



NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA BRANCH OF THE  
B C RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



# The truant

*I don't have everything that I want, but I do have all I need. Unknown*

## President's Greetings

Where has 2019 gone? It seems that we just celebrated New Year's, enjoyed the glory days of summer and chuckled as the kids headed back to school and we didn't. I hope the year brought you good fortune and fulfilment and will end the year with lots of fun and festivities.

To that end, please consider joining us, your former colleagues and other retired teachers at this year's final event for the Delta Retired Teachers Association. This year's luncheon at the Delta Golf Course on Hwy. 10, will again feature a full turkey buffet meal including stuffing and gravy, potatoes and seasonal veggies, Chef's signature scones and delectable desserts. Entertainment will again centre around your conversations, some seasonal fun as well as participating with our own Backer Turner Overdrive (BTO) with songs of the season. There is room for dozens of you to come. Organize a school group to be at your table to welcome the holiday season. The fun awaits.



## **DRTA's Annual Christmas Luncheon**

**Delta Golf Course 11550 Ladner Trunk Rd.**

**Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

**Doors open 11:15 am**

**Buffet begins 12:00 Noon**

**\$30.00 per person**

**Call or e-mail Pat (604) 943-1817**

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

## What retirement frees me to do:

### **I'm Retired but Still Teaching** by Guillermo Bustos

No! I do not mean TOC'ing. I mean teaching for the fun of it. Shortly after my retirement, a colleague approached me to join the ElderCollege Delta team.

My first assignment was a four-session on the History of Canada. I was surprised by the number of people registering. At the beginning of the first session I asked how many had taken a Canadian History course at school. All but two raised their arm. So, I asked why did they want to learn something that they were taught at school. A lady with a very broad smile shouted: "because at school we didn't pay attention!" The room roared with laughter.

Teaching educated adults requires a lot of preparation, as they bring along a wealth of experience and knowledge. Researching for the courses became an almost daily routine. But what could have become a chore, became a constant source of stimuli and surprises: some people, so many facts and ideas that I had not known before! Teaching has kept my brain active and my enthusiasm for learning alive.

As years have passed, people attending started making requests and I obliged. We have tackled together such topics as the Reformation, the Religious Wars, the Great Depression, the Great War, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Middle East, Russia after the USSR and China after Mao.

ElderCollege was a local creation. Many Delta retired teachers have contributed to its progress. It was the only third level education place for seniors not linked to a university or college. Now North-Vancouver ElderCollege has become separated from Capilano College. I hope that some of you will consider joining us in this venture.

My first reactive thoughts to **freedom** in retirement--the feelings of happiness not having to be trapped in a classroom--flipped immediately to others more serious. I am free to visit dementia in the form of my 92-year-old mother three-plus times a week—both a pleasure and nurturing necessity. I am free to play late-evening chef most nights for my talented 26-year-old son, working full time, still living at home, as I support his dedication as an international athlete. I am free to attend to my sanity walking in sweet silence with my dog, or downloading the day at twilight in a myriad of swirling musings of what life is and of what life could be. But also, I have **time**, free to choose these things--appreciating that retirement has offered the blessing of special time for family.

Joan Dyson, Retired DSS teacher

## Trivia for the Festive Season

1. The modern Santa Claus is mainly a mix of what two figures?
2. In what country did Silent Night originate?
3. What plant-based Christmas tradition did servants in Victorian England popularize?
4. During Christmas in Quebec, a Yuletide tradition is a réveillon. What exactly is it?
5. Which noted Canadian was born on Dec. 25?
6. How often does the average Canadian eat turkey?
7. Who was the narrator in Dr. Seuss' "How the Grinch Stole Christmas?"
8. What is a 'Bûche de Noël', commonly eaten in France (and Quebec) at Christmas?
9. Which country issued the first Christmas stamp?
10. Which of Santa's reindeer is named after an animal?



Peter enjoys sharing his spectacular views, some of which have been featured on Global weather reports. His photos can be seen quite regularly.

## BOOKS

by Fiona Gray, Truant Editor

Instead of a book review, which, let's face it, you can find on the back cover, I thought I'd dance some quotes through your mind for a different experience.



Here are some quotes from “Us Conductors” by Sean Michaels:

**Tiny hands that evoked the poses of birds**

**...slipped like a hand into a pocket**

**...in a voice like a circular card being slipped into a circular envelope**

**A neon dollar sign hid in the gloss of my right shoe**

**You can become a dead man before you know who you are**

**Today this memory is beside me**

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### **Letter from Simran Kalkat – 2<sup>nd</sup> DRTA Scholarship Recipient for 2019** (edited for space)

I am writing to thank the Delta Retired Teachers Association for their Scholarship. I am so honoured to be a recipient.

Currently I am attending Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business to major in accounting. I am also a volunteer member of the Punjab Student Association at SFU and also a part of the Bass Mentorship Program, a mentorship program for first- and second-year students. I also plan to diversify my education in the future by travelling to London, England to partake in a global university exchange, leading to a career as a Chartered Professional Accountant.

I would like to thank the many hundreds of current and former Delta School District teachers who have been the pillars of support to students like myself. Thank you again for awarding me the scholarship.

Warm Regards,  
Simran Kalkat

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## **Christmas Market in Delta**

**Saturday 10:00 AM December 14, 2019 at the [Fisherman's Hall](#), [4481 Savoy St, Ladner](#)**

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

### **SPECIAL SEASONAL EVENTS**

#### **1. LADNER VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

**NOVEMBER 28 @ 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

LOCATION: historic Ladner Village (corner of 48th Avenue and Delta Street) There will be live music, gingerbread decorating and many more fun activities!

#### **2. PRE-CHRISTMAS CONCERT with Michael Russell O'Brien**

**NOVEMBER 30 @ 07:00 pm**

LOCATION: Immaculate Conception  
Delta Parish, 8842 119th St., North  
Delta.

#### **3. 2019 NORTH DELTA TREE LIGHTING FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, DECEMBER 01, 2019 @ 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

LOCATION: North Delta Arts Centre 11415 84 Avenue, N Delta

#### **4. 2019 SURREY SANTA PARADE OF LIGHTS**

**Sunday, DECEMBER 01, 2019 @ 05:00 pm to 07:00 pm**

LOCATION: Cloverdale BIA, 5748 176 Street, Surrey

#### **5. A HOLIDAY FEAST Gourmet buffet-style Dinner and Dance**

**Friday, DECEMBER 6 @ 6:00 pm–1:00 am**

LOCATION: East Delta Hall -Tickets online at [www.mrmomsworldcatering.com](http://www.mrmomsworldcatering.com)

Or call 604-782-7298

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Or call 604-782-7298

#### **6. DELTA CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT**

**Saturday DECEMBER 7, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm**

LOCATION: S. Delta Baptist Church 1988 – 56<sup>th</sup> St, Tsawwassen

#### **7. ADULT CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**Sunday, DECEMBER 08, 2019 at 06:00 pm**

LOCATION: Sunshine Hills Church, 6749 Scott Road, North Delta

Turkey with all the fixin's, live entertainment, and lots of laughter. Tickets will be available at the church soon.

#### **8. DELTA CHRISTMAS CONCERT with Delta Concert Band and Delta Music Makers**

**Tuesday, DECEMBER 10, 2019 @7:30-9pm**

LOCATION: Ladner Community Centre, 4734 51 St, Delta.

#### **9. CHRISTMAS WITH DELTA CONCERT BAND AND BURNSVIEW SECONDARY BAND**

**Tuesday, DECEMBER 17, 2019 at 07:30 pm**

LOCATION: Burnsvie Secondary School, 7658 112 St, North Delta.

Tickets: Seniors \$15, Adults \$20 Children under 10 Free

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# City of Delta for Seniors

This article is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of three to focus on Delta's Senior Centres.

Check out the [Recreation 50+ guide](http://www.delta.ca/parks-recreation) ([www.delta.ca/parks-recreation](http://www.delta.ca/parks-recreation)) for information on centres, services and recreation in Delta for those ages 50+ ! Available [online](#) or in print at a Delta recreation centre near you.



## Seniors Recreation Centres –South Delta

### KinVillage Community Centre

KinVillage Community Centre is part of KinVillage. It is independently owned and operated by the KinVillage Association, a not-for-profit society. The centre provides seniors and others with a wide range of programs, recreational and social programs to enrich the lives of the community. Activities include concerts, dinner dances, exercise programs, card games, snooker, line dancing, watercolour classes and more.

#### Location

5430 10 Avenue, Delta, BC V4M 3X8

Phone: 604-943-0155 Fax: 604-943-6001

email: [jkormendy@kinvillage.org](mailto:jkormendy@kinvillage.org) website: [kinvillage.org](http://kinvillage.org)

#### Facility Features

Buenos Dias Café tasty sandwiches, desserts, coffee, etc.

Hall for concerts, Yoga sessions, sing-alongs, etc.

Multi-purpose rooms

Unique Boutique for good quality used clothing

Home to Elder College (**see Guillermo's article**)

**Day Programs for Older Adults (DPOA)** are an important part of the health care continuum. Among the programmes KinVillage offers are:

**Physical Functioning:** maintenance and/or improvement of mobility, strength and balance

**Cognitive Functioning:** maintenance and/or improvement of cognitive ability and mood

**Health Monitoring:** health maintenance through assessing, monitoring and reporting vital signs, blood sugars, skin integrity, nutrition, hydration, and personal care concerns as well as providing health education to clients and caregivers.

**Caregiver Support:** maintenance and /or improvement of caregiver wellbeing through supportive education and care respite.

## *I'm Old Enough to Remember*

**Sheila Gair's article in the PostScript harkened back to those days of doing laundry by hand, leading to a fun activity at the "No Bell" Brunch with members' wonderful reminiscences. Here are a few of those memories.**

- I had to get off the couch and walk over to the TV to change the channel to one of five channels available.
- I filled a small brown paper bag with candy bought with money from bottles I found.
- I was at my grandparents' house in Regina. The ice-man brought ice in a horse-drawn wagon.
- I often could not use the telephone as we had a neighbourhood party line, and often our calls were listened in on by one of the snoopier neighbours.
- I did my washing with a wringer washer and hung the clothes outside on a clothesline.
- I remember when our milk was delivered by a horse and milk-wagon.
- Children were to be seen and not heard....LOL
- Ironing with flat irons heated on a wood stove.
- I remember listening to "The Parson's Study" and police calls on the radio at night in bed.
- We had rotary phones and party lines.
- Only the School Secretary was allowed to use the Gestetner machine.



Watch for more of our Reminiscences in future Truants. Send in some of your memories to Fiona at [dancingfeathers@icloud.com](mailto:dancingfeathers@icloud.com)



To Delta Retired Teachers,

Gray Elementary is having a “Read the Day Away” Day on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. On this special day, students in classes throughout the school will spend the day doing literacy-based activities, primarily reading. To encourage continued student engagement in reading and to make the day even more memorable and unique, we would like to invite guest readers to come to the school to read stories to students.

We would like to extend this information to you, and would be very grateful for your support and involvement during our “Read the Day Away” activities. If you would be willing to participate by reading a story to a class or two or by talking about your experiences with books and/or writing to a group of 20-30 students at a time, we’d be very pleased to have you join us on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. Should you choose to join us, you could either bring your own favourite books from home, or I can provide a selection of suitable books you could pick from.

Please let me know if you wish to participate in Gray’s “Read the Day Away” Day. Activities will be happening the entire day, starting with a school-wide assembly first thing in the morning. Please let me know the time you are able to visit, as well as the age group you would most like to visit. Guest readers usually spend 20-30 minutes with each class they visit. I’d be happy to help answer any question you may have.

Sincerely, Kim Watson

School phone: 604-594-2474

Cell phone: 604-916-0460

Email: [kwatson@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:kwatson@deltasd.bc.ca)





## 2019 BCRTA-AGM Report

### Friday, Oct 4 – Delegates' Day

The day began with a very informative and humorous talk by Dr. Art Hister. He addressed an attentive audience about maintaining good health as a life-long mission. He listed 7 things to keep in mind for personal health – **Don't smoke, Exercise regularly, Eat sensibly, Minimize stress, Maintain healthy weight, Get enough good sleep, and Drink alcohol in moderation.** In addition to that advice, Dr Art added his most important health tip is to **Sit less; Move more** and used the humorous example of how to achieve it – to live in a 2-storey house and have a poor memory.



Following a brief stretching set of exercises, the next session was presented by the women who wrote the book on “Showing Clutter the Door”. Each spoke about the different times and ways we can begin to eliminate the detritus that has accumulated in our homes – the basic what, when, and how to declutter.

BCRTA's Executive Director, Tim Anderson, spoke about the administrative goals for the up-coming year including upgrading computer software and expanding its coverage for local Branches and building strong partnerships that benefit members. Tim also led the delegates through the results of the Member Survey found in the Summer edition of PostScript.

Much of the afternoon was spent with our regional Branches in very useful discussions stemming from the Member Survey and the issues identified. All agree that getting BCRTA information out to pre-retirees has become more difficult since the Privacy Act's passage and the ability to engage with all current members. Hopefully, we can work together and figure out something that works.



The highlight for me came that evening after dinner when the Communications Committee and the editors of the PostScript presented awards for member contributions to the magazine. I was presented with the first ever **Sheila Gair Award** for Best Personal Experience article (*A Rediscovered Joy*) published in the Spring 2019 edition. The PostScript Award for Best Travel Article was given to Penticton's Garry Litke for his article *Fez*

(Spring 2019) and Delta's own, David Wei, was awarded for his photo of *Haida Gwaii* (Fall 2018).

### **Saturday, Oct. 5 – Annual General Meeting**

The day began with the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation, the charitable arm of the BCRTA, holding their AGM. 8 Directors were acclaimed into office. Immediately following, the 2019 BCRTA AGM began with a minute of silence for members who had passed away. Then it was on to business for the up-coming year. Elections for Table Officers and Directors were conducted concurrently with the passage of financial and committee reports and house-keeping motions. All Board positions were filled by acclamation. Pat

### **The 2019-20 BCRTA Executive Board**

President	Gerry Tiede
Past President	Patricia Clough
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Grace Wilson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Arnie Lambert
ACER/CART Representative	Steve Bailey
Lower Mainland Regional Directors	Carolyn Malm, Floyd Smith, David Scott, and Pat Thiesen
Outside Lower Mainland Directors	Terry Green, Janice Androsoff, Sterling Campbell, Elaine Thompson

Following lunch, the Directors met to establish meeting times and committee chairs and special thank-you's and good-byes to out-going executives, Charan Gill and Stefan Cieslik.

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### **Trivia Answers**

1. St. Nicholas and Father Christmas
2. Austria
3. Kissing under the mistletoe
4. A Christmas banquet
5. Justin Trudeau in 1971 and brother Alexandre, who was born on Dec. 25, 1973.
6. More than 15 times a year
7. Boris Karloff
8. A Yule Log
9. Canada
10. Vixen (fox)





# Dear Grandparents,

We know you love your grandchildren with all of your heart,  
but there's something we need to tell you.

This year, when it comes time  
for you to do your Christmas shopping,  
we would like to make just a couple of suggestions...

...regarding the toys....

...If it lights up, sings, makes animal noises, plays music, growls, sounds like a telephone or a doorbell, resembles the sound of a truck or an airplane or a helicopter, roars like a dinosaur, flashes, barks, moos, squeaks, pops, dances, makes a crashing sound, can be turned on and off, can not be turned off, makes a sound when it moves, makes a sound for no reason, talks at 3 am, makes noise when the lights are turned on and off, includes speakers, requires assembly, requires batteries, takes up more than a 12-inch area of the floor, requires seasonal storage, squirts water, requires refills, creates a mess, mentions anything about "500 pieces" or "small parts included", or breaks toes if encountered during the night, please include a gift receipt.

Sincerely,  
The Parents of Your Grandchildren

P.S. Are you trying to pay us back for something we did when we were little?

[www.allkindsofthingsblog.com](http://www.allkindsofthingsblog.com)



*SDSS Crew at December Luncheon, 2018*



## Your Delta Retired Teachers Executive Board Members

President	Pat Thiesen	<a href="mailto:deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com">deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Della Henderson	<a href="mailto:dellamrh@gmail.com">dellamrh@gmail.com</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Peter Scurr	<a href="mailto:petergrantscurr@gmail.com">petergrantscurr@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Lois Wilkinson	<a href="mailto:lrwilk@telus.net">lrwilk@telus.net</a>
Secretary	Margaret Jensen	<a href="mailto:tmj@telus.net">tmj@telus.net</a>
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Member-at-Large	Lori Liptrot	<a href="mailto:lliptrot@me.com">lliptrot@me.com</a>

## Where You Goin'? Where You Been?

### The Kamloops Heritage Railway

The Kamloops Heritage Railway is a heritage railway in Kamloops, British Columbia. The railway operates throughout the year running trains within Kamloops. The train is pulled by restored steam locomotive Canadian National Railway 2141, the "Spirit of Kamloops".

**Address:** 510 Lorne St #3, Kamloops, BC V2C 1W3

**Phone:** (250) 374-2141

A group of my friends and I travelled to Kamloops on a weekend recently, staying at a nice motel close to the railway. The steam train took us for a short ride which included a commentary on the Aboriginal graveyard and small wooden church on the route. The KHR is operated by volunteers, dressed in period costumes, including a conductor and saloon girls. On the return trip, we were boarded by 'bandits' riding horses with bandanas on their faces, shooting cap guns. This was followed by a wonderful meal, with wine, outside under a large pavilion, with entertainment. A great excursion for all to take. By Fiona Gray





# Vietnam and Cambodia Tour 2020

**March 14 to March 27 2020**

Hanoi, Ha long Bay, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City, Siem Reap, Ankor Wat

**All Inclusive Tour\* \$3599 per person twin share**

Single supplement \$699 – (We will do our best to provide roommates for singles preferring not to pay single supplement)

## **Tour Package includes:**

11 Nights' accommodation in 4- and 5-star hotels  
1 Night accommodation on cruise ship  
Daily breakfast  
9 lunches, 1 Brunch and 10 dinners  
1 bottled water daily, 1 water/soft drink/or beer at each meal  
Services of an English-speaking tour guide throughout tour  
Sightseeing & entrance fees as per the itinerary  
Show tickets  
Transportation in an AC deluxe vehicle  
International airfare from Vancouver return  
Regional Flights: Hanoi to Da Nang, Da Nang to Saigon, Saigon to Siem Reap  
All Air taxes and fuel Surcharges and all local applicable taxes



# **Turkey Tour 2020**

**July 20 – August 2, 2020**

**All Inclusive Tour\* \$4392 per person - cheque or cash, \$4492 per person - credit card**

Single Supplement: \$975 CAD. (If you desire, we will do our best to pair up single participants in order to avoid the single supplement charge.)

## **Tour package includes:**

Accommodation in 4- and 5-star hotels  
Breakfast every day, 8 lunches, 8 dinners including tea and water  
Return private airport transfers  
A/C luxurious Bus for the tours and transfers with water on board  
Private English-Speaking Tour Leader (Professional Guide)  
Return international flights including taxes and surcharges  
Domestic flight tickets (Istanbul to Kayseri and Izmir to Istanbul)  
All admission fees to the sites and museums  
Baggage handling at the hotels  
Tips for the hotels and restaurants  
Boat trip in Antalya  
Local taxes and 18 % VAT



For more information and/or a detailed brochure/itinerary on either tour contact:

**Alex Watson or Andy Lum email – [deltatravellersclub@gmail.com](mailto:deltatravellersclub@gmail.com) 604 764-0895**

## Finishing Touches

To bring this newsletter to its conclusion, there are bits and pieces of news from the BCRTA and elsewhere that you might like to know.

- a) 2 issues brought up at the October AGM were addressed by a letter from Gerry and the Board. The first was sent to the Federal and Provincial Health Ministers, the 5 federal party leaders and the BC Premier **urging legislation banning flavoured juices in vaping devices**. The second letter was addressed to all Branch Presidents urging them **to strive to eliminate single use plastics and Styrofoam at their meetings**.
- b) A steering committee was formed to plan the BCRTA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for 2020.
- c) The BCRTA has been successful in negotiating with the BC Pensions Corporation to use ***Pension ID numbers*** instead of *Social Insurance Numbers* to facilitate the annual deduction of BCRTA fees. Once the conversion is complete, all SINs will be removed from BCRTA files.
- d) One of the newer initiatives that the Delta RTA Executive endorses is to utilize shared resources when bringing special events to the Lower Fraser area. Surrey RTA, along with Langley and Delta, jointly hosted Gerry Tiede's "Pensions and Insurance" workshop this week. Although participation from Delta members was sparse, the effort marks, what we hope will be, more opportunities available for members to get out and learn.
- e) In conjunction with the Delta Seniors Planning Team, the DRTA will co-host a free workshop **Stay on the Road** May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Cedar Park Church in Ladner. More information about its target audience (you) and purpose (safe driving as you age) will be included in the next issue of TRUANT.

The business of the BCRTA continues next week with its committees and Directors meeting to discuss its work over the last 6 weeks and to further plan for the next 9 months.

The Delta Retired Teachers Association is looking for volunteers to help with Executive leadership. Della Henderson, our Vice-President for more than 10 years, has decided it is time to truly "retire" and won't be seeking re-election in May. I, too, am giving my notice. I will stay on as your President for the remainder of this year and, if re-elected this May, will help "train" someone new so I can retire at the end of June 2021. Please start thinking how you can volunteer to keep the DRTA a vibrant Branch of the BCRTA.

Finally, my last reminder for the **DRTA's luncheon on December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Please call or e-mail me if you are planning to attend. Have a wonderful holiday season, enjoy some concerts and be safe and prosperous in 2020. Pat



**It's not what's under the Christmas tree that matters, it's who's around it.** *Charlie Brown*