

2021 CONFERENCE

NOW AVAILABLE TO STREAM



CONFERENCE:
SEP 30 & OCT 1
AGM: OCT 2
www.bcrta.ca
BCRTA
BC Retired Teachers' Association



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS WOW ATTENDEES

BCRTA's Conference 2021 continued our tradition of engaging and informative presentations with a free online conference that ran for two mornings on September 30 and October 1, 2021.

Moderator Caroline Malm put together an impressive line-up of keynote speakers, who lived up to the anticipation.

Technology trainer Linda Fawcus spoke on the topic of "Cyber Wellness", touching on the changes in technology, the particular needs of retirees, and security considerations in today's environment. [Her keynote session is available online.](#)

James McCormack, a professor from UBC who has won teaching awards at the provincial, national

continued...

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and international levels, offered a presentation on nutrition that served up equal parts of whimsy and scientific method. [McCormack's data-packed talk is now posted on the BCRTA website.](#)

The final keynote address was given by Brian Minter, the master gardener known nationally for his personable media presence. With his many years as an advocate for home gardening, Minter offered a thoughtful perspective on how gardening can address the needs of society today in his talk "Reconnecting People to Plants, Wildlife, and the Planet".

[Brian Minter's talk is now available to stream.](#)

After a year's delay, this year's conference marked the celebration of BCRTA's 75th anniversary, and featured a montage of tributes sent from across Canada and from branches across BC. Our association has made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of retirees for the past three quarters of a century. [The tribute video is now available on YouTube.](#)

The conference was rounded out by our annual traditions of the [Golden Star Awards](#), branch [Membership Awards](#), and our celebration of member contributions to our magazine in the [2021 PostScript Excellence Awards](#), as noted on other pages of this issue of Connections.

Well done, everyone!

Some Conference Viewer Comments

- *The speakers were very informative and there was a good scope of information. The entire 3 days were informative, motivating and just all around great.*
- *I really enjoyed the Conference. The presenters provide excellent information in a thought-provoking manner.*
- *The whole Conference and AGM was well run and the speakers were timely and enjoyable. The virtual version worked very well.*
- *Excellent job done by all involved. Great presenters.*
- *Excellent, well organized, and engaging conference. Well done!*
- *Liked the Gold Star Awards and the Postscript Awards. The AGM and RR Smith portions were also good. Information re: Johnson and pension were good.*
- *I loved it and especially having the convention posted from Day#1 and #2 on YouTube. These keynote speakers are well-worth listening to again.*
- *Keep doing what you are doing!*

Have a friend who is retiring soon?

- Teachers
- School Support Staff
- Post-Secondary Educators

BCRTA Offers Free Pre-Retirement Workshops!
Our Informative Resources Mean Confident Choices for Retirement

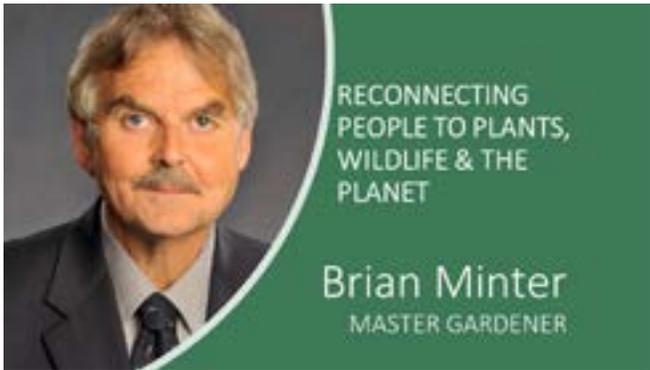
OUR NEXT WORKSHOP DATE:
November 24, 2021 @7 PM

**See the entire workshop schedule
 and sign up at
bcrta.ca/workshop**





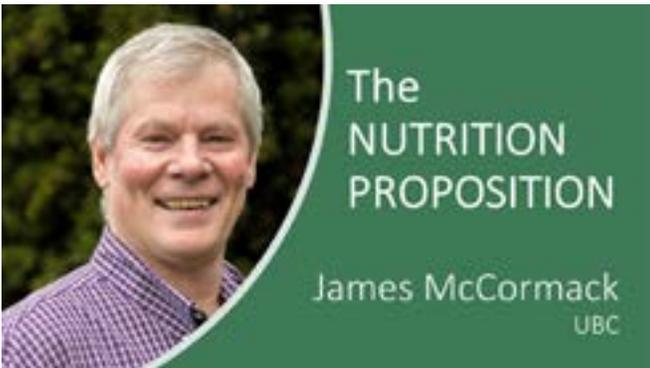
2021 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS ARE NOW ONLINE!



TOPIC: Environment and Well-being



TOPIC: Celebrating BCRTA's Magazine



TOPIC: Nutrition Science



TOPIC: Tech for Retirees

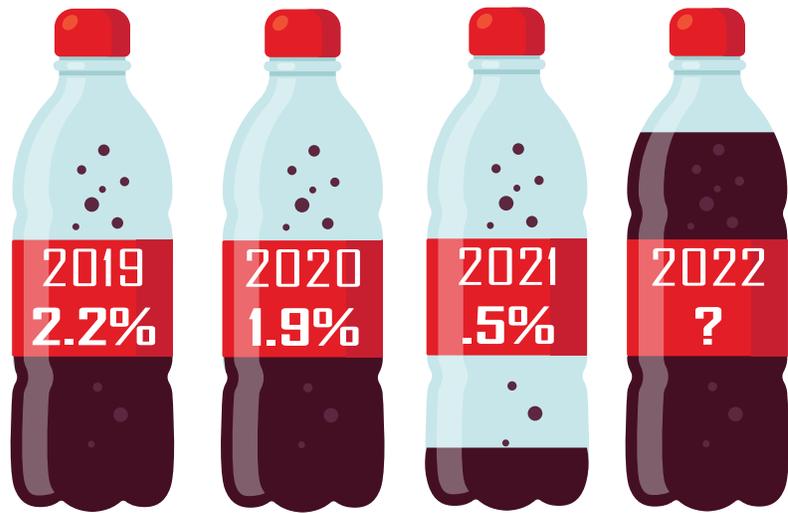


TOPIC: BCRTA History



TOPIC: Faces From the Past

Cola for 2022



PEPSI, COKE, OR JUST PLAIN COLA?

You may have seen reports in the media that during this period of economic recovery, Canada is seeing a rise in inflation rates.

In retirement, we collect our guaranteed monthly pension payments, and in the Teachers’ Pension Plan (TPP) we have also received an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), which helps keep pace with increases in inflation. Our pension plan has a special Inflation Adjustment Account which is designed to fund those inflation amounts.

Once established, our lifetime pension amounts are guaranteed, but the COLA increases are not guaranteed. To quote the TPP website:

Each year, the Teachers’ Pension Board of Trustees carefully considers various factors to decide whether to approve a COLA – and if so, its value. If the board grants an adjustment, it will take effect in January and is applied to your monthly pension payment (and any bridge benefit and/or temporary annuity you may be receiving).

The decision is based on two factors:

- The annual change in the 12-month average Canadian consumer price index (CPI)
- The funds available in the plan’s IAA

So, with inflation in the news lately, what does that mean for retired teachers?

The latest Consumer Price Index number (September 30, 2020, to September 30, 2021) shows a cost-of-living increase of 4.4%. The Teachers’ Pension Plan Board of Trustees will evaluate if they believe the Inflation Adjustment Account is well-enough funded to support the full increase.

In recent years the full CPI increase has been covered. Over the past ten years, due to compounding of the increases listed below, our guaranteed pensions have increased by more than 17%.

YEAR	COLA	YEAR	COLA
2021	.5%	2016	1.0%
2020	1.9%	2015	2.0%
2019	2.2%	2014	1.1%
2018	1.6%	2013	1.2%
2017	1.3%	2012	3.2%

The BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee monitors the annual COLA decision carefully. So stay tuned for the announcement of the Teacher Pension Board of Trustees’ decision!

*Arnie Lambert
Chair, Pensions and Benefits Committee*



BCRTA
Excellence
in Education



Golden Star Awards Presentations

The Excellence in Public Education Committee created an interview video for the 2021 BCRTA Conference, featuring this year's winners of the Golden Star Awards.

This year's winners:

- Mundy Road Elementary (Coquitlam)
- Ray Shepherd Elementary (Surrey)
- Sentinel Secondary (West Vancouver)
- Thetis Island Elementary (Thetis Island).

Feature articles on the winners appeared in the Fall 2021 issue of PostScript Magazine.

View the video of the 2021 Golden Star Awards Presentation here:

<https://bcрта.ca/2021-golden-star-awards-interviews/>



The Finance Committee met for the first time this fiscal year on October 25, 2021.

New members Terry Green and Elaine Thompson joined returning members Arnie Lambert, Caroline Malm (Chair), Dave Scott, Gerry Tiede and Grace Wilson (Co-chair). Staff members Tim Anderson and Kristi Josephson (Recorder) also attended.

The Committee is very pleased to note that BCRTA is currently in a healthy financial position. However, we must plan ahead for future challenges. As one example, we currently enjoy the use of office space at no cost. If for some reason needs change for our host in the future and we were to lose the space currently kindly provided by the BCTF, we would have to have the finances to facilitate a relocation and maintenance of new space.

The Committee looked at the GIC's coming due in December and is investigating further investment of the monies. The Committee is also considering making additional investments and is in the process of determining the best time to do so in order to get the best rate of return.

Our next Zoom meeting will be held on November 29, 2021.

Caroline Malm
Chair, Finance Committee

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION COMMITTEE LOOKS AHEAD TO 2022

The Excellence in Public Education Committee reminds everyone that the Golden Star Award is inviting applications leading up to the April 15, 2022 submission deadline.

Please think about on-going programmes or activities that bring together public school students and seniors in your community. We also recognize, in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion (B.C. and Yukon Command), programmes that bring together students and veterans.

What can you do? Approach your working colleagues to see if there are programmes in your school district that might apply. We need a good representation of applications from around the province.

Have a look at the Golden Star poster and the on-line Golden Star application forms posted on the BCRTA website:

<https://bcрта.ca/bcрта-golden-star-awards/>

While you are on the website, have a look at the video interviews focusing on the Golden Star awards for 2021.

Your Excellence in Public Education Committee will also be looking at specific issues in B.C. that reflect the quest for excellence in B.C. public education. If you have a suggestion for a topic to investigate, or a tip about a teacher, teachers, or programme you feel reflect excellence in B.C. education, please let us know so we can provide some recognition.

Steve Bailey
Chair, Excellence in Public Education
Committee
sdbailey504@gmail.com



BCRTA EXCLUSIVE GROUP DEPARTURE

Limited to 32 Guests

WONDERS OF EGYPT | Nov 15th – 30th, 2022
Optional 5-day Jordan Post Extension

Join Gerry Tiede, Past President of BCRTA and see the wonders of Egypt. This trip is an exclusive departure open to all members of BCRTA. Members may invite family and friends to join the trip.

- 4 Nights: Cairo – Conrad Hilton (Deluxe)
- 2 Nights: Aswan – Movenpick Aswan Hotel (Deluxe)
- 4 Nights: Nile Cruise – Aswan to Luxor: Sonesta Moon Goddess (Superior)
- 1 Night: Luxor – Steigenberger Resort Ahti (Deluxe)
- 3 Nights: Red Sea – Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh (Luxury)

Highlights:

- Pyramids of Giza and the Great Sphinx
- Pyramids of Dahshur and Sakkara
- Egyptian Museum of Antiquities
- Sail the Nile on a 4 Night Cruise Aswan to Luxor
- Valley of the Kings and the Queens
- Ancient Temples of Karnak, Luxor, Philae, Edfu, Horus and Kom Ombo
- Sail on a Felucca & Agha Khan
- 3 nights of luxury at Oberoi Sal Hasheesh (Red Sea)

For full details click the link below

<https://bcрта.tripmerchant.ca/tour-item/wonders-of-egypt-november-15th-2022/>

Enter this Password to Access: **BCRTATM18**

To book, contact Trip Merchant:

info@tripmerchant.com or 1-800-481-9739 Ext. 3

2021-2022 Board: Continuity and New Faces

SOME NEW AND RETURNING DIRECTORS

The 76th Meeting of the BCRTA saw *Grace Wilson* acclaimed for a second year as President. New faces on the board are *Brenda Jones* of Surrey and *Stephanie Koropatnick*, from Parksville-Qualicum.

In her remarks, Grace Wilson commented about the many ways in which the BCRTA advocates for, supports and reaches out to our members. While our circumstances will always be changing, she emphasized the importance of serving our members and caring for the resources of the association.

A number of directors have new responsibilities for 2021-2022. Notably, *Caroline Malm* will serve as both 2nd Vice-President and as Chair of Finance. *Gerry Tiede* continues on as a member of the Pensions and Benefits Committee, which now has 1st Vice-President *Arnie Lambert* as chair. *Terry Green* moves to chair the Communications committee, while *Pat Thiesen* now chairs the Well-being Committee. *Steve Bailey* has been named chair of the Excellence in Public Education committee and continues as ACER-CART representative.

Directors continuing in their roles from last year include *Dave Scott* (Membership), and *Janice Androsoff* (Heritage).





Lest We Forget

11 NOVEMBER