



Ridge Meadows Retired Teachers' Association

February Newsletter 2021

From the desk of the President ~ Julie Zoney jbz@telus.net

Health, Happiness, Prosperity, Goodwill and Peace to all!! Happy year of the Ox. I pray that you are all keeping safe and I imagine you are getting a lot done on the inside of your homes... cleaning, napping, reading, cleaning, cooking, cleaning, etc.

Last year was a very trying time for us all. But things will get better. Your Executive are looking forward to a 2021 that will allow us to gather together once again.

Recently, our Province announced the BC Recovery Benefit— a grant of \$1,000. per family (or couple) or \$500. per single person. Please check out the website to find out more about the eligibility, although the general rule is that families or couples earning a net income of less than \$125,000. And singles earning a net income of less than \$62,500. Are eligible. To apply, you will need to have your ID, 2019 Notice of Assessment from CRA, Social Insurance Number (SIN), and your banking information close at hand. Apply online to <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/contnet/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit> or by phone call 1-833-882-0020. You have until June 30th 2021.

Be safe!! As it is still not safe to get together in large groups at this time, but do connect in small safe groups.

Our 2020-2021 Executive:

<i>Julie Zoney</i>	<i>President/Editor jbz@telus.net</i>	<i>604-467-1370</i>
<i>Elizabeth Jakeway</i>	<i>Secretary/Sunshine ejajakeway@hotmail.com</i>	<i>604-467-6608</i>
<i>Don Sears</i>	<i>Treasurer donsears@telus.net</i>	<i>604-817-6402</i>
<i>Nell Plotnikoff</i>	<i>Member-At-Large nellplotnikoff@hotmail.com</i>	<i>604-477-1185</i>
<i>Julie Koehn</i>	<i>Member-At-Large d-jkoehn@telus.net</i>	<i>604-467-6028</i>
<i>Linda Raskewicz</i>	<i>Member-At-Large lindaraskewicz@gmail.com</i>	<i>604-467-6196</i>
<i>Ken Grieve</i>	<i>Member-At-Large k.grieve@telus.net</i>	<i>604-465-5737</i>

Update from Ken Holmes

This year Ken Holmes' project is on behalf of STEP International to purchase books and teaching aids for a school library in India. In 2016, we helped Ken's project for a Medium English School...Now they are adding Preschool to grade 3. The school is in Odisha, India. This year, Imagine School will have a total of 100 children in Pre-school to grade 3. There are very few government schools in their area. Where they do exist, they have been largely been ineffective in lifting kids from crippling poverty. Children growing up in these conditions will have very few opportunities in life. The dehumanization of the caste system, gender inequality and a disregard for the worth of human beings with disabilities is less than they deserve. Their vision is to provide kids in India with a very different kind of educational experience- one where the dignity of each person regardless of caste background, wealth, status or disability is shown respect and given an opportunity to succeed. This will be a holistic education where mind, body and spirit are cared for. They want to prevent children going into bonded slavery and provide them education. If you would like to support this project you could etransfer money (klholmes@telus.net). This method might incur a service charge depending on your bank. Or they could mail a cheque to me at #202 8358 Cedar St., Mission, B.C. V2V 0E5

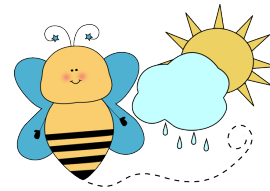
*** Until further notice our luncheons and other events have been cancelled.

???? If you know of any of our members that are in the hospital or ill at home please let our Secretary Elizabeth know ejajakeway@hotmail.com or 604-467-6608 . Thanks!!

Are you a Member?

If you are 55+ become a member of Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows Senior Centres for \$25.00 a year and take part in the activities that are offered there.

On week days you can stop by from 11:30 - 12:30 and buy a homemade meal to go for \$7.00. They also sell sandwiches, soup and desserts at reasonable prices.



Updated Pensions information is available at <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/>

As a member of BCRTA you are able to use BCRTA Members' Advantage visit:

<https://bcrt.ca/members-advantage-program/>

Help us grow - invite a friend.



Check out the BCRTA website:

<https://bcrt.ca>

The BCRTA is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year!!

Ridge Meadows Retired Teachers' Branch is trying to compile the history of our local schools. We need your help. Pick a school and let me know which one and search through the school site, the museum, and other places and see if you can gather the info. Send your results back to me (Julie) at jbz@telus.net.

An example: (by Molly Falcon)

Ruskin:

Though he never saw the little community in eastern Maple Ridge that bears his name, devoted followers of **John Ruskin** bequeathed his name not only to their fledgling settlement but also to the tiny school that they opened in 1896. Ruskin, a nineteenth century social reformer, traveller and writer, was a well-known figure of his time... a student of Thomas Carlyle and an associate poet-painter Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

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We are asking for your help to compile short write ups of your first year teaching in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows and what it was like. Please send them to me also. Thanks for your help in these projects. I am looking forward to reading about your early teaching memories.

Did You Know?

In April 2002, an organizational meeting was held by a group of retired teachers in the Maple Ridge School Board office to discuss the formation of a Maple Ridge Branch of the BCRTA. At that meeting a motion was moved by Vince Dangerfield and

seconded by Carol Tebbutt that a branch be formed and named Ridge Meadows Retired Teachers'.

Executive: President - Tony McCullough

Vice President - Raj Sharma

Secretary - Lorette Miller

Treasurer - Norma Thorson

Directors - Eileen Gardner, Bill Marble, Vince Dangerfield

- Application was made to the BCRTA to become a recognized Branch.



The next census will take place in May 2021. Statistics Canada will be hiring approximately 32,000 people across the country to assist in census data collection activities. Statistics Canada wants BCRTA members who are interested to be aware of these job opportunities.

Census information is vital for all communities for planning schools, daycare, housing, hospitals, emergency services, roads, public transportation, and employment skills training. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Canada has adapted to ensure that the 2021 Census is conducted throughout the country in the best possible way, using a safe and secure approach.

Should you have any questions, please contact Statistics Canada at statcan.censusoutreach.west-rayonnementdurec.ouest.statcan@canada.ca.

BCRTA Continues Efforts in Support of Pharmacare

The establishment of Universal Pharmacare is an advocacy goal of BCRTA and our national partners in ACER-CART.

The Well-Being Committee and the BC Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) has been actively engaged in lobbying governments in Canada to initiate a single-payer, public and universal Pharmacare program. It has been some time since the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare provided its interim report ([see the BCRTA news story here](#)). The BCRTA Well-being committee also highlighted [a report on Pharmacare from the Broadbent Institute](#).

At our last AGM one of our keynote speakers, Dr. Steve Morgan.. Be informed about universal Pharmacare in this lively video presentation by Dr. Steve Morgan:

<https://bcrt.ca/pharmacare-2020-conference-presentation-by-steve-morgan/>
Advocates for Pharmacare have created a series of petitions over the past few years. We note that currently BC MP Peter Julian has such a petition. You can learn more about this petition and participate by visiting <https://www.peterjulian.ca/take-action>.

Other steps you can take to support the cause of Pharmacare would be to:

- Write a letter to your MP to support a universal Pharmacare program.
- Urge your MLA to ask the provincial government to act on this issue.
- Talk to your neighbours about their support for a Pharmacare program.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper in support of a national universal Pharmacare program. By Terry Green
Chair of BCRTA Well-being Committee

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Hmmm, what can we do today to put a smile on someone's face?



In Memoriam



The RMRTA regrets to announce the passing of the following District #42 colleagues. We extend heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

Betty Coy

Jan. 2021