

Langley Retired Teachers' June 2017 Branch Report
Submitted by Maureen Wilson, President

I would like to thank all of our members who have supported us over the past year by donating to our scholarship fund, and who have attended our luncheons. My last 3 years, as president, has been made a lot easier by the support of our executive. I have enjoyed working with them over the past year. *Sue Mackenzie*, our vice president, has been a great 'right hand man', filling in when needed. *Wayne Wiebe*, our secretary, has kept us all informed of what we say and do at our executive meetings. For some of us, it's difficult to recall what we did last week, let alone two months ago. I would also like to thank *Mary-Jo Hall*, our treasurer, who volunteers for the job year after year. *Susan Preast* has done a great job as our liaison with the BCRTA, working as our membership chair, as well as informing the BCRTA of any changes that need to be made to our branch's webpage on the BCRTA website. And without *Christine Toth's* diligence in booking events, we would be hard-pressed to offer our members any sort of program or entertainment at our luncheons. *Maureen Pepin* does an excellent job with our scholarship fund, and, again, she volunteers year after year. I would also like to thank *Cindy Silen* for her excellent job with the communications committee. *Jacquie Hollybow* has been our sunshine lady, sending out cards of condolence and encouragement, as well as Christmas cards to our members who are 85 years plus. I appreciate all of the knowledge that *Judy de Vries*, brings to our group as our member support liaison. She also heads the 'Let's Go' group, and has done an excellent job with rounding up interesting trips and activities for members. I would also like to thank our members at large, *Heather Anderlini*, *John Salmon* and *Annette O'Connor* who are so willing to help out whenever they are needed. I would also like to thank *George Main* who has done a great job keeping us informed via our website. And, although not officially on the executive committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank *Beverley Anderson* who is our resident photographer. She takes great photos of all of the activities at our luncheons, as well as at the BCRTA AGM. Again, without such a support team, my job as president would not have been as successful.

We held five food-related events, the first being our 'No Bell Brunch', held on the first day of the new school year in *September*. We toasted our new retirees and welcomed them to the next phase of their life. We held our annual 'Silent Auction' at our *November* luncheon. The baked goods, as always, garnered high bids.

At the *January* luncheon, guest speaker, Linda Fawcus spoke about "The Internet of Things" and how it is, and will, affect our lives. Linda is the founder and CEO of the non-profit organization Gluu Technology Society. Linda's main goal is to help older adults learn about the ever-present technology so they can benefit from what it offers. Members were given the opportunity to participate in some of the classes, and were very impressed with how much they learned -- from how to set up their iPads and iPhones to how to maximize their devices when travelling. They seem to be so popular that we are going to continue offering them again. Rock on, technology!!

Brenda Smith, who is a writer and researcher in Maple Ridge, spoke to our members about writing their family, at our *March* luncheon. She has a wealth of resources for those who wish to start searching their family history.

And, for the final luncheon in *May*, the Brookwood Secondary senior jazz band, under the direction of Mr. Derrick Turi, entertained us. It's always a delight to hear these young people perform, especially the vocal numbers -- such talent! We had some special guests at our May luncheon, as well. Five of our more senior members were honoured with a beautiful corsage/boutonniere.

We gave an donation to the RR Smith foundation. And we continue to be a member of COSCO. We also joined the Langley Chamber of Commerce, this year. Sue Mackenzie, our vice-president, and George Main, web master for our branch's website, attended the April BCRTA zone meeting, which were conveniently held at the LTA office. This gave everyone a chance to find out what other branches were doing. Our members are kept informed of what is happening, through the newsletters, as well as our LRTA website.