,430.50

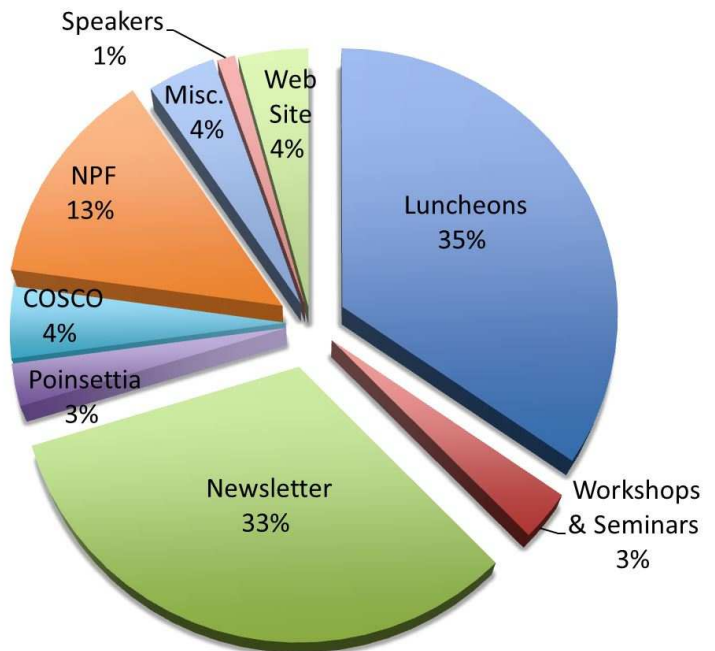


Chart showing  
2019/20 expenses

## Income

	Budget	Actual	Budget
Revenue	2019-2020	2019-2020	2020-2021
Membership	\$14,500.00	\$14,398.00	\$14,500.00
Lunches/Seminars	\$4,500.00	\$3,697.04	\$3,500.00
Bank Interest	\$150.00	\$319.42	\$250.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$19,150.00</b>	<b>\$18,414.46</b>	<b>\$18,250.00</b>

## EXPENSES

	Budget 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021
Luncheons	\$10,000.00	\$6,395.98	\$7,000.00
Workshops/Seminars	\$900.00	\$555.50	\$700.00
Newsletter (4 issues)	\$6,000.00		\$7,000.00
-Honorarium		\$1,500.00	
-Printing		\$1,020.97	
-Mailing		\$2,966.64	
-GST		\$184.74	
-PST		\$258.65	
-Equipment (cartridge, paper)		\$75.58	
Poinsettia	\$1,100.00	\$474.48	\$1,000.00
COSCO- membership	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
-conference			
-Wellness Inst. -speakers	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
NPF- membership	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
-convention expenses	\$2,300.00	\$2,116.56	
Miscellaneous	\$500.00		\$600.00
-Zoom subscription		\$200.00	
-Envelopes & stamps		\$310.21	
-Gifts (2)		\$159.39	
-Executive lunch		\$84.74	
-Parking		\$7.15	
Scholarship/speaker			
Speakers	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$300.00
RR Smith			
Web Site	\$1,000.00		\$1,500.00
-Technical Support hours		\$350.00	
-Hosting (to 2023) & Domain License (1 yr)		\$426.09	
Office and Administration			\$550.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$23,250.00</b>	<b>\$18,436.68</b>	<b>\$19,800.00</b>
<b>Gain (Loss) for Year</b>	<b>(4,100.00)</b>	<b>(22.22)</b>	<b>(1,550.00)</b>

Lunches Revenue (Sept, Dec, Feb): (\$100.88, \$2331.68, \$944.48) + \$320 = \$3697.04

Lunches Expenses (Sept, Dec, Feb): (\$3008.78, \$2392.50, \$994.70) = \$6395.98

Note: The bulk of revenue for the Sept. luncheon was donated by members to the Friends of VRTA Scholarship and Bursary Fund.

## **VRTA AGM 2020 REPORTS**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Despite the challenges of this year, your Executive remains honoured and privileged to serve you. We've certainly had to find new ways to interact and remain active, and in this, we have found ourselves working successfully in our "new reality."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ali Pollard, our Social Chair, who has worked on a number of activities, and without her help and direction these initiatives would not have flourished. Prior to Covid-19, we had two well-attended lunches - our Christmas event at Hycroft Manor (afterwards, 24 of our members were invited to attend an Estate Planning and Preparing Wills workshop) and our Valentine's Day party at Langara Pavilion.

After "lockdown," we deemed it especially important to continue our camaraderie and interaction, so we pivoted our events towards an online approach. We've held our Executive meetings and several social sessions over Zoom, including Gerry Tiede's talk regarding pensions and travel insurance. As Zoom continues to be the go-to alternative, we are happy to announce that our AGM will held virtually on September 8th.

In the meantime, please join us for our second Zoom skills-development session, which will be held on August 21.

As we are members of the NPF (National Pensioners Federation) and COSCO, please visit their websites frequently and help us in supporting their good initiatives, such as the Petition for Pharmacare and Long Term Care Facilities.

I would like to acknowledge 5 retiring Executive Members for their service: Art Rempel, Tom Brunker, Patricia Wright, Carol Perdue, and Bea Raymond. On behalf of the entire membership, we thank you - you have left the VRTA a better place!

In order to keep up with these changing times, your Executive is looking into alternative electronic communication methods that will allow us to engage with you more frequently.

Lastly, I encourage every member to attend our virtual Executive Meetings; please contact me for a Zoom invitation. As always, I continue to serve you with gratitude. Should you want to contact me directly, please feel free to email me at [VRTA.president@gmail.com](mailto:VRTA.president@gmail.com)

As we slowly adjust to the new normal, your Executive will continue to work hard in order to keep you engaged and involved, and of course, continue to advocate for you. I wish you a very pleasant rest of the summer - stay safe and healthy!

***-Anastasia Mirras***

### **REPORT ON WORKSHOPS**

Two workshops were presented, both at the Hellenic Community Centre.

**November 26, 2019**, about 20 attended on "Isolation, Loneliness and Social Connectedness"

Presenters: Barb Mikulec from COSCO and Serge Haber from the Peer Support Services of the Jewish Seniors Alliance.

**February 18, 2020**, about 27 attended on "Medication Awareness and Identifying Addiction"

Presenters from COSCO: Neil Munro, Betty Kosel, Esther Anake, Barb Mikulec.

Dr. Alexander Cherkezoff, a retired family physician also provided information.

***-Denis Ottewell***



## TABLOID EDITOR'S REPORT

The four issues produced this fiscal year were organized along these themes:

Cataracts, Travel and Pests (August, 2019); Smart phone: a Blessing or a Curse? (November, 2019); When to give up Driving my Car? (January, 2020) and Surviving the COVID-19 Virus! (May, 2020). The recent May, 2020 issue received a lot of attention and our two executive member survivors remarked that they received calls from several former friends who had known them years ago and wanted to offer messages of hope and support. The January 2020 issue extended to 12 pages as there were many photographs from the Christmas events and both the membership chairperson and secretary wanted full pages to share their news and make requests.

The basic structure and content of the newsletter has been to cover upcoming and completed VRTA lunches and workshops, Live Stage offerings, members' reports, members' writings about the theme, announcements, witty quotes, photographs and letters to the Editor. As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues to thwart social lunches and workshops, we have had to adjust to new content. Now we cover ZOOM meetings and content related to the virus and its effects.

I would like to thank my Editorial committee: Barb Mikulec, Denis Ottewell, Diane Smith, Winola Chu, Norma Westrom, Anastasia Mirras and proof-reader extraordinaire Dave Ellis. Their advice and proof reading skills continue to help produce a first class newsletter. Thanks also to Norma Westrom, Elaine Anderson and Barb Mikulec who handle the distribution of the newsletter, both the online and printed versions. We are always looking for more writers to contribute articles and hope to develop our website more to handle more of them. Do contact me if you want to contribute an article. I look forward to continuing to be your TABLOID Editor for the start of my 6 th year.

**-Rosalind Kellett**

## WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT    [www.vrta.ca](http://www.vrta.ca)

The VRTA website was conceived in Spring of 2017 and launched over the summer of 2017 with the hiring of website designer and technician, Evan Cunningham (formerly IT support for the Richmond School Board and RTA website committee). Its purpose is to inform members of current Luncheon and Workshop events, provide the current TABLOID, and act as a resource for members by including such content as: list of current executive, our current policies and procedures, a bank of useful weblinks, a photo gallery, volunteer opportunities and a Contact Us email address. Dated content is rotated into the Archives on the website.

The VRTA website committee for 2019-20 consisted of core members: Barbara Mikulec, Norma Westrom, Winola Chu, Elaine Anderson, Anastasia Mirras, Patricia Wright (2019 only), and Ros Kellett with occasional participant, Ali Pollard.

We met regularly as needed on Monday evenings mostly. In 2019 we met on July 22, Sept 30, Nov. 18; then in 2020 on Jan 27, Feb 24, June 8, and proposed August 3. Our technical support manager, Robin Tavender, attended all our meetings, starting on February 2, 2019 until February 24, 2020 when he resigned to pursue other interests. Robin was instrumental in connecting our Lunch events with the Eventbrite tool for online payments, starting in May 2019. While this service charges a small fee for each transaction, it has been found to be a very secure method for online financial transactions and has provided our treasurer and event organizers with clear names and numbers of who is attending our lunch meetings.

Currently the website committee is in the process of hiring a part-time Technical support manager for our HostUpon website. The committee will be interviewing applicants after July 31 and will announce the name of this new manager in time for the September AGM.

- **Ros Kellett, Acting Interim chair**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our present membership consists of 1312 members, including paid up members, non-paying first year members and 144 Life Members. Our membership changes as many of our older members have died yet they are replaced by many new members who are taking advantage of the BCRTA's policy of a dues free membership for their first year. We find we are having difficulty keeping our members addresses and phone numbers up to date as some members have reached a time in their life when they are changing residence: downsizing or moving in with their children or into seniors' facilities – either independent living or care homes.

Please remember to let the BCRTA office know when you change addresses. We would like to have your email address—and you can still receive a printed TABLOID in the post. Most people keep their same email address when they move so this helps us keep in touch with you. Only half our membership has given us their email address. I have enjoyed my time as membership chair but I have accepted positions in other organizations and will not be able to continue in this position much longer and look forward to passing the position on to a new recruit.

- Elaine Anderson

## REPORT FROM THE NOMINATION CHAIRPERSON

### Nominated for Table Officers:

President, Anastasia Mirras  
First VP, open  
Second VP, Edie Wood  
Treasurer, Dave Ellis  
Secretary, Denis Ottewell  
Editor, Ros Kellett

### Members at Large:

Elaine Anderson Barb Mikulec  
Sheila Pither Ali Pollard  
Les Rowe Marilyn Rushton  
David Smith Diane Smith  
Norma Westrom **Past President** Winola Chu

## FRIENDS OF VRTA Scholarship & Bursary Fund – AGM Report

The Friends of VRTA Scholarship and Bursary Fund was founded in June 2018 as a means for members to donate to this education fund and to receive a tax receipt. The fund is kept under the R.R. Smith Foundation Fund, hosted by VanCity Credit Union's Community Foundation. The VRTA supports this fund by collecting the September lunch fee and encouraging individual donations. All VRTA members are members of Friends of V.R.T.A. (FOV)

### Minutes of 2019 AGM

President Ros Kellett called the meeting to order June 4 at 2:20 pm at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. The agenda was adopted by consensus. Treasurer Dave Ellis presented the Financial report as printed; this was adopted by consensus. The following individuals were acclaimed as Directors of FOV for 2019/20 fiscal year: Rosalind Kellett, David Ellis, Norma Westrom, Sheila Pither, Elaine Anderson. Meeting adjourned 2:35 pm.

### Treasurer's Report – June 2020

EVENT	DATE	AMOUNT	CUMULATIVE
Balance forward	June 2 2019 AGM		\$4,794.35
Lunch fees, gifts	Sept to Dec 2019	\$2885 + \$530	\$8,240.40
Interest	As of June 30, 2020	\$329.62	*\$8,570.02

\*Subject to change as banking charges processed & more information revealed. - **Rosalind Kellett and Dave Ellis.**

# Live Stage Offerings



## ZOOM JOKES

-most from [upjoke.com](http://upjoke.com)

Since the Pandemic has stopped live theatre performances I thought I would jog readers' memories by looking back at plays recently offered by [Bard on the Beach](#), [TUTS](#) and [the Arts Club](#). In 2016 [Bard on the Beach](#) was offering *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello* and *Pericles*. In 2017 they ran with *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. In 2018 came *As You Like It*, set in 1960's Vancouver and filled with Beatles music, *Macbeth*, *Timon of Athens* and *Lysistrata*. Last year included *The Taming of the Shrew* as a Wild-West love story, *Shakespeare in Love*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, set in India and incorporating South Asian music and dance, and *Coriolanus*. EXCITING NEWS: [Bard on the Beach](#) just recently announced that it will be providing a slate of digital options in coming weeks. In 2016 [Theatre Under The Stars \(TUTS\)](#) was offering *Beauty and the Beast* and *West Side Story*.

In 2017 *Mary Poppins* and *The Drowsy Chaperone* were presented. In 2018 *Cinderella* and *42nd Street* were on and in 2019 *Mama Mia* and *Newsies* were featured.

In the fall of 2016 the [Arts Club's](#) first feature at the [Stanley](#) was *Baskerville*, A Sherlock Holmes mystery. In fall 2017 their first play was *Angels in America, Part Two* which dealt with the AIDS crisis in the late 70's and early 80's. In 2018 the [Stanley](#) began their season with *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* which was based on Marc Haddon's mystery novel delving into the mind of a boy with Asperger's syndrome. And in fall 2019 the [Stanley](#) opened with *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The fall [Granville Island Stage](#) openings were *The Flick* (2016), *Thanks for Giving* (2017), *Mustard* (2018) and *The Birds and The Bees* (2019).

Next time I will focus on other important venues of Vancouver's theatre scene.

- Ora Fraser

1. What do you call a quick video-conference at the Mazda factory?

2. Child to Father: This show on your screen is boring!

3. HOST: Why have you joined late for this Zoom meeting?

4. Why do retirees on ZOOM smile all the time?

5. Why don't retirees mind being called seniors?

6. How many days are in a retiree's week?

...ANSWERS

1. A zoom-zoom zoom Zoom!

2. Father: This isn't a show, it's my Zoom meeting!

3. Participant; You should see the network traffic out there!

4. Because they can't hear a word you're saying with their mic/audio OFF!

5. The term comes with a 10 percent discount!

6. Six Saturdays and one Sunday.

THEME & DEADLINE  
for the NEXT ISSUE -

Friday

November 6 2020

**What ONE item  
would I want res-  
cued from my  
Burning House?**

Photos welcome. About  
200 words.



## Scholarship Fund –HELP RAISE FUND TO \$10,000

The fund received a modest boost from December donations; so the funds now are over \$8500. More funds are needed to build a stable account capable of providing significant and continuing scholarships to support post-secondary students who study teaching, geriatric care or gerontology research as a career.

**DONATING ONLINE IS EASY**— Get an instant tax receipt. Go to [www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca), click "Funds" at the top, type R.R. Smith in "Search" area, click on "**R.R. Smith Community Fund**", click on "Give to this Fund", and fill in details. Designate funds by typing **Friends of VRTA** in "Leave a comment" space. Donations of \$20 or more get a tax receipt.





*The Stanley Park Rose Garden was the destination on July 1 for masked Walkers, from left, Barb Mikulec, Susan Dickson, Margaret Yoshida, Kaz Yoshida, Chin Yen Lee, Elaine Anderson, Sheila Barrie, Susan Harman.*



### WAYS of COPING WITH THE PANDEMIC

While some walk or stroll, others garden. Shirley Ottewell prunes flowers while husband Denis tends the remaining plants; they take turns watering the garden which can take up to 90 minutes over very hot days.

### HAS YOUR POSTAL OR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED?

Laurie Boyd of the BCRTA prefers that you contact her directly using the new ONLINE Form. <https://bcrt.ca/update-member-info/>  
Please also contact VRTA membership chairperson [ebanderson@shaw.ca](mailto:ebanderson@shaw.ca)



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters, advice or news items to [roskellett@gmail.com](mailto:roskellett@gmail.com) 604-873-0568. Add name, email address & phone number. Keep under 150 words; they may be edited for length and clarity.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### BCRTA AGM -

Fri. Oct 2 –Conf.

Sat. Oct 3—AGM



**Did you know that your non-teaching spouse can become a member of BCRTA?**

If you are an active member of the BCRTA then your spouse can join as an associate member. The spouse is then eligible for any of the member benefits, such as \*MEDOC, \*Johnson Prestige Insurance and other Member Advantage programs. (\*Dual membership is not required in these and some other programs).

**REGISTRATION -TUE. SEPT. 8 AGM- 10:00 AM  
ONLINE ZOOM GATHERING-  
To attend please register online & tell us:**

Full Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email [VRTA.president@gmail.com](mailto:VRTA.president@gmail.com)

*Only those using Phone connection should contact:  
Winola (604) 872-1859*

**by SUNDAY Sept. 6**

**See Page 1 and Inside for More details of our AGM**