

November 2020  
Issue No. 2

## CRTA Newsletter

### President's Report



Congratulations, **Coquitlam Branch**! At the BCRTA Conference and AGM held on-line in October, we won a **Membership Award** for most new Branch members in 2019-2020, placing third in our category!

This year's live streamed events point to our remarkable ability to adapt to change and challenge.

The two days included traditional presentations, reports and elections brought to our home screens by new technologies. Facilitators, presenters and attendees gathered virtually for interesting, informative experiences that enabled us to conduct the business of the Association. Attendees responded to the follow up satisfaction survey very positively, demonstrating that we can adapt favourably to unusual circumstances. We recognize the uncertainty and difficulties of these times but rest assured that our signature in-person events will return in the future when it is safe for us to meet.

All CRTA members can view highlights from the Conference and AGM by visiting [www.bcrta.ca](http://www.bcrta.ca). The provincial web site is an ongoing source of engaging videos and other items - I encourage you to check it out frequently. Other BCRTA communications - the winter issue of *PostScript* Magazine and *BCRTA Connections* - will soon arrive in our mail boxes.

Locally, our Branch continues to grow and communication with members is happening. CRTA newsletters, email blasts, cards and telephone calls allow us to stay together while staying apart. The Executive Committee now meets virtually. EC members who don't have computer access to Zoom now phone in to our meetings and participate orally in the agenda. All of us pin our hopes on an effective vaccine, the sooner the better, but until then we shall keep on adapting, learning and supporting one another.

Take care and stay well. As history demonstrates, this too shall pass.

*Caroline*

### Mark Your Calendar!

Wed. January 20, 2021:	CRTA Newsletter Issue 3
Wed. March 10, 2021:	CRTA Newsletter Issue 4
Wed. May 12, 2021:	CRTA Newsletter Issue 5
Wed. June 2, 2021:	Possible CRTA AGM



# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2020 –  
2021

<http://www.bcrta.ca>

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## **Christmas Banquet Update**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, the Christmas Banquet scheduled for December 2, 2020 has been cancelled. We will receive a full refund of our deposit from Burnaby Mountain Golf Course. Our hope is that we can look forward to a festive event next year.

The Executive Committee discussed some alternatives to our traditional buffet but there is nothing that provides an affordable, safe, appropriate environment for our members. Importantly, our usual gathering for one hundred members would exceed allowable numbers during the pandemic.

We wish all CRTA members a healthy holiday season. This year will be different and there will be stories to share when we look back on this time.



## **Presentation**

CRTA meetings traditionally feature informative, entertaining presentations of interest to members. Because we can't meet at this time, we encourage you to attend this webinar put on by COSCO. The speakers are excellent!

The ***Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of British Columbia, COSCO***, invites you to join in the virtual Celebration of our 70th Anniversary  
Date: **Friday November 13th**

Time: 10 – 11:30 am

Please register in advance for this virtual gathering

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_1RUI4ERKSj-icPUBhCZGdA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1RUI4ERKSj-icPUBhCZGdA)

### **Key Note Speakers:**

- Isobel Mackenzie, BC Seniors Advocate
- Trish McAuliffe, President, National Pensioners' Federation
- Stephanie Smith, President, BC Government Employees' Union
- Jim Sinclair, Board Chair, Fraser Health Authority
- Garnet Grosjean, UBC Faculty of Education
- Meeting MCs: Patrick Brady and Diane Wood

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing our history of advocating for seniors' issues important to aging well.

***Our motto: Plan with seniors, not for them***



# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

## Personal Bursary Donations

Thank you to **CRTA members** who continue to donate to the **Bursary Fund!** For any donation of **\$25.00 or more**, you will receive a receipt for income tax purposes. You will recall that Service Canada rules do not permit the CRTA to donate monies received from members' fees. In addition, fundraising by the CRTA is not permitted. Your personal donations to the fund are therefore greatly appreciated! It is so easy to do and makes a real difference in the lives of the students who receive the bursaries each year. Simply send a cheque to the School Board office with 'CRTA Bursary' written on the memo line. Address:

**SD 43, 550 Poirier St, Coquitlam, BC V3J 6A7**

## Did you know?

BCRTA members get significant discounts and other special offers from our many **Members' Advantage Program** partners.

**Advantage** offers are available to all BCRTA members, brought to you by dozens of vendors offering cash discounts on products and services. Save on lifestyle services, home products and other essentials, tours, guided travel, cruises, hotel accommodations, car rental, parking, golf, ski vacations, etc. Learn more at [www.bcrta.ca](http://www.bcrta.ca)



## Member Contact Updates

Please let **John Pope** know if you have a new email address, home address or telephone number. We want to stay in touch!

Can you help us reconnect with Rosemarie Bell?

## Green Shield Claims Resolution Process

1. Contact GSC directly at 1-888-711-1119. If not resolved, ask 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](mailto:TPBT@pensionsbc.ca)
3. If not resolved **after steps 1 and 2**, contact [laurie@bcrta.ca](mailto:laurie@bcrta.ca) She will forward your message to a member of the BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee.

**Editor's note:** To reduce the chance of CRTA email addresses being auto-extracted from the newsletter, all email hyperlinks have been removed and asterisks placed before and after the CRTA email addresses.

## CRTA 2020 – 2021 EXECUTIVE

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# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association



Thank you to the following CRTA members who have volunteered their time to serve on BCRTA committees this year:

**Caroline Malm:**

Second Vice-President; Excellence in Public Education (Chair)

**Howard Spence:**

Pensions and Benefits

## 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.

## CRTA Phoning Committee



During the pandemic, we have contacted members who do not receive email messages, three times since March.

We found that even though there wasn't very much news to tell them it was just nice to have a chat. We let them know that the September Luncheon, Christmas Brunch, and General Meetings have been cancelled until rules around COVID are lifted and we can get together safely again. We also informed them that the CRTA Executive was acclaimed and is conducting the business involved in running the association. I know that members appreciated the phone visits. We will continue to keep in contact with them. Hopefully in the New Year we will be able to tell them about future plans regarding getting together when circumstances permit. For information regarding the Phoning Committee please call me at 604-939-9897.

*Lynda Parsons*

## In Memoriam



The CRTA regrets to announce the passing of the following District 43 colleagues.



We extend heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

**Alison Whitmore:** April 23, 2020: For ten years, Alison was a coordinator at Coquitlam Continuing Education where she worked with immigrants and refugees in ELSA/LINC classes. She is missed by her family and friends.

**Barb Froese:** May 17, 2020: Barbara taught in School District #43 for 24 years; she mainly worked at Seaview and Nestor elementary schools. She is missed by her husband Paul, many in-laws and friends.

**Cari Leach:** August 10, 2020: Cari taught at Citadel Middle School for twenty- three years. She is missed by her husband Bob, sons Tor and Reid, family and friends

**Valerie Hume:** August 15, 2020: Valerie taught elementary school for more than thirty years. She will be missed by her son David, (Linda), grandchildren Maya and Joseph, family and friends.

**Lillian Smith:** September 25, 2020: Lillian was a CRTA Life Member. For thirty-four years, she taught at Central, Harbour View, Hazel Trembath, Kilmer, Mary Hill and Porter Elementary schools. She is missed by her husband Bill, children Heather and Chad, grandchildren, family and friends.