

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

March 2019
Issue No. 2

CRTA Newsletter



President's Report



It's official- it's spring! Gardens beckon, snow piles are in their final meltdown and there is still time for some spring skiing on days when you're not golfing or walking a greening local trail. We welcome the spring showers that foretell our beautiful rhodos, blossoms and flowers.

As you prepare to spring into action, your Executive Committee hopes you will join your CRTA colleagues for some enjoyable, informative gatherings, beginning with our General Meeting on April 3. Our events provide great opportunities to catch up with friends and former colleagues while hearing from excellent presenters.

We hope you will vote in the CRTA elections later this spring. Your Executive Committee enjoys working together on your behalf and we always appreciate your support. Perhaps you are considering running for a position this time round.

Spring - it's ours to celebrate and enjoy. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Please mark your calendar:



April 3 - General Meeting

June 5 - Annual General Meeting*

*Complimentary lunch will be provided by the CRTA!



CRTA General Meeting: Wednesday April 3, 2019



Gallery Room Winslow Centre

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

10:00 AM: Business meeting

Presentations: Pensions and Benefits



Grace Wilson, 1st Vice-President of the BCRTA, will give us an update on our Teachers' Pension Plan. She was on the BCTF executive and was a member of the team that negotiated the joint trustee pension plan as it presently exists.

Lisa Hansen, a consultant with Johnson Insurance, will update us on the changes that have taken place in the last year. If you have any questions or concerns about Johnson Insurance or coverage while you travel, please bring them to the meeting.

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2018 –
2019

<http://www.bcrta.ca>

TABLE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Caroline Malm

604-461-0008

[*caroline@malm.ca*](mailto:*caroline@malm.ca)

VICE-PRESIDENT

Teresa Grandinetti

(604) 230-5411

tgrandin@uniserve.com

SECRETARY

Lynne Sowerby

(604) 939-5239

[*sowerby@shaw.ca*](mailto:*sowerby@shaw.ca)

TREASURER

Howard Spence

(604) 936-8320

[*hwspence@gmail.com*](mailto:*hwspence@gmail.com)

DIRECTORS

BACK TO SCHOOL BRUNCH

Audrey Anthony

(604) 937-3086

[*louaud@telus.net*](mailto:*louaud@telus.net)

MEMBERSHIP/ MEMBER CONTACT

John Pope

(604) 461-7355

[*tipope1@hotmail.com*](mailto:*tipope1@hotmail.com)

DOOR PRIZES/GIFTS

Margrete Wylie

(604) 464-1788

[*stan_wylie@telus.net*](mailto:*stan_wylie@telus.net)



NOMINATIONS



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NOMINATIONS

Interested in Representing Your Retired Colleagues?

Call for Nominations for election to the 2019-20 CRTA Executive Committee:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors

A member in good standing wishing to stand for election to the CRTA Executive Committee must signify so in writing or by e-mail to the chair of the nominating committee at least two weeks prior to the AGM, except for nominations made and accepted in person at the AGM. All executive positions are for one year.

If you wish to allow your name to stand in nomination, please contact Howard Spence in writing or at hwspence@gmail.com. To nominate another person prior to the AGM please have that person signify acceptance of the nomination in writing or to Howard's e-mail address hwspence@gmail.com

Elections will occur on June 5, 2019.

Deadline for nominations prior to the AGM is May 22, 2019.

CRTA Interim Financial Report



When setting our budget for the 2018-2019 financial year, we anticipated a deficit of just over \$300, as a result of subsidies for our September brunch, our Christmas lunch, and our AGM lunch.

Looking at our present situation, we started the year with \$4,394 in funds available. We now have \$5,415 after member fees collected and expenses so far. We anticipate further expenses of \$1,320, leaving us with \$4,095 at year-end. If our estimate is close, this gives us a year-end deficit of about \$300, fairly close to our budgeted amount. Thanks to your executive's care in spending your membership fees, your association remains in very good financial shape, and can continue to provide a good selection of door prizes at our meetings and lunches, and arrange interesting and entertaining presentations at our meetings.

A full financial report will be presented at our first general meeting in the fall.

Submitted by Howard Spence

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

Insurance Alternatives: looking for options?

BCRTA members consistently rank Extended Health Care and other insurance products as extremely important to their peace of mind. Recent articles discussing member experiences with the current Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP) default coverage through Green Shield have generated much discussion and feedback. Many members are inquiring about alternative coverage. **You should know that BCRTA members have choices beyond the TPP default insurance coverage!** The BCRTA Pension and Benefits Committee has partnered with Johnson Insurance to create a line-up of products tailor-made to suit BCRTA members. Some things to watch out for include comparing each plan's coverage of the particular medications you depend on, deductibles, and lifetime coverage limits.

Best Friend Advice: BCRTA has continued to work with Johnson's over the years because of the excellent service they provide. We recommend that you talk to a Johnson Insurance Professional when you are considering the alternative plans available. They will help you understand the technical differences between the plans and help you make the right decision for you, even if it means staying with your current provider. There is an easy, free-of-charge confidential insurance assessment to see which plans work best for you. Just click here: <https://bcрта.ca/explore-bcрта-member-insurance-packages/>

BC Retired Teachers' Association Award



Do you know of a public school teacher who has a program that involves students and seniors in an "intergenerational program"? Could that teacher use \$1500 to enhance the program, buy additional supplies or add opportunities for interaction between students and senior citizens in the community?

Go to the BC Retired Teachers' Association website <http://www.bcrта.ca/> and click on the Golden Star Awards Program for criteria, application forms and links to past winners! Deadline for completed applications is April 15, 2019.

DIRECTORS cont'd

PHONING

Lynda Parsons
(604) 939-9897
*lrparsons@telus.net*

LUNCHEON/SOCIALS

Maria Santone
(604) 936-2869
*msantone@hotmail.com*

WELCOME/DOOR PRIZES

Vicki Stacey
(604) 936-9040
*akrod@telus.net*

SUNSHINE

Dale Linton
(604) 937-5113
*sewgrl1@gmail.com*

POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Jennifer Blenkinsop
(604) 461-4088
*jennfb@shaw.ca*

GEN MTG SPEAKERS

Fran Mitchell
(604) 936-1120
*fmitchell@telus.net*

BURSARIES

Henry Thiessen
(604) 939-9906
*tsen@telus.net*

MARCH NEWSLETTER

EDITORS

Caroline Malm
Audrey Anthony
Jennifer Blenkinsop

FORMATTING

Howard Malm 🕶️

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

Greenshield Claims Resolution Process

1. Contact GSC directly at 1-888-711-1119 to speak with a representative.
2. If unresolved, speak with a supervisor.
3. 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

4. If not resolved after steps 1, 2 and 3, contact laurie@bcrtc.ca. She will forward your message to a member of the BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee.



CRTA Sunshine Director, Dale Linton, sends cards to those who are ill or to family members in the case of bereavement.

Please update her at (604) 937-5113.

Phoning Committee

The Phoning Committee is ready and waiting to call CRTA members who do not have email and wish to be reminded about the September Brunch and the Christmas Luncheon. Do you want to have a chat with someone and find out about either event? If so, call Lynda Parsons at 604-939-9897 or email lrparsons@telus.net.



The CRTA regrets to announce the passing of these SD 43 colleagues.

We extend heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.



Jean Fraser: November 12, 2018. Jean is survived by her daughters Erin (James) and Leah (Ryan) and her granddaughter Adele. She will be missed by many other relatives and friends. Jean was very passionate about education, as evidenced by her masters and doctorate degrees and through her dedicated career in the Coquitlam public school system.

Trudy Simmons: February 16, 2019. Trudy is survived by her cousins and many friends. Her teaching career included assignments in Hope, Trail and New West before she came to Coquitlam where she taught at Glen, Roy Stibbs, Mountain View and Seaview elementary schools. She loved teaching, and was very compassionate to students, colleagues and friends.

Jim Mattson: February 22, 2019. Jim is survived by his wife Louise, daughters Alexandra, Heather (Peter) and Melanie who teaches at Centennial, and five grandchildren. Jim taught for thirty-five years in the district and was one of the creators of the Fish and Wildlife Program at Centennial. He also received the Governor General's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Bunny Stephen, February 26, 2019. Bunny is survived by her sister Linda Shuto, many nieces and nephews as well as her late husband's daughter, Pam Masse (Ray). Bunny graduated from Lester Pearson High School in New West and UBC. She taught for 35 years in the Coquitlam school district and loved her career, colleagues and primary children.