

January 2018
Issue No. 1

CRTA Newsletter

CRTA General Meeting: February 7, 2018

Gallery Room, Winslow Centre

9:30 AM: Social, coffee, tea, cookies

10:00AM: Business meeting

Presentation:

Be a Hero: Be Prepared!

Guest speaker at our February General Meeting will be Anne Martin from Emergency Social Services.

Coquitlam's Emergency Preparedness Plan states that emergencies and disasters can occur anywhere, at any time. It could be anything from an earthquake, to a flood, to a severe winter storm. In the event of a major disaster, you and your family should be able to take care of your basic needs for at least 72 hours.

Join us at the presentation to learn what basic needs are and how to survive a disaster when most services may not be immediately available.



Mark your calendar!

CRTA General Meeting - February 7, 2018

CRTA General Meeting - April 4, 2018

CRTA AGM and Lunch - June 6, 2018



Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2017 –
2018

President's Report

<http://www.bcrta.ca>

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Happy New Year! Your CRTA Executive Committee wishes you all the best of health and adventure as we begin 2018. At this time of year, we look to both the past and the future as we review the old year and welcome the new.

Looking back, a highlight in December 2017 was the CRTA Christmas Luncheon held at Burnaby Mountain Golf Course. Lovely weather, festive ambience and delicious food made for a very happy occasion. Ninety-six attendees renewed old acquaintances and welcomed new ones while CRTA member Jim Burton performed a wonderful selection of musical numbers. Several people went home with door prizes and life members were recognized with warm applause. Attendees congratulated coordinator Maria Santone and the entire CRTA Executive Committee for providing an outstanding kick off to the Christmas season. In keeping with the holidays, attendees contributed \$117.00 to SHARE.

Looking forward, January 30th will mark the arrival of our first pension payment of 2018. As retired teacher Bob Skipper penned,

“There lives a retired happy teacher
Whose smile is her salient feature.
When asked, “Why no tension?”
She said, “It’s the pension
That makes a serene, thankful creature!”



We can look forward to twelve payments this year but, if we look back one hundred years, our predecessors had less to celebrate as the New Year began. In fact, teacher pensions were a concern. In 1918 outstanding teachers could be rewarded for long and faithful service only by a special act of the legislature. This was done in a few isolated cases. The then fledgling BCTF advocated for a pension of 1/60 of the average salary for the last ten years' work for each year of service. In 1921 changes were made to the Civil Servant's Pension Act to allow for teachers to receive pensions - but pensions were to be given only where school boards chose to give them and school boards could only grant them after receiving permission from local municipal councils. In the end not one teacher in the province ever collected a pension under this provision. In 1918, very few teachers received money upon retirement; in 2018, over thirty-six thousand retirees will receive monthly TPP payments. Your years of hard work and well-managed contributions have paid off. Happy New Year!

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

Membership

The recently adopted 'first year free' provincial membership incentive plan has increased BCRTA and CRTA numbers. With the addition of thirty-six new members in 2017, our branch's membership stands at over 800. In 2017, BCRTA set a record of 786 new members. Johnson Insurance provided 10 I-Pad Mini tablets and all new members were entered in a draw to win one. Congratulations to Coquitlam winners Kim Elliott and Vicki Hickenbotham!



A good percentage of recent retirees have opted for a one-year trial membership, and we hope they will take advantage of the various benefits of belonging to CRTA/ BCRTA and decide to continue as members in future years.

CRTA used to receive contact information for new retirees. Due to privacy laws, this no longer happens. We would like to encourage more retirees to access the many benefits provided by BCRTA and CRTA. Please help us to reach new retirees by forwarding this newsletter to your newly retired acquaintances.

If you are retired, not yet a member but planning to join, please contact Laurie at the BCRTA office (604-871-2260 or laurie@bcrtc.ca) All Coquitlam retired teachers who are not yet members are welcome to join BCRTA and CRTA with free membership until September, 2018. However, the free I-Pad contest is now closed.



CRTA thanks the Coquitlam Teachers' Association for assisting us in reaching future members by including CRTA/ BCRTA information in their 2017 newsletters. We are grateful for the CTA's longstanding support of our association!

Have you recently moved? Changed your e-mail address? Please let us know by email to coquitlamrta@hotmail.com or by telephone 604-461-7355.

Green Shield Claims Resolution Process

1. Contact GSC directly at 1-888-711-1119 and request to speak with a supervisor.
2. You also have the option of contacting the Board of Trustees for the Teachers' Pension Plan. Their information is as follows:
Teachers' Pension Board Secretariat: PO Box 9460, Victoria, BC
V8W 9V8
Email: TPBT@pensionsbc.ca
3. If not resolved after steps 1 and 2, contact laurie@bcrtc.ca She will forward your message to a member of the BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee.

CRTA 2017 – 2018 EXECUTIVE

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Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association



Remember when....

Dress codes for teachers

1918

1968



Sunshine Committee

Sunshine coordinator Dale Linton sends get well and sympathy cards to members who are ill and to families suffering a bereavement. Please keep her updated by calling 604-937-5113.

In Memoriam

The CRTA notes the passing of the following District 43 colleagues.

We extend heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.



Graham Stewart December 3, 2017

Before his retirement in 1998, Graham taught for twenty-eight years at Winslow Junior Secondary and Como Lake Junior Secondary schools. He is survived by his wife Sonja, sons Eric and Keith and his grandson Nicholas.



George Terry October 3, 2017

Muriel Branch December 28, 2017

Lila Griffith May 1, 2017

Erin Westphal November 25, 2017