

Vancouver Tabloid

Vancouver Retired Teachers' Association JANUARY 2019 Newsletter

WELCOME to the NEW YEAR

- Ideas on Sorting Your clothes Closet

Creativity
is Messy
and I am VERY creative!



Valentine Luncheon

Thursday Feb. 14 at Langara Golf Club

PLEASE JOIN US for our February Luncheon on Thursday Feb. 14 at the Langara Golf Clubhouse 6706 Alberta Street. Guest speaker **Gerry Tiede**, new President of BCRTA, will speak on ***A Month in My Life at the BCRTA.***

The Mediterranean Menu includes chicken souvlaki, lemon rice pilaf, classic Greek salad with olives, pita & tzatziki, and assorted dessert goodies, including tea and coffee. Cost is \$30. ***Pre-registration with our Treasurer required; there are a limited number of seats available.**



2019

Valentine Luncheon-Feb 14

THURSDAY Feb. 14 at 11:30 AM
Langara Golf Clubhouse
6706 Alberta Street (x West 49th Ave.)

Complete the registration form **ON THE LAST PAGE**
by Tuesday, Feb. 5 and send to:
Dave Ellis, 2086 Newport Avenue,
Vancouver, BC. V5P 2H8
P:604 327-7734 or email dellis7734@gmail.com

Pay Cheque (\$30) to: Vancouver Branch -BCRTA

LUNCH REGISTRATION ON BACK PAGE

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President's Greetings



Happy New Year to everyone!

We were so fortunate to be having a mild winter which enables most seniors to get around town easily and safely. This certainly made the poinsettia deliveries safer and easier. Once again, a huge thank you to all those who helped deliver poinsettias to our retirees aged over 85 years. I hope you will continue to assist us next year. Much appreciation goes to Edie Wood and Ali Pollard for their organization to make this a successful event after taking over from Ruth Deshaies. It took two people to take over Ruth's job; she had done an amazing job for the past few years. Thank You Ruth!

The Christmas luncheon had a turnout of 64 people. Unfortunately, the traditional turkey dinner was replaced with salmon at the last minute and we apologize. We will insure this will not happen next Christmas. The talented Vancouver School Board Choir entertained us with a variety of songs as well as Christmas songs. Thank You Les Rowe and the Vancouver School Board Choir.

Our Valentine's luncheon will be held at the Langara Golf Clubhouse on February 14th, Thursday. It can hold 50 people so register early. Hope to see you there!

-Winola Chu

WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THE LUNCH?



Plate of delicious salmon

OUR APOLOGY: The previous TABLOID issue advertised a turkey dinner with chef's choice of fixings for Dec. 4. Alas, this was a misunderstanding and with time restrictions, we were served a tasty salmon entrée instead. Some attendees were deeply disappointed while many were delighted with the switch. We're sorry this happened; your Executive will be researching how to provide a turkey meal in Dec. 2019 at an affordable price!

- Ali (Social coordinator) and Ros (Editor)

WANT TO JOIN in? New Members Welcome LEADERS for Activities

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

Tabloid

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Members at Large

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

Volunteers

Ora Fraser and MaryAnn Nelson

Calendar

Please feel free to join us!
Feb 14 Thur Valentine Lunch

Feb. 26 Tue. Workshop

Mar. 26 Tue. Exec. Meeting
 (Exec. Meet at 10:00 AM in
 BCTF Building)

Apr. 10 Wed. Skagit V. Tour
Apr. 16 Tue Workshop (TBC)
May 1 Wed. Exec. Meeting
June 4 Tue VRTA AGM

MUSICAL DECEMBER LUNCH



Over 60 people attended the Dec. 4 Christmas meal at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club. President Winola Chu welcomed everyone, as did Tim Anderson, our new BCRTA Executive Director. Announcements followed and the first course was served. The VSB choir, led by Ian Nicholls, encouraged us to sing or hum along with their songs. They practice Friday afternoons and seek new members – contact Les Rowe. The chocolate dessert crowned the meal, a great start to more Winter



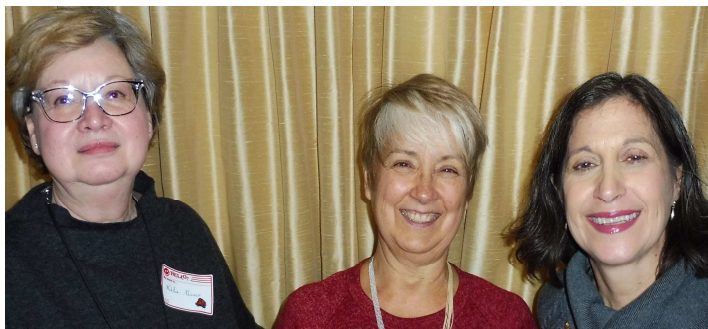
Guitarist, Ian Nicholls, leads the Vancouver School Board volunteer choir. Alto singers (far left) Carol Mooney and Pam Holly, along with soprano Diane Wort (red blouse) and the others sang a range of songs. All were encouraged to join in, from **Wimba Wey** chorus (*The Lion sleeps tonight*) to the **Gloria chorus** of *Angels we have Heard on High*. Newcomers are welcome to join them.



Edie Wood (left) sits with husband Bob Wood and Wayne Dodds at table waiting to be served. The efficient RVYC servers wait in the background as the hot meal is prepared.



Friends Barbara Stokes (far left), Marguerite Kobetitch, Joan Finley and Norma Westrom enjoy time to catch up before the meal is served and while the sun streams in.



Recent retiree, Lyse Cote (centre), celebrates her win of the Draw Prize for a Free VRTA lunch with friends Rita Manzo (left) and Julie Luciani.



Tim Anderson, Executive Director of BCRTA, along with staffers Kristi Josephson (centre) and Laurie Boyd, were guests of VRTA at Dec. lunch and were honoured for all the work they do for us with bouquets.

DeCluttering your Clothes

Boxing day – do you know this explanation of the December 26 date? That is the day to BOX up all the extra or unwanted gifts one received on Dec 25 and give them away? According to the Oxford English Dictionary on website

www.history.com, years ago Lords of the manor distributed “Christmas boxes” filled with money, small gifts and food to their servants and employees as a Christmas bonus. Churches also distributed their alms boxes to the poor and needy on this day. These charitable acts can inspire VRTA readers to take the time to look through their possessions and box up what is no longer needed and take them away. Maybe even donate them to a charity?!

Why is it that some of us find it very hard to part with our possessions? Those extra clothes, books, papers, furniture and miscellaneous items can take up precious space and impede using our rooms for more “joyful” activities.

I tend to be a pack rat myself. As a nature lover, I collect seeds and preserve unique insects; I also have a large book collection, many useful science worksheets and lesson plans leftover from my teaching days, stamp collection and a small locker full of items that costs me each month. So many items grate on

my husband’s nerves as they clutter up our shared living spaces that I am resolved to “sort and tidy” up these items for 2019.

Editorial

My good friend Dorothy lived with a true hoarder who refused to throw out newspapers, stamps off envelopes, clothes or anything he had acquired in life. He even piled stacks of newspapers along the hallways in the house and in the bathtub. He was driving her crazy. She kept waving around Marie Kondo’s Tidying Up methods book but he said he LOVED all his possessions and he didn’t want her to touch any of it! Unfortunately he died young and left Dorothy with all that mess to clean up—her story is my Chief Conscience Advisory on Decluttering!

So where to start? The KonMari method of decluttering recommends working on your Clothes first – so read on page 5 to learn the TABLOID’s suggestions for decluttering. I began by asking some of my fashionably-dressed colleagues in the VRTA how they solved this clothes problem – and their answers will surprise you! Most did not want their names associated with their solutions, preferring to show photos instead, so turn to page 5. **-Rosalind Kellett**



**LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR**

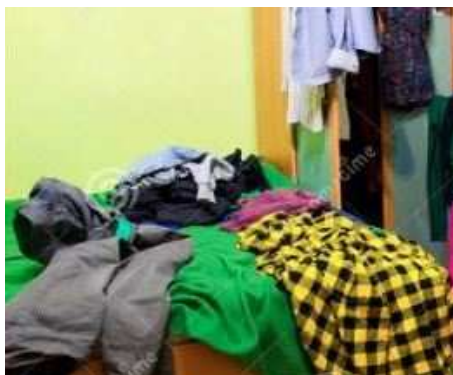
Send letters, advice or news items to roskellett@gmail.com
604-873-0568. Add name, email address & phone number. Keep under 150 words; they may be edited for length and clarity.

TUTORS NEEDED for SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS

With the new curriculum now covering most courses in BC, students can feel lost as teachers scramble to bridge the gap between the old and new curriculum and find new resources in cash-strapped schools. Eager students and concerned parents have been phoning TTS every day and “**we are currently experiencing a significant shortage of tutors**”, reports executive director, Lori Sorenson. Ros Kellett can vouch for this flexible service, enjoying the three students she tutors each week– and using up some of those science papers!



CAN YOU HELP? Applicants should be qualified teachers with a current BC Teaching Certificate and can apply through the TTS website <https://tutor.bc.ca/join/> or phone 604 730-3410.



DENIS' ADVICE

Let's face it, some clothes will no longer appeal to you nor fit so remove some of your stress and discard them!

For many men this task involves parting with their "work uniforms" after asking "Do I really wear this enough to keep it?" If in doubt and you have a wife, then involve her!

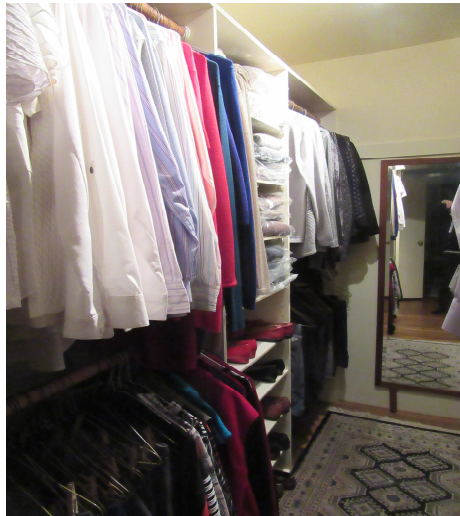
For women parting with her clothes, this can be more complicated. Besides the concern about size and style, there is the emotional attachment (home-sewn or gift) and the cost (I spent a lot of money on this!). Ask a relative or close friend whose opinion you respect. The husbands that I know usually avoid getting involved – it can lead to unanswerable questions!

To donate clothes to Charity try: Salvation Army HQ @604 299-3908, Canadian Diabetes (given to Value Village) @1-800-505-5525, Big Brothers @604 876-2447 or Big Sisters @604 873-4525. The Donation Clothing Bins have been removed in Vancouver.

-Denis Ottewell

HOW TO SORT CLOTHES—STEP ONE

The KonMari method encourages you to **PLACE** your clothes all in one pile then **CHOOSE** to save only the ones that give you Joy. So **PULL** out the clothes from messy room (left) and place on bed (right).



STEP TWO

Hang longer clothes on the left rising to shorter ones on the right. Store reserve shoes and other possessions in shoe-boxes. Oh shucks, my husband's clothes are also here!

STEP THREE

Persuade your husband to build an ample-sized walk-in closet with built-in shelves so you have more space. Otherwise, buy more dressers and cupboards!

The SAGA of SORTING CLOTHES

Three women sent the photos on this page and all expressed how emotional it was to sort their clothes. One loves her clothes so much that she keeps FIVE closets for each of the seasons' including special party clothes and sports clothes! Even Marie Kondo encourages one to **KEEP** what one loves. For some of us, we love books or other hobbies, and must be mindful to declutter such items from time to time to ensure a tidier home. **BEST WISHES WITH YOUR SPRING CLEANING!**

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.

So far pensions have kept pace with inflation

As retired teachers in BC, we are particularly fortunate to have one of the best pension plans, the TPP, available to teachers (and other educational staff).

As well, BC and Ontario have the best pension indexing of the teacher pensions in Canada, with all other provinces paying partial or no indexing this year. In my case, having retired at the end of 2010, my pension has increased by approximately 14.5% in 9 years!

The following table shows the last few years of pension indexing. Of course, there is a note of caution to add. Our indexing is **not guaranteed**, but the Inflation Adjustment Account (IAA) is currently in good shape and is used to do further adjustments, as deemed necessary by the TPP directors.

-Arne Lambert, BCRTA Pension Committee

Year	Increase (%)	Year	Increase (%)
2019 (Present)	2.2	2008	2.5
2018	1.6	2007	0.7
2017	1.3	2006	3.4
2016	1.0	2005	1.8
2015	2.0	2004	2.2
2014	1.1	2003	2.3
2013	1.2	2002	2.6
2012	3.2	2001	2.7
2011	1.0	2000	2.6
2010	0.0	1999	0.7
2009	3.4		

SKAGIT VALLEY BUS TRIP OFFERED TO VRTA MEMBERS

Are you interested in visiting new places and with minimum hassle?

Starting in April we'll be offering our first day-trip outing to the colourful Skagit Valley Tulip Festival in Washington, USA on

Wednesday, April 10.

Our travel partner, **Enjoy Tours**, will ensure that everything is taken care of for us, including no long waits at the border.

All you have to do is sign up, pay up (CDN \$99), bring your passport and up-to-date medical insurance.

Skagit Valley is about 130 km south of Vancouver, a 90 minute car ride. The price of the tour bus package includes:

- Tulip fields' walk & sightseeing
- Kiwanis Club Salmon BBQ
- Entry to Roosen Gaarde
- La Conner port, shops, free time
- All fees and taxes

Enjoy Tours donates 10% of the ticket price to the R.R.Smith Scholarship Fund – VANCOUVER Branch. You'll have a great time and be doing good. If you're interested in this trip

PLEASE REGISTER as soon as possible with Ali as there is limited seating. Contact: bobalipollard@hotmail.com or 604-263-7600

**-Ali Pollard
Social Coordinator**



Agenda for the day

- 8:00 am - Pick-up in Vancouver @ Canada Line King Edward Station
- 9:00 am - USA border
- 9:45 am - Haggen Ferndale
- 11:00am - RoosenGaarde
- 12:00pm - Depart
- 12:30pm - Salmon BBQ lunch (included)
- 1:45 pm - Tulip field tip-toeing & sightseeing
- 2:30 pm - La Conner free time
- 4:45 pm - CND border
- 6:00 pm - drop off in Vancouver

Live Stage Offerings

January to February



The **Arts Club** offerings include **The Matchmaker** at the **Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage** (Jan.24-Feb.24), **The Shoplifters** at the **Granville Island Stage** (Feb.7-March 9) and **True Crime** at the **Goldcorp Stage** (Jan.31-Feb.24). **The Matchmaker**, the classic farce by Thornton Wilder, deals with forbidden young love and mistaken identities. **The Shoplifters**, by Morris Panych, introduces the audience to Alma, a career shoplifter who is confronted by an overzealous security guard. **True Crime**, written and performed by Torquil Campbell, revolves around the investigation and impersonation of a con man. Check ARTSCLUB.COM or 604-687-1644.

Richmond's Gateway Theatre is staging **Yoga Play**, an hilarious satire, from Feb.7th to 16th, 2019. A character named Joan has been hired to stabilize a giant yoga apparel company. Troubles surface, sales fall and Joan tries to save face. Due to some profane language, the play is not recommended for children. Contact gatewaytheatre.com or 604-270-1812.

Metro Theatre Vancouver presents **Murder on Reserve** by Thomas Hischak from Jan.19th to Feb.9th at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees are 2 p.m.

Jan.27th and Feb.3rd. In a small town in Illinois things are too quiet, even in the public library where a body is discovered and big city cops are called in to investigate a motley crew of oddball suspects. Contact metrotheatre.com or 604-266-7191.

Studio 58 at Langara presents **Cabaret**, based on Joe Masteroff's book from Jan.31st to Feb.24th. Set in pre-WW11 Germany this Tony-winning musical is about following your heart as the world loses its way. Contact studio58.ca or 604-323-5227.

The **United Players** winter offering from Jan.5th to Feb.17th is **Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)** by Anne-Marie MacDonald. This award-winning play runs Thurs.-Sun. at 8 p.m. except for Feb.3rd, 10th and 17th which also include 2 p.m. matinees. No evening show on Feb.17th. Contact unitedplayers.com or phone 604-224-8007.

The **Vancouver East Cultural Centre** presents **Much Ado About Nothing** from Sun. Feb.12th to Sat. Feb. 23rd at 8 p.m. except Feb. 17th. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Feb.17th and 23rd. 604-251-1363 or thecultch.com/shows.

- Ora Fraser



O, Denis!

Jokes from

VRTA's Secretary

If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign? -Albert Einstein

My super power is holding onto stuff for years and years only to throw it away—and find the next week that I need it!

I will clean my closet today. Oh look, I have found my lost \$20 bill!

How kids clean their room: 1% cleaning, 29% complaining, 70% playing with all the stuff they have found.

My closet is NOT messy. I know where everything is.

My house was cleaned last week. Sorry you missed it.

My room is not cluttered. I just have everything on display, like a museum.

A clean house is a sign of No Internet connection!

Scholarship Fund –HELP RAISE FUND TO \$5000



Donors (from 2018) to The **Friends of the VRTA Scholarship Fund** will receive their tax receipts in February. More funds are needed—the account sits at \$4400- to support youth studying teaching, geriatric care or gerontology research.

DONATING ONLINE IS EASY— Get an instant tax receipt. Go to 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 over \$20 get a tax receipt.

THEME & DEADLINE
for the NEXT ISSUE -

Friday
May 5, 2019

**Given \$5000,
where would you
travel this year?**

Photos welcome. About
200 words.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARRIVED EARLY

Starting September 15, VRTA Second Vice-President Edie Wood and Member-at-large Ali Pollard began organizing the delivery schedule of Christmas poinsettias to our members aged 85 years or older who reside in Vancouver. Such senior members outside the city were mailed a Christmas poem.

The first task was to get an accurate membership list for that age range. Then a plea for more drivers was arranged and their driving routes worked out. Finally, many hours later, after picking up the poinsettias from Home Depot, on Friday December 7 over 100 members got a knock on their door as 28 drivers scurried around the city to deliver these potted flowers! Driver Darlene Forrester surprised retired teacher, Mrs. Lillian Lind (see photo), as she was heading out the door to an afternoon Scottish choir event. Darlene enjoyed hearing Lillian's teaching stories and hopes to be a driver again next year!

As Ali Pollard, co-coordinator of

Poinsettia deliveries commented: "As we attended to the many details required for executing the poinsettia deliveries, Edie and I couldn't help being amazed that Ruth Deshaies had done this for years basically on her own. This was our first year as organizers and hopefully, if we do this again, Edie and I will be faster at getting things done."

-Ali Pollard & Ros Kellett



Lillian Lind happily accepts pink poinsettias from driver Darlene Forrester.

ANNOUNCEMENT

VRTA WORKSHOP



Tue. Feb 26 —*Is a National Pharmacare Program Viable for Canadians? How do Grandparents Cope in Split Families?* **9:45 am—Noon**
Hellenic Com. Centre 4500 Arbutus St. Free registration & parking. Refreshments available. **Pre-register:**

Denis 604-526-7561 or
dennyottewell@outlook.com

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

LOST MEMBERS

Please help locate them!

Margaret Adams	Michael Keenly-
Barbara Black	—side
Robert Blount	Joan MacDonald
Gary Brandolini	Felicia Mangosing
Helen Chapin	Margaret Maxwell
George Cone	Emma Nering
Hildegard Dawe	Liz Pateman
Joan Donaldson	Winnifred Shoe
Joseph Feldes	—maker
Frances Froess	Kathryn Swan
Ilma Gourley	Angelica Woudzia.

- CONTACT Elaine Anderson
ebanderson@shaw.ca 604 929-3306

REGISTRATION FOR FEB 14 LUNCH 11:30 AM Langara Golf Clubhouse

Name(s): _____

Ph: _____ Email: _____

Enclose cheque for ____ attendee(s) @ \$30 each
Cheque payable to: **Vancouver Branch —BCRTA**

☐

Those wishing vegetarian entrée/special diet, check here _____

**See Page 1 for where to send. Please Register
by Tuesday Feb. 5
TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
Donations for the FOOD BANK are appreciated**