

BRTA MATTERS

Volume 57 Newsletter of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association October 2021

Christmas Luncheon

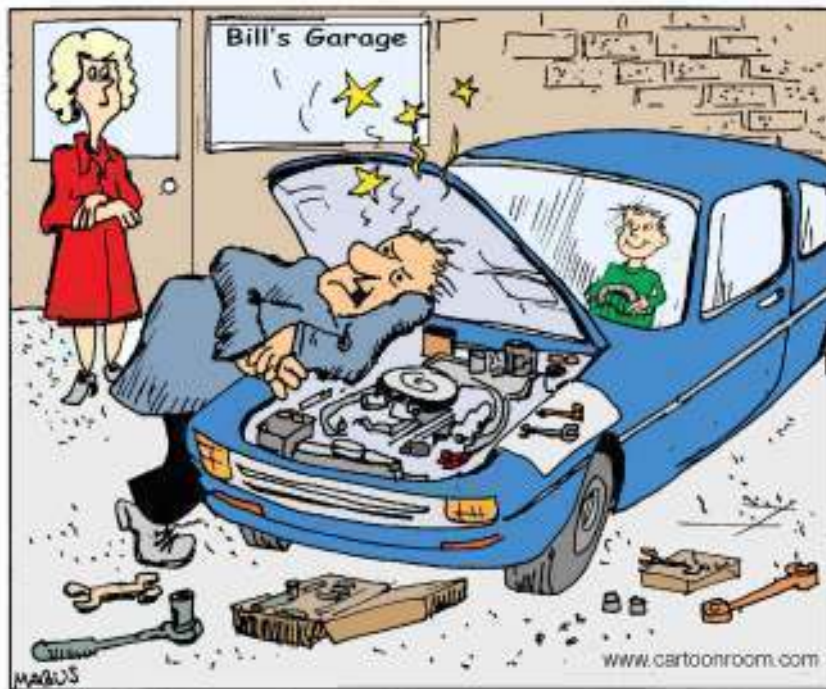
Presidents Message: Rennie Maierle

We are tentatively planning a Christmas luncheon for Tuesday, December 1 at the Burnaby golf course. The luncheon would be buffet style. The cost per guest would be approximately \$25. I'm told that they could accommodate 80 guests. At our last Christmas luncheon in 2019, we had over 100 guests.



We need to let the golf course management know if we plan to move ahead by mid November. To see if there was enough interest, I would appreciate getting an email letting me know that you would attend. Please email me at rmaierle@telus.net at your earliest convenience. If there is enough interest, we will confirm a plan in November.

Protocols for the luncheon would be the same as you might expect for being in a restaurant. All guests would have to wear a mask and have a vaccination passport.



Ma'am, the work would go better if your son would stop blowing the horn while I'm working on the motor.

BCRTA Conference

Because of Covid, the annual BCRTA conference and AGM was held online. This year, the conference was video streamed on 'Utube'. If you still want to see any part of the conference, just open 'Utube' and enter the words BCRTA conference 2021. You will find a link for each day. The speakers at the conference were very informative.

I would especially recommend listening to Linda Fawcus. Her non-profit society helps seniors learn how to use technology (glusociety.org). Her topic on October 1 was about the future of technology and how to protect yourself from being scammed.



BURNABY RTA EXECUTIVE

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Rennie Maierle | President | 294-3570 | rmaierle@telus.net |
| D'Arcy Bader | Vice President | 438-8732 | bad5120@gmail.com |
| Marion Hartley | Well-Being Committee | 434-0486 | mdhartley@telus.net |
| Marilyn Bullock | Secretary | 929-1919 | stumare@telus.net |
| Dave Carter | Newsletter Editor | 469-0263 | goodguys1@shaw.ca |
| Janet White | Director | 433-4373 | jwhite@telus.net |
| Ruth Nicholson | Director | 526-9222 | rdtoffee@gmail.com |
| Ilse Armanini | Phone Coordinator | 762-2756 | zoepoodle3878@gmail.com |
| Elizabeth Beer | Sunshine, Condolences, | 524-1507 | ebeer@hotmail.com |
| Marguerite Henderson | Treasurer | | |
| | Scholarship Treasurer | 544-2611 | tmhenders@shaw.ca |
| Gail MacDonald | Director | 524-8716 | hgmac@telus.net |
| Miriam Borys Busby | Director | 220-7746 | mlborys@telus.net |
| Barb Stoliker | Director and Christmas Outreach | 319-2690 | barbstoliker@gmail.com |
| Leslie Lennox | Director | | lesliejlennox@gmail.com |

Editor-Dave Carter **Production**-Elizabeth Beer **Distribution**-Ilse Armanini, Marguerite Henderson

No longer with us-Helen Shearer, Helmut Lemke, Caroline Bernard, Jinny Sall and Dennis Emmett

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation

c/o Burnaby School District, 5325 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, B.C, V5G 1W2

Yes, I would like to support the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation. I understand the money will be used to support graduating students in their future studies.

Enclosed is my cheque for \$25 \$50 \$100 other

A tax receipt will be issued

Signature

Address

Name (Please Print)

City Province Postal Code

BRTA TREASURER'S REPORT- September 2021

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Balance as of March 31st, 2021 | \$11 506.01 |
| Income Membership Fees \$20.00 | Expenses-Newsletter-Printing \$89.60 |
| Balance as of January 30, 2021 \$11 339 .80 | Postage \$96.60 |

BRTA SCHOLARSHIPS-2021

| | \$1 000.00 BRTA Scholarship | \$3 000.00 Wynn Richmond Bursary |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Burnaby Central | Vibhor Gautam | Katelyn Da Silva |
| Moscrop | Julia Kropivny | Justin Low |
| Byrne Creek | Kavi Shandramohan | Ruby Romero |
| Burnaby North | Sophia Wang | Kiara Araujo |
| Burnaby South/BCSD | Sunny Chang | Katey Lyons |
| Cariboo Hill | Isabella Carter | Angelina Di Geso |
| Alpha | Lisa Sahatciu | Emily Ma |
| Burnaby Mountain | Justine Bayer | Aries Fung |

DISTRICT #41 Responds to COVID-19

Building Community and Connection

Teachers, students and families have found new ways to build community and support each other in the midst of COVID-19. Throughout the District, signs were seen in school windows saying "we miss you." Several schools also created videos and photo collages on social media to share how much they cared. **For example, staff at École Cariboo Hill Secondary** brightened students' days on social media with a series of TikTok videos.

Others, such as **Parkcrest, Taylor Park, Suncrest, Aubrey, Brentwood Park, and Gilmore** went straight to families. School staff – each in their own vehicle, with physical distancing in mind – paraded throughout the streets past students' homes. Excited children went to their windows or ran to their doorsteps, with some greeting drivers on the sidewalk with homemade signs.

Supporting Health Care Workers

In addition to the direct support inside schools for children whose parents are essential service workers, students also showed appreciation for those on the frontlines of COVID-19. In school projects at **Inman** and **Clinton Elementary** students wrote supportive messages, like: "thank you for helping everyone in need, you save lives." A **Burnaby North Secondary** student provided comfort for health care workers by mobilizing his 3D printer. Aaron Lu received widespread media coverage after producing plastic parts that attach to masks, making the long hours of wearing safety equipment easier on the ears. A teacher at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** joined in with support, also putting 3D printers to good use. Cassie Der made ear savers for first responders and a prototype for part of a face shield.

R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation-a Summary

-the fund was founded in 1969 in the memory of Robert Reid Smith, a former leader of the retired teachers in BC

-in 1985, the Teachers' Investment and Housing Corporation went bankrupt and the R.R. Smith account was wiped out

-in 1992 the R.R. Smith Fund was reactivated

-in 2000 the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund was established as a registered Canadian Charitable Organization

-in 2005 part of the fine levied against the BCTF (\$150 000) was used by the R.R. Smith Foundation to endow six B.C. Universities. UBC-\$50 000.00 University of Victoria-\$40 000.00 Simon Fraser University-\$22 000.00 University of Vancouver Island (Malaspina College/University) \$17 000.00 Thompson River University-\$10 000.00 and University of Northern British Columbia-\$10 000.00

-money for the R.R. Smith Fund has come from donations and interest and a one dollar (later increased to two dollars) fee from each member of the BCRTA

-in 2014 the Endowment Capital Fund stood at \$133 338.00 and the grants totaled \$16 000.00

-in 2016, the R.R. Smith Fund signed a "Deed of Gift" with the Vancity Community Foundation

-through donations and investment the Endowment Capital Fund in 2021 has increased to \$224 000.00 and the grant budget to \$50 000.00

-besides the regular members (elected at the R.R. Smith AGM), there are two other members who are appointed by the BCRTA

-Board members this year are: Barb Mikulec-Vancouver, Gail Chaddock Costello-Langley, Steve Bailey-Sunshine Coast, Shiela Pither-Vancouver, Sarah Joyce-Burnaby, Karen Kilbride-Surrey, Lynne Farquharson-Richmond and Dave Carter-Burnaby

-R.R. Smith administers Scholarship funds for the VRTA (Friends of the Vancouver Retired Teachers' Association), the Abbotsford Retired Teachers' Association (Friends of the Abbotsford Retired Teachers' Association and the North Shore Friends Retired Teachers' Association

-grant applications from Registered Canadian Charities are received by March 1st each year and at a subsequent meeting the Board decides which grants will be accepted. All grants are related to literacy both in B.C. and overseas

-contributions of more than \$20.00 receive a tax-deductible receipt

-local branches of the BCRTA are not required to endorse an application

-twenty-three grants were given in 2021 totaling \$42 600.00

-information about the work of the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation is available at www.rrsmith.ca

-"Enjoy the Journey" is a service to members developed by the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation and provides an opportunity for BCRTA/R.R. Smith members to travel in a small, escorted group setting with "Enjoy Tour and Travel". Click on www.enjoythejourney.ca to see the catalogue of trips

R.R. Smith celebrates 20 years of service this year!!!!

Thanksgiving Trivia Quiz-Members of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association Executive must pass stringent requirements to remain in office each year. Besides a credit and security check, the compulsory physical examination and the vision and hearing screening, they must score 100% on the annual Trivia Quiz. They all got 100% on this one and so will be back again this year!

1. Black Friday in the US is the biggest day of the year for what trade profession?
2. How many pounds does the average Thanksgiving turkey weigh?
a) 8 pounds b) 10 pounds c) 15 pounds d) 20 pounds
3. What is the most popular meat alternative to turkey on Thanksgiving?
4. What is the most popular Thanksgiving side dish?
5. What is a "snood"? (it has to do with turkeys!)
6. Where is the best place to put the meat thermometer in a turkey?
7. What is another name for the Pilgrims who came to the New World?
8. Approximately how many feathers does a full-grown turkey have?
a) 500 b) 1000 c) 2000 d) 3500
9. What is a baby turkey called?
10. In turkey-talk what are jacks and jennies?
11. Which culture birthed the idea of the cornucopia (horn of plenty)?
12. What do Koreans cook during Chuseok (Hangawi), their Thanksgiving?
13. What country celebrates Harvest Thanksgiving Festival in early October?
14. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, what was the world's heaviest turkey?
a) 42 pounds b) 52 pounds c) 64 pounds d) 86 pounds
15. What modern Thanksgiving food was used by Native Americans as a dye and to heal wounds?
16. A fifteen-pound turkey has what percentage of white meat?
17. What type of turkeys can fly?
18. How are cranberries tested to see if they are ripe?
19. What company has a Turkey Talk-Line?
20. In what American city was "turducken" created?

(Answers on bottom of last page)

Letter to the Editor: The pandemic changed so many aspects of my marriage to Bertha (my pet name for her is Akuji) and none more so than what we watched on the idiot box. I have to confess that we spent countless hours wallowing in Hallmark romantic comedies (hereafter referred to as Rom Coms) and I can't remember one thing unique about any of them. We did enjoy their predictability as there is only one plot line for every Rom Com. Boy meets girl at meet-cute. (A contrived circumstance that throws a couple together). The first kiss doesn't materialize due to some surprise interruption (also contrived), boy loses girl because of a misunderstood phone conversation or words said in haste or old wounds opened or a platonic hug of an old flame or job opportunity too good to miss or interference by friends or family or inability to deal with the loss of a previous spouse or sudden fear to commit to a relationship or the need for more time to fill in 122 minutes. Finally, boy gets girl and they.....

We also enjoyed the variety of the titles. Love in a Vineyard. Love at Sea. Love Forever. Forever Love. Valentine Love. Unrequited Love. Requited Love. Love Conquers All. Love Conquers Just About Everything. Love in a Canoe (for those of you who have tried to make love in a canoe, this was more Com than Rom), Love Your Afterglow (filmed in Chernobyl), Puppy Love (we almost didn't watch after learning it was filmed in a nudist colony. Turns out the girl and guy both had seeing-eye dogs and the mutts were the ones in love). Love In the Classroom (gorgeous female teacher falls for a philandering principal, they throw chalk at each other in the Stock Room, followed by a brush-off, then a quick snog and a fade to black of two people snuggled up on the bed in the Nurse's Room reading "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People"). Love Is a Many Gendered Thing (tribute to the LBGTQ Community), Ruined by Love (Pompey), Love in the Vegetable Aisle (he first admired her kumquats and they both tried to buy the last kohlrabi). Squeezed By Love (when his pet rat was introduced to her boa constrictor). Searching For Love (inspired by Mickey Rooney and Elizabeth Taylor) etc. etc.

I was especially fascinated by those treacle-dripping meet-cutes when the couple were involved in some activity which was obviously foreshadowing the courtship to follow. Throwing flour or paint at each other, a snowball fight, getting tangled in dog leashes, spattering mud from a guy's car, stealing the girl's taxi, mistaken identity, a flat tire, being lost, running out of gas etc. etc. I decided that if these first meetings were so important to Hallmark, (more important than plot, character, setting, theme, tone or style) I would create some of my own meet-cutes and try to arouse Bertha's affections.

Meet-cute # 1. Accidentally bumping into someone while carrying coffee, orange juice or kava seemed like a logical place to start. I waited in the dining room with a glass of water until I heard Bertha banging around in the kitchen. I quickly stepped through the door and there she was! Nowhere in any of the programs we watched was the woman carrying a large vat of boiling turkey gravy which engulfed an expectant lothario and scalded him from his neck to his nether regions! My screams were primeval! I never realized that burning flesh smelled so sweet and that charred clothing would actually adhere to open wounds. After extensive hospitalizations and numerous skin grafts, I was ready for meet-cute #2.

Meet-cute #2. This was not planned but an opportunity fell into my lap that was just too good to pass up. I was steadying a small step ladder while my first wife was tacking up a piece of wooden siding which had come loose. Falling off a ladder into the waiting arms of a would-be lover was a bread-and-butter ploy in many Rom Coms and did not have the danger of steaming turkey gravy. I accidentally (?) bumped the ladder with my foot causing it to gently gyrate and encouraging a falling body to swoon into my arms. Unfortunately, the body flew in the wrong direction and the nail gun she was using somehow managed to get off three shots before it hit the ground. The first nail imbedded itself into the large bandage I was wearing over my flesh wounds and did little damage. The other two got me square in the chest but luckily did not penetrate any vital organs. The ambulance driver was a member of a rock band and later said that their latest album "I Wanna Nail You Baby" with its lead song, "Two Tacks in the Thorax" were both inspired by me..

As I am still married, I have chosen to believe that I am forgiven and that there is a tacit invitation to launch meet-cute #3. I have already purchased charcoal, saltpeter and sulphur along with a timed fuse. I expect my third attempt will be impassioned, intense, turbulent, charged and volatile. The greatest of all meet-cutes! Stay tuned!

Harley Quinn

BURNABY SCHOOL BOARD (Two Pages)

NO SUMMER SLOWDOWN

Burnaby Schools were busy places over July and August. **Summer Session** was a hot choice for students and their families, with record enrolment of more than 8000 registrations. Students could choose core courses, as well as learning a new skill or pursuing an interest. Fun was also on order with everything from art and music to gardening and robotics.

For the second year in a row, Community School Coordinators from the District helped run a **Summer Food Hub** at **Byrne Creek Community School**. It was a true community partnership with more than 50 volunteers – including school district staff, trustees and other local elected leaders. The hub helped support more than 400 people: all students and their families from Byrne Creek and elementary schools in the area.

SHOWING OUR PRIDE

The Burnaby School District wants everyone in our school communities to show their true colours and celebrate who they are. Vancouver's annual Pride Parade was virtual again this year. We joined in on the festivities in August with this submission that formed part of the official online celebrations.

TAKING SHAPE: A NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Much progress on construction of the new **Burnaby North Secondary** was made over the summer. The photos from left to right were taken a day apart and show the first walls of the Theatre and Conference Centre going up. Work continues, with the new school expected to be complete in 2023. It will be ready early that year for North's 1800 students, along with space for childcare, adult education, and a conference centre.

EXPERIENCE IN CLASS INSPIRES STUDENT AUTHOR

While many people have ramped up enjoyment of their streaming services during the pandemic, a Grade 12 student at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** used the time without his typical activities to publish four books – including one inspired by what he learned about electronics at Cariboo. That book by **Keyaan Vegdani** guides the reader through a variety of electronics projects ranging from beginner to advanced. He asked his teacher to edit the book and included him in the dedication with thanks for showing “the fun in creating electrical contraptions.” Keyaan's books are garnering attention, with his most recent about Crohn's disease having been featured by CBC British Columbia. The student is donating a percentage of each purchase of that book to Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

A JOYFUL RETURN TO SPORTS

There were many smiles on the faces of student athletes across the District as school sports returned to high school – all with health and safety protocols at the forefront. Special thanks to the volunteers, school and District staff who help to make it happen. The competitions have already begun – with cross country and soccer student athletes from **Byrne Creek Community School**, **Burnaby Mountain** and **Burnaby North Secondary** schools seen here.

ELECTION LESSONS

While several of our schools hosted polling stations for the recent Federal election, classrooms throughout the District also used the occasion for a mock vote. The ones seen here are at **Parkcrest**, **Brentwood Park Elementary** and **Moscrop Secondary** schools. Learning opportunities included classroom discussions about the Canadian political process, and why it's important to have your

choice count. Some students, such as the Grade 4's work seen here from [Second Street Community School](#), also considered what they would do if they were Prime Minister.

THE BEAUTY OF OUTDOOR LEARNING: NEW MURAL

With school communities throughout the District embracing the benefits of learning outside, [Kitchener Elementary](#) started the school year with a new mural for their outdoor learning space. The massive 110-foot painting is the result of a large-scale community effort, created in partnership with the City of Burnaby. The reinvented outdoor space took the entire 2020-21 school year to complete, with preparation of the site by District maintenance staff starting last fall. Every student at Kitchener – from Kindergarten through Grade 7 – had a chance to put their mark on it. More than 350 people contributed their painting skills, including artists from the City's Community Arts Program.

KEEPING TERRY'S DREAM ALIVE

Students throughout the District help support Terry Fox's legacy by participating in their school run – several of which are happening today. Runs last week shown here are from [Buckingham, Brantford](#) and [South Slope Elementary](#) schools. Collectively school communities raise thousands of dollars to support cancer research. Students also discuss Terry's heroic efforts and think about how they, too, can help be positive agents of change in both big and small ways.

ONGOING JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION

This is **Truth and Reconciliation Week**. Schools throughout the District are honouring those who attended residential schools, acknowledging what was taken away & reinforcing that every *child matters*. In recognition, flags at schools and all District sites will be lowered to half mast every day this week. As part of the learning, students and staff are again participating in Orange Shirt Day. Indigenous principles of learning are also important day-to-day, as we move forward together in an ongoing journey of reconciliation. Earlier in the month, a class at [École Brantford Elementary](#) wrote messages for survivors of residential schools and wishes for the missing Indigenous children. Each Grade 6 and 7 student then folded their message into an origami crane. Collectively, the display is intended to serve as a symbol of hope and healing.

STUDENT HONOURED FOR ACT OF BRAVERY

It was a hero's welcome for [Marlborough](#) student **Josh Johnson** at a special celebration in the presence of his family, firefighters, community members and dignitaries. The Burnaby Fire Department presented the eleven-year-old with an award for bravery for his part in rescuing his grandmother from their burning home in 2018. He also received a guaranteed spot in the Youth Fire Academy when he reaches Grade 11, should he choose it.

Answers to Thanksgiving Trivia Quiz

1. Plumbers
2. 15 pounds
3. Ham
4. Stuffing
5. A wattle or the red piece of skin under a turkey's neck
6. Thigh
7. Puritans
8. 3 500
9. Poul or chick
10. Young male and female turkeys
11. Ancient Greece
12. Rice Cakes
13. Germany
14. 86 pounds
15. Cranberries
16. 70%
17. Wild turkeys
18. They are bounced
19. 1-800-BUTTERBALL
19. New Orleans