



Summer 2021

Summer Greetings from Sue Mackenzie (LRTA President)



Spring came and went rather quickly and we had a rather busy mother robin build her nest in the new metal garden hanger I picked up at Port Kells Nursery, not for that purpose. The flowering thyme that I had planted didn't manage to survive the intrusion, but it was fun to watch. I didn't think it wise to water the flowers around the nest!!!

June arrived with some very warm weather and left us in a blistering heat wave, never-before seen. Schools were closed due to extreme heat for the first time that anyone can remember. I do hope that you were all able to stay cool and hydrated during those few extremely hot days. We also had lots of good news regarding the decreasing COVID cases and availability of second vaccinations. As of July 1st, more restrictions were lifted, and I am hoping that we might be able to get back to more normal in-person gatherings in the Fall. As I mentioned in my last email, we have reserved Derby Reach Regional Park covered area and fire pit for our "No Bell" picnic. It will be a BYOL "bring your own lunch" event, but we will have a fire for roasting wieners and marshmallows. It will be on the first day that school goes back in -- September 7, 2021 -- and we will send out more information at the end of July. We will be asking for pre-registration since the park requires the numbers.

Once again, I would like to thank those members who were able to join us for the LRTA AGM. As confirmed at the AGM, our LRTA fees will remain at \$10 per year. Our current executive have agreed to stay for one more year, and I would like to thank them, once again, for their support and assistance throughout the past 2 years.

Our 2021-2022 Executive is, as follows:

President	Sue Mackenzie	Members-At-Large:
Vice President	Gail Chaddock-Costello	• Heather Anderlini
Treasurer	John Salmon	• Judy deVries
Secretary	Yole Proserpi-Porta	• Annette O'Connor
Program	Jan Bryce	• Maureen Pepin
Sunshine	Jacquie Hollybow	
Website	George Main	
Newsletter/Membership	Maureen Wilson (Past President)	

We were able to host several special events this year, despite COVID restrictions, due to the wonder of the Zoom app. In the past, The Brookwood Senior Secondary Jazz band has entertained us at our May luncheons. And through the advances of technology, the Brookwood Secondary Senior Music Department, under the direction of Mr. Derrick Turi, delighted those of us who attended our Zoom AGM.

Their pre-recorded slideshow featured several different musical groups, including:

- Junior Jazz Band
- Percussion Ensemble
- Senior Jazz Band with instrumental and vocal solos



We are hoping that we will be meeting again 'in person' for luncheons in 2022, and watching a 'live' performance of the senior jazz band next May.

But, for now, all future luncheons have been put on 'hold' until further notice.

As previously mentioned, we have been able to host several events for the enjoyment of our members. These include our No Bell picnic last September at Derby Reach, the Cannabis Workshop in February, the Port Kells Nurseries Presentation in April, and our AGM in May, along with entertainment by the Brookwood Senior Secondary Music Department under the direction of Mr. Derrick Turi. We have had many members participate in the variety of Zoom sessions arranged by COSCO, Zoom sessions arranged by Langley Seniors Community Action Table, and many continued to participate in the online Gluu Technology classes with Linda Fawcus.

On behalf of your LRTA Executive (Maureen Wilson, Gail Chaddock-Costello, John Salmon, Yole Prosperi-Porta, George Main, Jacquie Hollybow, Jan Bryce, Heather Anderlini, Judy deVries, Maureen Pepin, Annette O'Connor and myself), we would like to wish you a wonderful summer full of relaxation, friends and family times. Hope to see soon. Happy Canada Day, too!

Sue Mackenzie
 President LRTA
 lrt.suem@gmail.com

SUNSHINE REPORT
 ~Submitted by Jacquie Hollybow~



The LRTA sends cards to members who are experiencing a significant illness and to the family of members who die. Our '85 years plus' members also receive a Christmas card.

Please contact Jacquie Hollybow (604 888-7020; e-mail: jhollybow@hotmail.com) if you are aware of a member who fits either of these criteria



FINANCIAL REPORT
 ~Submitted by John Salmon~



Receipts and Payments Statement -- July 1, 2020-June, 24 2021

Balance: July1, 2020		\$11252.69
Receipts: (memberships)		4710.00
		<hr/>
		\$15962.69
Payments		
	Technology	\$466.25
	Programs	1252.52
	Administration	716.05
	COSCO	140.00
	Sunshine	95.26
		<hr/>
		\$2660.08
		<hr/>
Balance: June 24, 2021		\$13302.61

Retired Educators' Scholarship Team Report



Well done to Maureen Pepin and the Retired Educators' Scholarship Team for awarding 8 scholarships of \$800 each through the school district foundation. Congratulations to the successful Langley recipients.

Emma Westwick	Aldergrove Secondary	Alexa Adams	Langley Secondary
Ella Clegg	Brookwood Secondary	Madison Naylor	RE Mountain
Dorothy Kim	Langley Fine Arts	Kaylee Weisgerber	DW Poppy
Emily Parsons	Langley Fundamental	Justin Charron	Walnut Grove

It has been a difficult year to try and raise funds without any fund-raisers. We depend upon the kindness and generosity of those educators who have retired and would like to contribute to the scholarships that are awarded to Langley students who wish to have a career in education. If you would like to contribute directly, donations may be mailed to:

Langley School District Foundation
c/o Maureen Pepin
25323 12th Ave,
Aldergrove, BC
V4W 3N2

Please make cheques payable to 'Langley School District Foundation', include your email address for tax receipts as they are only via email.

September Celebration To Be Held Outdoors



Covered Picnic Area at Derby Reach

Our "No Bell" Picnic was such a success last year we have decided to do it again, this year. We will be welcoming our new retirees, as well as celebrating the 30th anniversary of the LRTA. If you know of anyone who has recently retired, please mention our special event in their honour, as we do not always get contact information for them.

Our 2021 "No Bell" picnic at Derby Reach on the outskirts of Fort Langley on September 7, 2021 from 11:00 - 2:00 PM. It will be a BYOL (Bring your own lunch) event and you would bring your own folding chairs, and picnic items. We have reserved the covered area for the day and we will keep our fingers crossed for decent weather. Derby Reach is part of Metro Vancouver Regional Parks,

located on the banks of the Fraser River, at 21801 Allard Crescent, Langley BC. There are picnic tables and outdoor washroom facilities available. We will not try to host a meeting at this picnic but hope you might like to join us for a social afternoon.

**Please note: This area (including the washrooms) is wheelchair accessible.
We will send out a reminder and more information in August.**

BCRTA AGM Delegates - 2021-2022

The BCRTA AGM will, once again, be an online zoom meeting. **Sue Mackenzie, Gail Chaddock-Costello and Yole Proserpi-Porta** will participate in that meeting on behalf of our branch. **George Main** will be our alternate, in the event that one of our elected delegates is unable to participate.

Gluu Classes Continue Online



Many of our members have been taking the online computer classes with Linda Fawcus and "Gluu Society". They have been terrific lessons with replay options. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful expert and dedicated presenter offering her classes to all seniors. We are still hoping we can organize the photo workshop some day.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

~Submitted by Maureen Wilson~



Because we have not been meeting 'in person' over the past year, all of our invitations to our Zoom events have been done electronically. We have been successful in having our interested members pre-register for these events via e-mail, and everything has gone very smoothly. It is the hope, of course, that soon we will be able to hold larger gatherings because it is so nice to actually meet people 'face-to-face'!

SUNSHINE REPORT

~Submitted by Jacquie Hollybow~



The LRTA sends cards to members who are experiencing a significant illness and to the family of members who die. Our '85 years plus' members also receive a Christmas card.

Please contact Jacquie Hollybow (604 888-7020; e-mail: jhollybow@hotmail.com) if you are aware of a member who fits either of these criteria

IT'S RETIREMENT TIME AGAIN!

The following is a list of retiring teachers and administrators (A), as of press time. I apologize, in advance, if I have left anyone off the list. We look forward to many of them joining our group. If you are in contact with any of our new retirees, please ask them to e-mail me at Lrta.35@gmail.com with a personal e-mail address or phone number. It is quite possible that their school district e-mail address will have expired by now. Also, please feel free to forward them the attached poster to any teacher contemplating retirement.

<i>Greg Anslow</i>	<i>Kathy Fahrenholtz</i>	<i>Victoria Meyer</i>	<i>Sherri Silcox-Burk</i>
<i>Kenna Arnusch</i>	<i>Harry Frank</i>	<i>Pat Muench</i>	<i>Richard Sinilaid</i>
<i>Maria (Toni) Belton</i>	<i>Laurence Greeff</i>	<i>Vicky Mufford</i>	<i>Britta Stakelbeck</i>
<i>Meriza Bennington</i>	<i>John Kuo</i>	<i>Michael Ostafiew</i>	<i>Astrid Thom</i>
<i>David Brummitt</i>	<i>Stefano Marazzi</i>	<i>Raj Powar</i>	<i>Steven Thompson</i>
<i>Brenda Dancy</i>	<i>Maureen McBride</i>	<i>Sarban Sangha</i>	<i>Cristina Watson</i>
<i>Aubrey Fahrenholtz</i>	<i>Janice McLeod</i>	<i>Yale Shap</i>	<i>Bonnie Wiebe</i>

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE -- ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP!

Join the BCRTA, and receive your first year FREE!!



Here is a direct link <https://bcрта.ca/join/> (you can copy and paste the URL into your browser window). **This offer is for anyone who has never joined the BCRTA, not only for new retirees.** So, if you know a teacher who has retired in previous years, but has not yet joined the BCRTA, please let them know of this unique opportunity.

We are trying to be environmentally aware, as well as save on printing and mailing costs, by sending electronic copies of our newsletters, wherever possible. If we do not have your current e-mail address and you would like to be part of our 'green team' and receive your newsletter via e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing us at: Lrta.35@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP/BCRTA WEBSITE LIAISON REPORT

~ Submitted by Maureen Wilson ~



The Langley Branch of the BCRTA is one of the largest and most actively supported branches in the province. This year, we 14 new members, and now have a total of 505 members. We are pleased to welcome those who have joined us this past year.

Until a few years ago, the BCRTA gave special recognition to members who reached the age of 85 and beyond by designating them as **LIFETIME MEMBERS** and no longer required the payment of yearly BCRTA or local RTA branch fees. Now, one has to reach the age of 90 for such recognition.

The LRTA executive felt that our members who were aged 85 to 89 also deserved some special recognition, so we have given them the honour of being our **DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS**. Usually our distinguished and lifetime members were invited to our May luncheon/AGM as our special guests, receiving a corsage/boutonnier and were treated to a free lunch at Newlands. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have had to miss yet, another, May luncheon. So instead, I am posting a list of these special members and extend our congratulations for their long-standing membership. I apologize, in advance, if I have missed someone who qualifies for one of these prestigious honours. If you know of a member who should be on the list, please contact me (Maureen Wilson) at 604-916-0653, or email me at lta.35@gmail.com.

LIFETIME MEMBERS - aged 90 plus (as of June 2021)

Jean Hope	Eleanor Leblanc	Fay Morelli	Dorscie Paterson
Joyce Robinson	Jean Ryley		

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS - aged 85-89 (as of June 2021)

Rosemary Allen	Mabel Gardin	Jean Ritchie	Luz Verzosa
Erica Blackstock	Ruth Harris	Lily Suzuki	Kathleen Wagner
Ralph Carter	Jean Mark	Christine Toth	Patricia Whitworth
Lois Comerford	Maureen Pepin	Donald Urquhart	

Our branch is represented on the web at www.bcrta.ca and on our very own web page at <http://www.langleyrta.ca>. By investigating these sites you will be able to find an abundance of information about our branch! All executive members' names and contact information are listed on both sites. As Membership chair, I encourage both members and non-members to contact me with any membership questions or concerns at lta.35@gmail.com.

This year BCRTA is encouraging all retired teachers to fill in a registration form in order to receive a year of free membership in both the BCRTA **AND** Langley branch. Here's a direct link to the BCRTA membership page - <http://www.bcrta.ca/membership> - where you can either *download* a BCRTA membership application, fill it out and mail it in, or fill one out *online* and e-mail it to laurie@bcrta.com

Don't forget to note that you would like to join the BCRTA **AND** the Langley Branch.

Belonging to the BCRTA provides us all with benefits and privileges that would otherwise not be possible. Yearly dues are necessary to support the effort of those that advocate for the rights and interests of retired teachers. At the branch level, the yearly fee is important as it allows the executive to plan luncheons, pay speakers and organize special activities. In addition, the Langley School District Foundation provides scholarships each year to Langley school graduates planning a teaching career.

Let's Go Report
~Submitted by Judy deVries~



Things are indeed looking up.
And as we "normalize" in stages, the "Let's Go" activities will be able to resume.

We will keep you posted on upcoming events this fall.

Orest Pyrch and the Metro Vancouver Friendship Force
~ Submitted by Donna Pyrch and Pearl Wong ~



Orest has always been a champion of diversity and peace. As a university student, he gave up his studies in science to become a teacher and continued to attain a Masters Degree in Special Education and eventually a Doctorate in the same field. He always wanted to promote the well being of individuals with physical and mental disabilities, as well those who are disadvantaged, in Canada and other countries.

Early in 2005, a friend's cousin from Lethbridge, Alberta visited us. He was a member of the Lethbridge chapter of *Friendship Force International*. His experiences and the values of FFI sparked a keen interest in this organization in Orest and he envisioned bringing this concept to Metro Vancouver as he felt we have a lot to offer visitors from other countries. Orest began a more detailed search into the organization and discovered that a rep would be arriving in the Lower Mainland soon. He became charged with excitement and gathered our closest friends to listen to a senior representative of the Canadian chapters of FFI from Ottawa. She was able to provide more detailed information and helped Orest set the path towards obtaining a Charter for our club. We received our Charter in 2005.

Then the real work began. We were faced with having two incoming Friendship Force clubs the next year - one from Pau, France and the other from Hertfordshire, England. Finding host families, organizing activities, and making arrangements for transportation was a monumental task. He had to enlist friends and neighbours to offer their homes for bed and breakfast as our club was too small to provide accommodations at that time. Luckily, we were able to provide each club with a fun filled program without any problems.

In early 2007, our club was given the opportunity to travel to New Zealand where we were hosted by Friendship Force members in both the North and South islands of that country. Since then, our club has grown to include members from Langley to North Vancouver. We have annual opportunities to both host and travel to visit Friendship Force clubs from all around the world. Many members have developed lifelong friendships here and abroad practicing acceptance, knowledge of our diverse world and promoting peace and love to all.



Orest Pyrch passed away in November 2020. To honour the founder of Friendship Force Metro Vancouver, club members decided to plant a memorial tree & plaque at the *Derek Doubleday arboretum*, just west of the Langley airport. We hope to bring ambassadors from other clubs there for a walk & picnic when journeys are allowed to start again.



Friendship Force clubs are in more than 60 countries and in 6 continents. The mission is to promote global understanding & goodwill through homestay journeys.

For more information, go to <https://www.friendshipforce.org> . For information about Friendship Force Metro Vancouver, contact **Hilda Miller** at hildegard007@shaw.ca



Ronald William Bunting
1947 - 2020

Let the memory of Ronald be with us forever

- 73 years old
- Born on June 29, 1947 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Passed away on September 13, 2020 in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada

Ronald William Bunting lived his life fully with and for other people. He was driven by kindness, he sought equality and fairness in everything he did, and he loved to inspire play and curiosity. He had a generous and warm spirit and he filled his life with a deep and profound love.

Ron believed in sport. He believed in the power of athletic accomplishment to lift everyone up—no matter who was playing. He loved watching the highest levels of sport: soccer, hockey, track and field, rugby, tennis... name a sport and he would watch it in intimate detail. But he would also watch U6 soccer, or the ten year old trying the hurdles for the first time, with the same thoughtful attention. This was his super power. He was so completely generous with his time and attention to the people who were pushing themselves to be better. He had a natural ability to place himself in other peoples shoes and this came out when coaching or as a spectator, where he would often be found taking the shot from the side-line, the couch, or the stands.

He had a sharp tongue that would never bite. He loved to be social and could easily parry back a witty retort to anyone, from his own family, to the star athlete, to the timid five year old in kindergarten—always from a place of kindness and play. He was so animated when reading a story and his attention and excitement was infectious.

Ron also had a deep connection to the quiet of nature and he loved a good vista. The most peaceful moments he had were those in reflection overlooking nature. He stayed connected to it by wearing sandals in the winter and lining his office with paintings of mountains, forests, wolves, and deer.

Ron gave so much love to everyone he knew and that love will forever be with all of us.



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Thanks,

Maureen Wilson ~ editor of 'Open Road', the LRTA newsletter