



Re **TIRE** *d*

Shuswap District Retired Teachers

Vol III No 5 December, 2017

From The Prez:

The Bill C-27 issue dominated our last issue, so in this newsletter I will try to bring you all up to speed on other happenings. Before leaving the C-27 issue, I would like to explain that, **after calling** the special meeting, I learned the Bill was “frozen” by the governing Liberals, and that other unions were not taking drastic action. This necessitated a slight change of thinking. As I said at the meeting, I feel it is better to suspend further action until the bill is taken up again, at which point we can knowledgeably criticise any new wrinkles they may add. Our provincial office has already written an extensive letter, as have other union heads, and your executive has met with Mel Arnold, Shuswap MP. It was a wonderful feeling, however, to see the DAC Library packed with you folks for our special meeting. Thank you to all who attended!!!

We are moving ahead with plans to offer information seminars on investment issues and preparing for the last stages of life...making sure wills and other items are in place. They will be held in the spring, possibly in combination with brunch meetings or in a straight seminar format at the DAC. One was in planning for this fall, before Bill C27 arrived to distract us.

A special word of thanks is due here to **Kathleen Malone**, who took up the Treasurer post while Jim was out and about with his trailer this summer and fall. Jim is now back, and has resumed his Treasurer duties. Kathleen has agreed to remain part of our executive as a member-at-large, and will help with special projects.

With regard to those retired teachers who volunteered to return as TTOCs, it would seem that the district is now pretty flush with new hires, as people I've talked to say they are getting few calls...myself included. I guess we can now relax back into retirement.

Lastly, our Christmas Brunch. Over 20 people RSVP'd in the first few hours it was open, and we are now at 36. We can still handle more diners, so please email me if you wish to join us!

Finally, from my family to you, wishing **you the very best this Christmas season, and a Happy New Year!**

Larry Calvert, President

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Report From AGM

Provincial Organization Undergoing Major Overhaul

By **Paul Bennett**, Vice President

This year's conference and Annual General Meeting was highlighted by a heavy agenda and the start of the most significant changes in the organization in my 12 years of involvement.

The September conference included excellent presentations on nutrition for active adults, protecting yourself from elder abuse, and technology for older adults. First Vice President Gerry Tiede's Pension Report confirmed the continued good performance of our plan. While a 6.5% annual return on investment is required, the 2017 five-year annualized return is projected at 8.3%. Last year the confirmed return was 10.4 per cent.

Gerry Tiede presented a disturbing report about Bill C-27. It allows the federal government to convert federal employee pension plans from Defined Benefit to Defined Contribution models. This may very well result in lower pensions for federal retirees. Should this bill become law, the very real fear is that other employers such as our provincial government will be tempted to make similar changes. Should this happen our pension plan would no longer guarantee a specific dollar amount for your pension.

Significant changes are under consideration within the provincial organization (BCRTA). Patricia Clough, in her first year as President, has formed an Innovation and Strategic Planning Committee. This committee drafted a plan which was presented and discussed at the conference. The point of the contemplated changes is "to provide a disciplined approach to the desired growth and revitalization of the Association."

Goals of the plan include:

- Addition of services that will focus on wellness
- Development of a unified communications strategy that includes print, web and social media
- Control of our own insurance plans
- Updating of our processes including committee structures
- Increasing staff, including an Executive Director

For more information, contact Patricia or any of our executive.

In addition to the above, changes to the constitution and bylaws (necessitated by changes to the BC Societies Act) were presented, debated, and passed.

All in all an exciting couple of days for myself and Kathleen Malone, who joined me at the conference!!!

Christmas Spectacular Planned -- Wednesday, Dec 6, 9:30

Plans are under way for our annual Christmas Spectacular. Liza, who looks after us at **Table 24**, promises a couple of Christmas treats for us, and we are hoping to provide Christmas entertainment once again. RSVP to Larry, right now, before you forget!!!

Cost will be **\$15** at the door, and **food items or cash donations** for those less fortunate are welcomed!!! Cheques can be made payable to the **Salmon Arm Food Bank**.



ENTERTAINMENT last year included the Ukulele group and music by Jim Johnston. Both the ukuleles and Jim's music, along with Barb Gray on the clarinet, will be back for our enjoyment this year.

REMEMBER:

Christmas Spectacular (brunch)

Doors - 9:30 am Wednesday December 6, Podollan Inn -- Table 24