

# Vancouver Tabloid

Vancouver Retired Teachers' Association NOVEMBER 2018 Newsletter



## Musical December Luncheon

Tuesday, December 4, at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

**COME AND BE MERRY WITH US** at our Musical December Luncheon on Tuesday Dec. 4 at the festive Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 3811 Point Grey Road. Listen and sing along to the lively voices of the **Vancouver School Board Choir, led by Ian Nicholls**.

On the menu: a three course plated turkey entrée which includes a first course of soup or salad and a dessert (chef's choice), with tea and coffee. Wine is available for purchase. **Pre-registration is required.** Please bring a donation for the Vancouver Food Bank to share

the holiday season.

\*NOTE: The cost of this meal & coffee is subsidized by approximately \$8 per person to encourage you to come and bring a friend. Contact **Dave Ellis**, in order to pre-register.

### Musical December Luncheon-Dec. 4

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 at 11:30 AM  
Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

Complete the registration form ON THE LAST PAGE by Tuesday, Nov. 27 and send to:  
**Dave Ellis**, 2086 Newport Avenue,  
Vancouver, BC. V5P 2H8  
P:604 327-7734 or email dellis7734@gmail.com

Pay Cheque (\*\$45) to: BCRTA –Vancouver Branch

**LUNCH REGISTRATION ON BACK PAGE**

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# President's Greetings



This has been an enjoyable, warm and colourful Fall but a busy time. Voting is important but it has been especially busy with Municipal elections and now the referendum in November.

Recognizing those who serve our community, I want to give a huge thank you to our executive members for representing the VRTA at the BCRTA AGM, the NPF conferences and the COSCO monthly meetings. Read some of their reports in this TABLOID and on our website, [www.VRTA.ca](http://www.VRTA.ca). We are grateful to **Denis Ottewell** for organizing all of our workshops and for his hard work as our efficient secretary. He helped get over 70 to register for our October 16th workshop. The executive has been working hard to draw in new members by sending two of us to every Teachers' Pension Plan Retirement Seminar last year and we will continue to attend these seminars since membership is free for another year. Please encourage your non-member colleagues to join by clicking on the "Signup today" link on our VRTA.ca website or see the ad on page 8.

On a separate matter, Kristi Josephson has warned BCRTA members to beware of phishing attacks from supposed other members, such as a strange request from me or Ros to click on a link or send money. DON'T click on that link, never send money and just delete the false message.

I hope to see many of you at the December 4th luncheon. Please send in your registration as soon as possible since we need final numbers for the plated meal. I send my wishes of peace, joy and happiness to all of you for this coming Holiday season. Celebrate with family and friends!

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY SCRABBLE?



**Sai Saimoto** wants to start up the Scrabble Club on a Wednesday afternoon, starting 1 pm on Jan. 23, at her home near BCIT in Burnaby. If interested, PLEASE phone 604 437-5087 or [sai389@telus.net](mailto:sai389@telus.net)

### **WANT TO JOIN in? New Members Welcome LEADERS for Activities**

**Book Club:** Diane Smith [frandia@shaw.ca](mailto:frandia@shaw.ca)—3rd Wed at 2 pm  
**Cross-Country Skiers:** Edie Wood [edithwood@gmail.com](mailto:edithwood@gmail.com)—Mon/Fri. 10:00 am  
**Scrabble:** Sayoko Saimoto—[sai389@telus.net](mailto:sai389@telus.net)—4th Wed after 1:00 pm  
**Strollers:** Norma Westrom [normawestrom@hotmail.com](mailto:normawestrom@hotmail.com)—every Wed 10:45 am  
**Walkers:** Margaret Yoshida [margyoshi@gmail.com](mailto:margyoshi@gmail.com)—every Wed 10:00 am



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

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### **VRTA EXECUTIVE 2018– 2019**

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### **Members at Large**

Tom Bruner, Arnie Lambert,  
Barb Mikulec, Carol Perdue, Sheila  
Pither, Ali Pollard, Bea Raymond, Art  
Rempel, Les Rowe, Diane Smith.

### **Volunteers**

Ora Fraser and MaryAnn Nelson

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

## **Calendar**

***Please feel free to join us!***

(Exec. Meet at 10:00 AM in BCTF Building)

**Dec. 4 Tue.** Christmas Lunch

**Dec 7 Fri.** Poinsettias delivery

**Jan 8 Tue.** Exec. Meeting

**Jan 16 Wed.** Scrabble Club

**Feb 14 Thur.** Valentine Lunch

**Feb.** Workshop (TBC)

# The BCRTA Conference and AGM

## ***Education must help overcome legacy of residential schools***

**Brad Baker** of Squamish band, educator and District Principal with the North Vancouver School District, gave an overview of Indigenous education in BC and how to improve graduation results. Regarding indigenous students and curriculum he asked: What is our history? Where are we now? Where will we go?

Historically, the Residential School System caused seven generations of repression, wrote the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; Justice Murray Sinclair says it will take seven generations of correction. Brad was proud to be in the generation helping indigenous students learn their heritage and feel they belong in school. All educators must learn more about the experiences of First Nations, Metis and Aboriginal people, support the healing process and participate respectfully. Justice Sinclair: "Education got us into this mess...Education will get us out of it!" - **Barb Mikulec**



*VRTA delegates to BCRTA AGM listen to incoming President Gerry Tiede at the podium. Seated clockwise from left: Les Rowe (striped shirt), Arnie Lambert, Norma Westrom (back of head), Sheila Pither, Elaine Anderson, Barb Mikulec and Dave Ellis. Ros Kellett left her seat to take photo.*

## ***Keep Branch Presidents out of Jail!***

**Bob Taverner**, past president of BCRTA, gave an humorous slide show presentation explaining the establishment of the BCRTA in 1955 as a non-profit, tax-free organization to serve and benefit its members. BCRTA and its' member branches can't fund raise; if a branch does, it violates the BC Societies Act, the Income Tax Act, and the Criminal Code. Your President could go to jail!

The charitable arm of the BCRTA is the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foun-

dation. Individuals may donate to this. All dues money received by a branch must be spent on branch activities for members. The only way a branch can legally do fundraising is to apply for a gaming licence and meet BC Lottery Commission regulations.

- **Dave Ellis**

NOTE: In Vancouver, we have set up the Friends of VRTA Scholarship and Bursary fund; cheques go to the **RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation – Vancouver branch.**

## ***Travel and Exercise***

**Clare Newell**, president of *Travel Best Bets* and media personality, inspired us with her enthusiasm and smart travel tips. Helped by 100 staff members around the world, she hunts down great travel deals for cruises or guided vacations. Learn more at [travelbestbets.com](http://travelbestbets.com). This was followed by an excellent 15 minute "activity break" led by Kathleen Thomson, former BCTF executive member, that got us all stretching, using exercise bands to build muscular strength and endurance and moving to peppy music!

-**Ros Kellett**



*Sheila Pither (right) accepting Life Membership in the BCRTA from Past President Patricia Clough (left) and former Director Arnie Lambert.*



# Editorial



**Tis the season** to vote and many of us have.

Civic elections took place across BC in October and in Vancouver, an unprecedented number of women gained seats on City Council. I was especially pleased that eight women were elected to the ten member City Council. The women come from different parties: COPE, Green, NPA and One City. On the nine member School Board, five women were elected including VRTA member Barb Parrott. It is inspiring to see so many progressive women succeed and be willing to make city life better.

On the other hand, there has been criticism that the elected candidates represent less of Vancouver's different ethnicities, compared to prior elections. Voter turnout was slightly lower than in 2014, from 43% of registered voters to 40%. Perhaps the long ballot put some voters off. Yet Voting matters, as eminent Ca-

nadian Margaret Atwood says, "Powerlessness and silence go together." And I like this from Irene Parlby, an Alberta politician (1868-1965) of the Famous Five, "If politics mean...the effort to secure through legislative action better conditions of life for the people, greater opportunities for our children and other people's children... then it most assuredly is a woman's job as much as it is a man's job."

**There is one more vote** for us British Columbians. We have until November 30 to vote on the Electoral Reform proposal. If you still have not decided how to vote on this important issue, check out BCRTA Connections –October edition, pages 4 to 8, where both sides are presented - [bcrt.ca/bcrt-a-connections](http://bcrt.ca/bcrt-a-connections) Voting allows us the chance to rebuild society and provide hope ...for another four years when we get to do it all over again!

Season's greetings to you all!

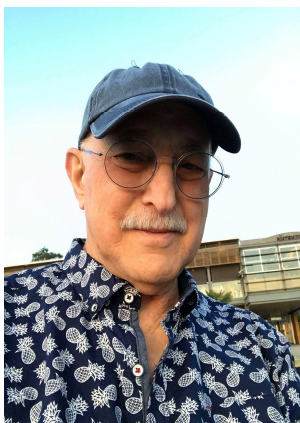
**- Ros Kellett**

## Barbara Parrott, BCRTA member, elected trustee on Vancouver School Board



**Barb Parrott** (pictured above) has been active on the executive of both the VESTA and the BCTF while teaching as a Reading Recovery teacher, resource teacher and classroom teacher. She welcomes her new role as the 8th candidate to get elected to a 4 year term as VSB Trustee. She was elected as a member of the COPE municipal party. We congratulate her on her win and her new service to the education community.

## David Anderson, former member of VESTA executive and TABLOID Editor



Dave was an elementary school teacher as well as being an active executive member of the VESTA, and a former editor of the VRTA TABLOID. He died in August at the age of 72.

After retirement he joined the VRTA bookclub and then agreed to co-edit and later edit TABLOID from 2011 till 2013. Dave also hosted an early VRTA website, set up by Val Hamilton.

Dave was a much-loved father of two,

teacher, friend, computer geek, social justice activist and talented musician, according to Adrienne Montani, David's former wife. David was always a dynamic character when I met him at several VSB and BCTF social justice events and gatherings.

He also offered me positive support and encouragement when I took over as TABLOID editor. He will be sadly missed.

**- Ros Kellett**

# OCTOBER VTRA WORKSHOP

## New members learn about many BCRTA benefits

Over 70 people from across the Lower Mainland attended the October workshop at the Hellenic Community Centre.

**Lisa Hansen, Senior Consultant for Johnson Inc.**, used a projector and some handouts to explain the new and continuing benefits available to BCRTA members.

There have been improvements to MEDOC travel insurance & Prestige travel and EHC Extended Health Care benefits may be better for some folk than the TPP Green Shield Plan we were compelled to join in April, 2017. However, the

MEDOC plan still includes a 90-day Health stability clause regarding pre-existing medical conditions.

There was much discussion on this topic later with one person finding their health costs in the USA were not covered as the health crisis event was deemed to have been a non-reported pre-existing condition and coverage for thousands of dollars was denied. The best source of information on all these benefits is on the Johnson (insurance) website:

[www.Johnson.ca/bcrta](http://www.Johnson.ca/bcrta) or phone 604 881-8915 in Langley. For a copy of these handouts, contact Denis Ottewell at 604-526-7561 or [dennyottewell@outlook.com](mailto:dennyottewell@outlook.com)

- **Ros Kellett**



*Mark Costales & Lisa Hansen from Johnson Inc. and Medoc at Oct. Workshop.*



*Tim Anderson, Executive Director of the BCRTA .*

## BCRTA director tells of 'hidden' benefits

At the VRTA October workshop, **Tim Anderson**, Executive Director of the BC Retired Teachers' Association, gave some personal background—he is married with three daughters and his wife teaches a grade 3 class in Langley. He then toted the many "hidden" advantages of BCRTA membership: its strong advocacy in the value of public education and promoting and defending services and benefits for our retirees. "Our many Advantage Partner offers will save you money, but the BCRTA's greatest benefits are the wealth of friendships and experiences that come with membership," said Tim.

- **Norma Westrom**

## BCRTA TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES



**Troy Oppen**, owner of Enjoy Tour & Travel, spoke at the Sept. lunch of the unique arrangement with **Judy de Vries** *Let's Go* group for BCRTA members. Judy, a member of Langley RTA, helps organize travel opportunities, from one day trips up to multiday tours and vacations, many focussed on BC wonders and

offered by Enjoy Tour. The small group focus allows singles sign-ups, builds friendships and saves money. A percentage of each tour is donated to the RR Smith fund. For more info, check [www.langleyrta.ca/](http://www.langleyrta.ca/) or [judy.devries@langleyrta.ca](mailto:judy.devries@langleyrta.ca) or [www.enjoytourandtravel.com/](http://www.enjoytourandtravel.com/) which has a Burnaby office.



## COME CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING WITH US

We meet at Cypress Bowl ticket office on Monday and/or Friday at 10:00 am. Please contact Edie ahead of time at 604-228 0830 or [edithwood@gmail.com](mailto:edithwood@gmail.com) .

- **Edie Wood**

# National Pensioners Federation deals with issues vital to Seniors

*“No Bell” Lunch urges involvement*



***It*** ***was exciting for us*** to fly to Regina for the Annual NPF Convention Sept 25-27. Over 70 delegates came from four provinces: BC, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia. The NPF is a national, not for profit, non-partisan organization of 350 seniors chapters, clubs, groups, organizations and individual supporters across Canada. There are over one million senior and retiree members. The organization is devoted entirely to the welfare and best interests of Canada's elderly. Resolutions were submitted on housing, health, transportation and pension security. There was always lively debate on these topics.

Keynote speaker **Mike Powell**, President of the Canadian Federation of Pensioners (CFP) urged us to support a 'Super Priority Pension Protection' national campaign. He advocates for pension protection at all levels but wants protecting Private Defined Benefit Pensions to be the top priority. While people are living longer and using their pensions longer companies are letting their pension plans falter, saying they can't afford the plans. Mike believes they are choosing to pay their shareholders and underfunding their pension plans. Current federal and provincial regulations are too weak, not requiring companies to fully fund their pension plans. Eighty percent of pensions are under-funded and now a low priority in bankruptcy proceedings. Laws need changing so the burden of supporting the people who have lost their pensions does not fall on the taxpayer. The CFP is advocating that underfunded pension liability become a Super Priority and all plans should include full pension insurance.

Dr. **Rebecca Genoe** of the University of Regina, spoke on the problems of social isolation on seniors' wellbeing. Seniors should engage socially to improve their cognitive well-being. Pauline Worsfold, chair of the Canadian Health Coalition National Pharmacare Plan, wanted delegates to contact elected representatives to request implementation of a universal pharmacare plan for all Canadians. We participated in workshops on these issues as well as housing. Barb presented the Housing report as the chair of this national committee; she reported that homelessness and housing affordability are an increasing worry for many seniors.

New table officers are: President —Trish McAuliffe; 1st VP—Mike Kaminski, 2nd VP—Bernie LaRusic, 3rd VP—Pat Brady.

***-Barb Mikulec and Elaine Anderson***



*At the Sept. lunch Sayoko Saimoto (far left) volunteered to host the Scrabble Club and Edie Wood (centre) the Cross-country Ski Club for members this year; Barb Mikulec enjoys the company.*



*Speaker Troy Oppen from **Enjoy Tour & Travel** presents draw-winner Susan Harman with \$100 gift certificate at the Royal Van. Yacht Club Sept. 4 lunch.*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



# Live Stage Offerings

By Ora Fraser

November to December – 2018



The Arts Club presents **Disney's Beauty And The Beast** from Dec.1st, 2018 to Jan.6th, 2019 at the [Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage](#). At the [Granville Island Stage](#) the play running from Nov.15th to Dec.30th is **Miss Bennet, Christmas At Pemberley**. Billed as "a holiday confection with classic Jane Austen charm", the play is about Mary Bennet, the Bennets' bookish middle child.

At the [Goldcorp Stage at the BMO Theatre Centre](#) the play being staged from Nov.22nd to Dec. 30th is **Blind Date**. The actress playing Mimi, Tess Degenstein, chooses a new blind date from the audience every night. For all Arts Club venues check [ARTSCLUB.COM](#) or phone 604-687-1644.

At the [Waterfront Theatre on Granville Island](#) **You're A Good Man Charlie Brown and a Charlie Brown Christmas** are presented as a double bill from Nov.24th to Dec. 29th. For tickets check online at [carouseltheatre.ca](#) or phone 604-685-6217.

[Metro Theatre, Vancouver](#) presents their annual Christmas pantomime from Dec.14, 2018 to Jan.5th, 2019.

This year it is **King Arthur's Court**. For tickets contact [metrotheatre.com](#) or call their box office phone at 604-266-7191.

The [Cultch's](#) 2018 panto choice is **The Wizard of Oz** at the [York Theatre](#) from Nov.28, 2018 to Jan.6th, 2019. For more information check [thecultch.com](#) or phone office at 604-251-1363.

The [Gateway Theatre in Richmond](#) is staging a new musical adaptation of **It's A Wonderful Life** on their Main-Stage from Dec.8th to Dec.31st. Check online at [gatewaytheatre.com](#) or phone 604-270-1812.

[Deep Cove Theatre in North Vancouver](#) presents their new holiday panto, **Santa in Space**, from Dec.14th, 2018 to Jan.5th, 2019. Check online at [deepcovestage.com](#) or phone 604-929-3200.

The [Vagabond Players at the Bernie Legge Theatre in New Westminster](#) are staging an adaptation of the classic bedtime story, **Little Red Riding Hood**, from Dec.7th to Dec.30th. For reservations or inquiries check [vagabondtheatre.ca](#) or phone office 604-521-0412.

## Talking to \*Canadians Jokes

[\\*www.jokes4us.com](http://www.jokes4us.com)

1. What happens to those who are too smart to run for politics?
2. He: Why don't you like political jokes?
3. What do Canadians sing when they get excited?
4. What time was it when the monster ate the Canadian prime minister?
5. What Dr Seuss book do they read every morning in Canada?
6. Why don't Canadian women wear sleeveless dresses?

## Answers

- 1 They get governed by those who are dumber. (Plato)
2. She: I've seen too many of them get elected!
3. Who let the sled dogs out!
4. Eight P.M.
5. Tim Hortons Hears a Who
6. They aren't allowed to bare arms.

## Scholarship Fund –HELP RAISE FUND TO \$5000



The **Friends of the VRTA Scholarship Fund** now has over \$4000 to fund students studying teaching, geriatric care or research in gerontology. This was raised by your donations to the September luncheon, as VRTA paid for the meal. This money sits in the RR Smith Fund, earning interest and providing donors with a tax receipt in February 2019. Can we reach \$5000.00 by 2019? Consider SENDING a CHEQUE to **RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation -memo Friends of the VRTA Scholarship Fund**. Send MAIL to Dave Ellis, Treasurer (address on p. 1)

**THEME & DEADLINE  
for the NEXT ISSUE -  
Friday**

**January 11, 2019**

**How do you clear  
out your clothes  
closet - What do  
you keep?**

Photos welcome. About  
200 words.

# STAY ACTIVE—COME JOIN THE WALKERS



Members and guests in VRTA Walking group on top of Little Mountain in October.

**Front left:** Margaret Yoshida (Organizer of Walkers) Sheila Barras, Jeannie Yates, Barb Mikulec. **Back left:** Betty Schiller, Anne Lennon, Edie Wood, (statue), Norm Daniel, (statue), Elizabeth Barthel, Ros Kellett, (statue), Kahlyn Adie

## ANNOUNCEMENT POINSETTIA DRIVERS NEEDED



One or two drivers are still needed to act as Reserve & be On Call for the morning of Friday, December 7.

Contact: Edie Wood  
604 228-0830  
edithwood@gmail.com  
OR Ali Pollard 604 263-7600  
bobaipollard@hotmail.com

## Be safe! Be seen!

Denis Ottewell demonstrates the use of BRIGHT ORANGE luminescent coverall at night for all walkers to ensure you are seen this winter and avoid any accidents or injuries.



## Not a member of BCRTA?



For a THIRD Year former non-member

retirees can join both BCRTA & VRTA for FREE in their 1st Year - Sign up at  
www.bcrta.ca  
or phone: 604 871-2260

## Our REQUEST to You

**PLEASE** subscribe to the VRTA TABLOID by email and enjoy the **Benefits**

COLOURED photographs and graphics for you & hundreds of dollars postage savings for us. You stay up-to-date with NEW and IMPORTANT REMINDERS of upcoming events. SEND your email address to Patricia Wright  
vancouvertabloid@gmail.com

### HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED?

Please submit Change of POSTAL ADDRESS to  
vancouvertabloid@gmail.com  
OR 604 929-3306

## REGISTRATION FOR DEC. 4 LUNCH 11:30 AM Royal Vancouver Yacht Club

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

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

Enclose cheque for \_\_\_\_ attendee(s) @ \$45 each  
Cheque payable to: **BCRTA—Vancouver Branch**

☐

Those wishing vegetarian entrée/special diet, check here \_\_\_\_\_

See Page 1 for where to send. Please Register  
by **Tuesday Nov. 27**  
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT  
Donations for the FOOD BANK are appreciated