



Fall 2021

🌸 No Bell Picnic 2021 A Success! 🌸



We had a beautiful sunny day for the "No Bell" picnic and enjoyed the opportunity to get together outdoors and celebrate our 35 years as an independent branch of the BCRTA.



We also welcomed several of our new or recent retirees - **Sally Milligan, Patty Muench, Angela Weber, Astrid Thom, Vicky Mufford, and Nola Cilliers**. Welcome also to **Elaine Hindson** who joined our branch from Chilliwack and **Louise Morris** who has joined us from Maple Ridge.

Thanks to everyone for making it such a fun day! Special thank you to those members who helped us with the tasks to make the day successful.





Some of your executive members from left to right: **Annette O'Connor** (Member-at-large), **Sue Mackenzie** (President), **Maureen Wilson** (Past President, Membership, Newsletter), **George Main** (Website), **Judy de Vries** (Member-at-large), **Gail Chaddock-Costello** (Vice President), **Maureen Pepin** (Member-at-large) Missing from photo: **John Salmon** (Treasurer), **Yole Proserpi-Porta** (Secretary), **Jacque Hollybow** (Sunshine & Showers) and **Jan Bryce** (Programs)



**AND ... FOR OUR NEXT GET-TOGETHER, LET'S MEET AT ADRIAN'S**



We have planned an LRTA 'in-person' pre-Christmas get-together at *Adrian's at the Airport* for **Wednesday, December 8, 2020**. You will have three menu items to choose from. We are planning to keep the luncheon cost to about \$25.

Pre-registration will be required and all attending must have their vaccine passport and enter with mask.

More details will follow in **November**. If you would like to attend the upcoming luncheon and are receiving your newsletter **by Canada Post ONLY**, as you do not have email access, **please phone me (Maureen Wilson) @ 604-916-0653 to pre-register**. Others with email access, you can pre-register online in November.



## October Greetings from Sue



I hope everyone managed to enjoy Thanksgiving weekend and found ways to spend time with friends and/or family. The pandemic has certainly encouraged us to find creative ways to keep in touch with those we are unable to see in person. FaceTime, Zoom, WhatsApp and other technology apps that we never thought we were going to use, have become a part of many of our lives.

Speaking of technology, for those who registered for the BCRTA conference, you may have listened to the presentation with **Linda Fawcus (Gluu Technology)**. We know Linda from our Gluu sessions that some members participated in at the SBO in the wonderful days before COVID. Other members may have signed up for her online sessions available through the website: [www.gluusociety.org](http://www.gluusociety.org). Linda has received grants and has worked tirelessly helping seniors across Canada become familiar with technology devices and the tremendous benefits to them, including digital security. Once again she is offering her **FREE** classes to seniors online. Maureen, editor of *Open Road*, our branch's newsletter, has included more details in this newsletter on the classes and how to register.

Also **Seniors Health and Wellness Institute** have been offering their Personal Planning series of 6 sessions (presented by Terry Wright) on Representation Agreements, Advance Directives, Wills and Estates that some of you have signed up for through Zoom. These sessions started with an overview on October 7th and will run on Thursdays until November 18th. You can still register for each session that is of interest to you. Again see more details in this newsletter on how to register. **HealthLinkBC** also has a website that includes the resource called "**My Voice**" - that is a document you can download for more information on this topic. You can order a print copy by calling 1-800-663-6105 toll free.

As mentioned previously, we are planning a luncheon for December 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope that you will attend, if it feels comfortable and safe to do so. It will require a vaccine passport and photo ID to attend. Please note: masks are mandatory when you are not seated at your table. We will all be so grateful when we can actually get together in a risk-free way!!

Thanks once again to Maureen for putting together our "*Open Road*" newsletter.

**Special greetings to all of you from our members who are far away but keep in touch: Greetings from Terry Eastman sailing in the Mediterranean and Barry and Barb Hill now living in New Zealand.**

Take care and stay healthy

Sue Mackenzie

President LRTA

[lta.suem@gmail.com](mailto:lta.suem@gmail.com)

TREASURER'S REPORT  
~Submitted by John Salmon~

| Abbreviated Financial Statement | July 1, 2020 - June 24, 2021 |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bank Balance July 1, 2020       | \$11,252.69                  |
| Receipts                        | \$4,710.00                   |
| Balance before Payments         | <b>\$15,962.69</b>           |
| Payments                        | \$2,660.00                   |
| Bank Balance June 24, 2021      | <b>\$13,302.69</b>           |

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT  
~Submitted by Maureen Wilson~



In past years, invitations have been sent out in past years for our brunch and luncheons by email or phone. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be introducing 'in-person' luncheons, a little at a time, as restrictions are gradually lifted. As previously mentioned, we are having our first 'in-person' luncheon at *Adrian's at the Airport* on **Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. We are looking forward to seeing you there, if you feel safe in doing so. At present, **vaccine passports**

**will be required for entry into the establishment, and masks are mandatory**, except when seated at your table.

As we still have a number of members who have no access to email, we will need to have a phoning committee. If you are interested in helping out with the phoning, please contact me (**Maureen Wilson**) at <lrta.35@gmail.com> or phone me at 604-916-0653.

**If you are receiving this email by SNAIL MAIL ONLY and are interested in receiving a phone call regarding future luncheons, please phone me (604-916-0653).**



RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Thank you to **LRTA members** who continue to donate to the **Retired Educators' Scholarship 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 LRTA to donate monies received from members' fees. In addition, fundraising by the LRTA 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 scholarships each year. Simply mail a cheque 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 sent via email.

**BCRTA Conference Report**  
*Respectfully submitted by Sue Mackenzie*

**September 30, - Day 1**



**Presenter Linda Fawcus from Gluu Technology Society** began by “walking us through the technology breakthroughs creating headlines and transforming our lives right now”. Linda discussed digital security tips and the importance of being cautious and mindful of data breaches. She also took us through some of her predictions about what the world will look like in 10 years from now to 30 years from now. Linda will be offering her free online series once again with pre-registration available sometime mid to late October. ***We will send more information once we get additional information.***

**The Golden Star** awards were given out to Sentinel Secondary School in West Vancouver, Ray Shepherd Elementary in Surrey and Mundy Road Elementary in Coquitlam as well as Thetis Island Elementary for their programs involving seniors. The next Postscript will have more information for you to read about the individual programs.



**Gerry Tiede** reported from ACER-CART and Dave Scott awarded the Membership Growth awards. We received the second highest growth award for the mid-size branches in the province based on percentage increase and second highest in the province for the number of new members. We had 24 new members and a 4.86% increase.

**Lisa Hansen from Johnson Insurance** provided a brief update on the changes to coverage based on the requests of members.



BCRTA celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a slide show featuring submissions from most of the branches within the province. The Langley executive submitted a video from our zoom executive meeting congratulating the BCRTA and highlighting Langley contributions.

**October 1 - Day 2**



**Presenter - Dr. James McCormick** from the Pharmacy Department at UBC on “The Nutrition Proposition” Dr. McCormick presented information on the inconsistency of the information and advice given by various diets and food products. He looked at what the “best available evidence says about nutrition” and recommended moderation and a healthy skepticism when looking at the advertisements and claims made that are not supported by verifiable research and studies.

**Presenter - Brian Minter, Master Gardener** - presented “Reconnecting People to Plants, Wildlife and the Planet.” Brian looked at environmental sensitivity and new plants that have greater weather tolerance and superior disease resistance. He also looked at the popularity of growing food in containers and some of the urban vertical gardening trends.



## October 2, - Day 3

**AGM Delegates only** - Yole Prosperi-Porta and Sue Mackenzie were the delegates from Langley attending the virtual AGM.



**R.R. Smith Report:** Barb Mikulec, President of R.R. Smith, reported that every member's \$2 yearly donation went directly into grants totalling \$35,000 as reported in an earlier Postscript. Barb also reported that the six universities (that were granted a share of \$150,000 back in 2006) set up bursary programs in their education/PDP programs continue to award many students, as that fund continues to be carefully managed and continues to grow. Those universities are UBC, SFU, U of Victoria, U of Northern BC, Thompson Rivers University and Vancouver Island University.



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>President</b> - Grace Wilson   |   |
| <b>1st Vice President</b> - Arnie Lambert   |   |
| <b>2nd Vice President</b> - Caroline Malm   |   |
| <b>ACER-CART</b> (2 yr term)  | • Steve Bailey  |
| Directors -   |   |
| <b>INSIDE Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions</b> (2 yr terms)                 | • Pat Thiesen<br>• Brenda Jones                               |
| Directors -   |   |
| <b>OUTSIDE Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Regions</b> (2 yr terms)<br>(1 yr term) | • Terry Green<br>• Elaine Thompson<br>• Stephanie Koropatnick |

**President's Report** - Grace Wilson reported on some of the highlights for the past year.



**Tim Anderson - BCRTA Executive Director** - presented the PostScript awards in all the different categories and he explained how important the PostScript magazine was to our members as indicated by recent survey only topped by our Pension Benefits and Security. He indicated members enjoy the magazine and the best contributions come from our own members. Tim mentioned the continuation of Highlights and the increase in the budget to include more funds for possible increased staffing needs. Tim says, "*BCRTA has shown a can-do attitude that takes on challenges as they come, and the past year has only made us stronger, more energized and more engaged.*"

**BCRTA Finances** - review of the budget and the 2021 audited financial statements were voted and approved.

- The BCRTA will retain MNP as its auditor for 2021-2022 year - **carried**
- The draft budget was adopted as proposed - **carried**

The continuation of provincial restrictions resulted in a budget surplus of approximately \$245,630.00 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. It was reported that the unexpected events of the future could have as negative an effect on the balance as this past year has increased it. Possible office arrangements circumstances could change. At this point it is hard to predict, but BCRTA are planning an in-person conference and AGM in 2022.

**Committee Reports - Advocacy, Communications, Excellence in Education, Heritage, Membership Member Well-being, Pensions and Benefits, Personnel** - full reports available through Postscript publication. BCRTA

**Delegates to March 2022 AGM** - Nomination deadline was **September 30, 2021** - Names not available at the time of the AGM.



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.



### SUNSHINE/SHOWERS REPORT



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](mailto:jhollybow@hotmail.com)) if you are aware of a member who fits either of these criteria.

Unfortunately, since our last newsletter, several of our members and former colleagues have passed away. Although I am only mentioning their names in the newsletter, I have attached their obituaries for those who did not previously see them in the paper or online.

**Shirley Sawyer** passed away on August 10, 2021 at the age of 91.

Her first teaching job was in a one-room school in Paxton Valley, BC. From there she went to Salmon Arm where she met the love of her life, John, who taught in the local high school. They married and moved to Langley where mom raised her children and taught elementary school.



**Dorscie Paterson** passed away on August 13, 2021 at the age of 108. Dorscie, who taught in Vancouver many years ago, was best known as the founder of the **Langley Hospice Society**, where she volunteered for many years.

**Terry Pratt** passed away on August 13, 2021 at the age of 77. Terry enjoyed several years as a classroom teacher, but in both Langley and Surrey she was best known and much admired for her work with children who needed special assistance: Hospital and Homebound, Visually Impaired, Dependently Handicapped, ESL, Literacy. In individual schools, and as a district helping teacher, Terry dedicated herself to children with special needs.



**Paul MacDonald** passed away on August 25, 2021 at the age of 75. Paul was a charter SFU grad and taught for 36 years in Langley, Grades 4/5, primarily at Langley Fundamental Elementary.





**Lynne Powlik** passed away on September 27, 2021 at the age of 77. Lynne taught French Immersion at Blacklock Elementary, and was also an active volunteer in her retirement.

**Fred de Vries** passed away on October 1, 2021 at the age of 91. I had the privilege of teaching with Fred at North Otter for several years. He and I shared a common interest in music. Fred would always regale the staff with stories of his huge garden and his bees. We were often the recipients of jars of honey. We send our condolences to his wife, Judy, who is a member of our current LRTA executive.



## 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. As of August of this year, we have a total of 514 members. We are pleased to welcome our 24 members who have joined us this past year for a growth rate of 4.86%.

*The LRTA, as a mid-sized branch (200-500 members), came in second for membership percentage growth! Only Parksville-Qualicum beat us out.*

Our branch is represented on the web at [www.bcrta.ca](http://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](mailto:lta.35@gmail.com).

This year all retired teachers who have not yet joined the BCRTA, should 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](mailto: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 to Langley school graduates planning a teaching career. This past year, they were able to award eight scholarships of \$800 each.



COSCO held a virtual conference '**Living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - A Seniors Strategy**' on September 27 and 28. It was very successful with very interesting speakers. Information from the conference will be on the COSCO website [coscobc.org](http://coscobc.org).

November 5,6 and 7 COSCO members took part in the National Pensioners Federation convention. '**Access and Equity for Seniors**'. This convention was also very successful with excellent national speakers. Information from the convention will be on the NPF website [nationalpensionersfederation.ca](http://nationalpensionersfederation.ca).

The information from these two events will contribute to COSCO's planning for the next year.

The following activities may be of interest to our members, so check them out.



Seniors' Health and Wellness Institute  
cosco

Presents...

Personal Planning Workshops via Zoom because...

Everyone needs a plan **before** a crisis happens!



**Personal Planning** involves making arrangements, while you are capable (or able), in case you need help managing your affairs should you become unable to speak for yourself. Personal planning covers all areas of your life: health care, personal care, legal affairs, and financial affairs. In BC there are three types of legal documents for personal planning:

- Enduring Power of Attorney
- Representation Agreements
- Advance Directive

Click the link to be directed to the website where you will be able to register for the remaining sessions:

<https://seniorshelpingseniors.ca/fall-2021-personal-planning-workshops/>

**TOPIC 3: ADVANCE DIRECTIVE -- TIME: Thursday, October 21, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

An Advance Directive is a document that you use to define your personal health care wishes in the event of an emergency. Creating an advance directive takes the results of your advance care plan and outlines how you might proceed, including brief overviews of the legal documents you may want to prepare to ensure specific aspects of your wishes are given legal standing to further ensure they are known and followed.

**TOPIC 4: POWER OF ATTORNEY -- TIME: Thursday, October 28, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

There are four types of Power of Attorney [PoA]; most people are familiar with only one. In this workshop we discuss all four types, consider when you need a PoA, what potential problems there might be with one, considerations for selecting and appointing an Attorney, and what that Attorney's duties are, as well as how to change your Attorney if needed.

**TOPIC 5: REPRESENTATION AGREEMENTS -- TIME: Thursday, November 4, 2021, 10:30 a.m.**

These legal and binding documents allow an individual to have someone else speak for them should they be incapable of speaking for themselves, whether it is concerning health and personal care or routine financial affairs. There are two types of Representation Agreements in B.C., and we discuss their importance and their differences. In addition, we consider criteria for choosing your Representative as we outline the duties and responsibilities of that role.

**TOPIC 6: WILLS -- TIME: Thursday, November 18, 2021, 10:30, a.m.**

We review the legal rules for preparing wills in B.C. the duties of an executor, legal terminology, and pitfalls to avoid.

Attached to this email, is a document entitled '**Personal Planning Overview**'. Included in the document are links to resources on this topic.



LET'S GO GROUP

~Submitted by Judy de Vries~

If you are interested in what is coming up, please let me know (Judy de Vries) @ [judydevries@me.com](mailto:judydevries@me.com) and I will put you on the *Let's Go* list. If you have any changes in your new email address, please let me know.



## A practical guide for senior drivers

Are you nearing 80?  
Wondering about driver assesment?  
You should attend our virtual workshop.

This practical guide for senior drivers will help you learn more about driver assessment. It will be of particular interest to drivers who are nearing the age of 80. However, drivers of any age are welcome to participate and the workshop will be useful for anybody.

The workshop is a joint presentation of the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of B.C. and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia. Participants will learn about the ICBC and Road Safety B.C. assessment which determines whether they can continue to drive.

This *free* workshop will be held via Zoom on:

**Wednesday, November 3 at 1:00 pm**

To register, email [pither470@shaw.ca](mailto:pither470@shaw.ca)



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: [lrrta.35@gmail.com](mailto:lrrta.35@gmail.com)

Thanks,

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