

BRTA MATTERS

Volume 59 • Newsletter of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association • February 2022

Presidents Message



Unfortunately, it's been necessary to cancel our luncheon for this month. We're hoping that Covid restrictions will soon be eased and that we will be able to hold our future luncheons. Our Christmas luncheon was very successful and those who attended had a wonderful time.

Our luncheon dates for this year are all at the **Burnaby** (**April 28, May 26, October 6 and December 1**). We have added an luncheon in May to celebrate members who turned 85 last year and who turning 85 this year. I'd like to suggest that you add the dates to your

To make sure that you receive important information, please let us know a change to your street address and a change to your email address.

We will soon be holding our annual general meeting and elections for positions on the Executive. We encourage you to join the group. We meet four or five times during the year, the workload is minimal, and it's a lot of fun working with a wonderful and supportive team.

I'd like to suggest that you add the dates to your calendar.

Golf Course additional will be calendar.

when there is



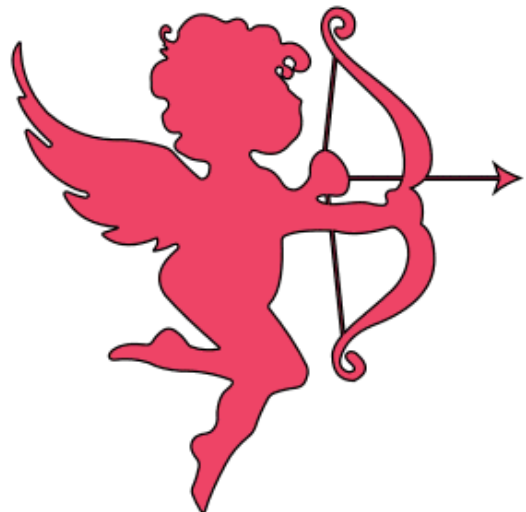
And then my husband said, 'I can easily put in a cooking island for you'.

Please note that we use the Burnaby School Board office as our mailing address. The Board office is in a new building on the old Schou site.

Our new address is:

4054 Norfolk St,

Burnaby BC V5G 0C3.



EXECUTIVE MEETINGS- Apr 7, Sep 15, Nov 10 **LUNCHEON DATES-** Apr 28, May 26, Oct 6, Dec 1 (2022)

BURNABY RTA EXECUTIVE

Rennie Maierle	President	294-3570	rmaierle@telus.net
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	margueritehenderson23@gmail.com
Leslie Lennox	Director		lesleyjlennox@gmail.com
Gail MacDonald	Director	524-8716	hgmac@telus.net
Barb Stoliker	Director and Christmas Outreach	319-2690	barbstoliker@gmail.com

Editor-Dave Carter **Production**-Elizabeth Beer **Distribution**-Ilse Armanini, Marguerite Henderson
Cover Design-Merv Magus

No longer with us-Bill Simmons, Ted Slinger, Jake Reimer Ivan Holmes, Patricia Crawford and Ron Spence

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation

c/o Burnaby School District, 4054 Norfolk St, Burnaby, B.C, V5G OC3

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

Valentine Trivia Quiz-Have a Heart

- 1. In the Victorian era, what were mean-spirited Valentine's cards called?**
- 2. From what location was the oldest Valentine Day card sent?**
- 3. "Letters to Juliet" are sent to what city every year?**
- 4. What Shakespeare play mentions Valentine's Day?**
- 5. What brain chemical is known as the "cuddle" or "love hormone"?**
- 6. Women purchase what % of Valentines sold?**
- 7. What is a "signature rose"?**
- 8. Who was Cupid's mother?**
- 9. Saint Valentine is the saint of love and ????**
- 10. What profession receives the most Valentine cards?**
- 11. In what country are carved wooden spoons given as gifts on Valentine's Day?**
- 12. What was the "genre" of the 2001 movie, "Valentine"?**
- 13. In what country do women often buy chocolates for men?**
- 14. In the Farmers' Almanac, if a woman sees a goldfinch on Valentine's Day, whom will she marry?**
- 15. What British king made Valentine's Day an official holiday?**
- 16. In Medieval times, what organ was believed to cause love?**
- 17. What is the favorite type of candy in a box of candy?**
- 18. What type of flower would you send to someone you met for the first time and would like to get to know them better?**
- 19. What flower is sent on Valentine's Day to say, "I'm sorry!"?**
- 20. What Benedictine monk invented champagne in 1668?**

Answers on bottom of next page

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association-Treasurer's Report-February, 2022

Balance as of Oct 31st, 2021 \$ 11,339.81

Income

Membership Fees	\$ 4,810.00	Lunches	\$ 1,850.00
Bank Interest	\$ 0.00	Total	\$ 6,660.00

Expenses

Lunches	\$ 3,071.25		
Newsletter Printing	\$ 89.60	Postage	\$ 92.61
		Envelopes	\$ 57.48
Christmas Activities	Stationery \$ 90.00	Campaign	\$ 1,000.00
		Insurance	\$ 4.28
Total	\$ 4,405.22		

Balance as of January 31st, 2022 \$ 13,594.59

Answers to the Trivia Quiz

1. Vinegar Valentines
2. Prison (Saint Valentine was incarcerated)
3. Verona
4. Hamlet
5. Oxytocin
6. 85%
7. A single rose surrounded by Baby's Breath
8. Venus
9. Beekeepers
10. Teachers
11. Wales
12. Horror
13. Japan
14. Sailor
15. Henry VIII
16. Liver
17. Caramel
18. Daisy
19. Purple
20. Dom Perignon



Letter to the Editor XI-My neighbour, Bill, is an expert at everything. Tour buses stop at his house so people can view his tool collection. A few years ago, Bill and his wife, Angelina, (nicknamed 'Perky') motored to the Shushwap to buy a summer cabin. Not satisfied with anything they could find, Bill bought a plot of land, cleared it, harvested the timber and milled it (seven different kinds), then built a luxury home (on his own) complete with solar panels, in-floor heating and an ofuro. During that same time, I changed our furnace filters, replaced two light bulbs and crocheted a sampler which read, "Don't be afraid to take a whisk". Bill's garden wins first prize every year, his Christmas lights are reported nationally, he has two amazing children, Adam and Eve who hope to become "Doctors Without Borders", has given over 100 pints of blood and also has a gorgeous dog-walker.

I can't remember how many times I have heard my first wife, Hortensia, ask, "Why can't you be more like Bill?" I will tell you why, Dear Reader. Firstly, my father was a carpenter and because he knew that I couldn't measure, saw or hammer, he kept his tools under lock and key. (especially after he caught me trying to pound in a spike with his level!) I was a disgrace to my whole family who had always made their living with their hands. (carpenters, plumbers, pickpockets, etc.) When I announced my plan to become a teacher it was like Donald Trump's son announcing, "Dad, I've decided to become a Communist"! I'll never forget what my Dad said, "Yer aff yer heid and yer bum's oot the windae!" That really surprised me as my father was Pennsylvania Dutch!

Secondly, as a student in Burnaby, I was REQUIRED to take two "hands-on" courses. They both turned out to be "hands-off". I only passed Industrial Education by promising never to take the subject again. (By the way, the story about me with the blowtorch almost burning down the Industrial Arts building, is somewhat exaggerated.) In Art Class I had to be a "model" (always with my clothes on) while the rest of the students drew me in charcoal, pastels and oils. My nicknames were "Still Life" and "In Sit You".

Until recently, I couldn't imagine competing with Bill at anything, but suddenly, everything changed! Last week I noticed him rummaging around our yard picking up small branches which had blown off trees. When I confronted him, he explained that he was planning to weave twig baskets to donate to our local Senior Centre to raise money for retirees who needed to take courses in Arts and Crafts. This was not construction; it was a craft! He had crossed the Rubicon! The oven mitt has been thrown! I accepted the challenge! I was already one sampler ahead of him! I decided to design and build a plethora of clever things and submit all of them to the Senior Centre. Take that Bill!

I turned my "man cave" into an arts and craft mecca and exchanged Arnold Schwarzenegger's portrait for one of Martha Stewart. I was aquiver trying to choose what I would create. I had overheard Bill telling Hortensia that he got most of his ideas from Etsy. I tried over and over again to contact Etsy by speaking into my cell phone, but to no avail. Finally an angry, siri-ous voice screamed, "Enough, already, who the heck is Etsy"! After this confused beginning I googled "Home Crafts" which listed projects that I might attempt. I couldn't decide between "personalized mason jars", "repurposed coffee beans", "hearing aids coasters", "bathroom guest books", "ammunition gift boxes", "indoor boomerangs made from rubber gloves", "felt fortune cookies", "chocolate body paint", "harps made from cardboard" or "heart handcuffs". I filled my new studio with cardboard, string, scotch tape, bullets, rubber gloves, staplers, felt pens, glitter, coffee beans, hearing aids, felt and mason jars.

Before I could begin, there was a pitiful knock on my sanctuary door. There stood Hortensia! Through quivering lips she whispered, "Bill has run off with the dog-walker! I'm devastated!"

Being the gentleman I am, I resisted sniggling and instead decided to crochet her another sampler. It read, "I may not fit the bill, but you'll never wok alone!" For some reason, she has refused to hang it!

Art Printz

A province-wide survey asking Retired Adults what activities they enjoyed, and which ones they might return to after the restrictions of Covid have been lifted, came up with this list.

Golf, Pool, Shuffleboard, Bocce, Tennis, Badminton, Pickleball, Croquet, Volleyball, Horseshoes, Bowling, Lawn Bowling and Curling.

Casino night, Murder Mystery, Trivia Night, Mexican Fiesta, Ugly Sweaters Night, Masquerade Ball, Hawaiian Luau, Television movies, Football, Rom Coms, The Oscars, High Tea and Secret Santa.

Uno, Scrabble, Chess, Checkers Pictionary, Yahtzee, Bingo, Dominoes, Monopoly, Backgammon, Crib, Poker, Canasta, Solitaire, Crosswords, Cryptic Crosswords, Sudoku, Jigsaw puzzles, and Word search puzzles.

Gardening, Bird-watching, Walking, Hiking, Boat Rides, Mystery Trips, Metal Detecting, Kite Flying, Dancing or taking Dancing Lessons, (Line, ballroom, salsa or swing), Karaoke, Nature Photography and Picnics.

Singing, Playing or Learning to play a musical instrument, Learning a foreign language, Using technology more effectively, Photography, Painting or learning to paint, Writing Stories or Poetry, Cooking or taking Cooking Courses, trying some form of Arts and Crafts, Writing your memoirs or taking up Magic.

Going to Theme Parks, Carnivals or Fairs, Checking out a Comedy Club, Training for a Fun Run, signing up for a Summer Session University Course for Seniors, Going to a Science or an Art Museum, Taking in a Concert or a Play, Attending a Sporting Event, Visiting a Winery or going to a Beer Festival, Traveling, Joining Seniors' Day Bus Trips, Taking a Drama course, Joining a Book Club or Attending a Political Meeting, (School Board or City Hall).

Volunteering (An incredible number of opportunities are available), Joining an Adult Discussion Group, Joining Neighbourhood Watch, Adopting a Street, Getting a Pet, Starting Yoga or some other Fitness Program, Joining a Walking Club, Swimming or taking Swimming Lessons, Searching for lost friends or relatives, Healing, establishing or maintaining relationships, Becoming an active Participant in your own health, Spoiling Grandchildren, Joining the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Executive or Attending church.

There is a growing concern that people, and especially seniors, will not return to previous activities because of a general malaise caused by heat, floods, fires, and viruses even if they realize that these activities extend lives and improve physical vitality. A lot of Seniors are lonely. In fact, on average, seniors without spouses or partners spend about ten hours alone each day.

BURNABY SCHOOL BOARD-SUPPORTING STUDENT PLANNING FOR NEXT FALL

Students across the District have lots of options for programs to explore their interests, and numerous electives are offered at the secondary level. AP Biology students from **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** are seen here presenting their inquiry projects. And AP Physics students at **École Alpha Secondary** are testing their projectile projects. There's something for everyone with Programs of Choice focused on technology, sports academics, trades and career training – as well as educational enrichment, such as French Immersion and AP Capstone.

To help students and families navigate the choices, several information sessions have been underway. In support of health and safety, instead of open houses at high schools to learn about course planning and more, they're sharing information online for the second year in a row. Each school is taking an approach to best meet the needs of their community, with everything from a virtual tour, to a pre-recorded video or live presentation. Hundreds of people have already attended the series of sessions put on by the **Career Education** department. Students who have taken the programs shared their firsthand experiences.

BURNABY SCHOOLS ALUMNI IN THE NEWS-Students are the leaders of tomorrow and today, and it is always exciting to hear about graduates finding success in their chosen fields. Former **Moscrop Secondary** student **Nabil Karim** gave a shout out to his old high school in a news article celebrating his new high-profile role: host and reporter for Turner Sports network's NHL and NBA coverage.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE CHOICES-As we seek opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint, the District is supporting school communities to do the same. One of the ways we're doing so is by installing electric vehicle charging stations. All high schools now have at least two stations, except for **Burnaby North Secondary**, which will get theirs when the new building is complete. Additionally, the District's Maintenance Services Centre has two electric vehicles in its fleet and four EV stations. The new District Administration Office was designed to include four outlets. This work is a piece of larger efforts to reduce our environmental impact and contribute to sustainability.

TWO SCHOOLS EARN HEALTHY SCHOOL CERTIFICATION

This is the third year that **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** has earned a healthy school certification from **DASH** – or **Dedicated Action for School Health**. It's a provincial organization that recognizes schools' commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of their school communities. **Mountain's Wellness Council**, with its focus on mental health, is responsible for a number of the school's initiatives. This is **Burnaby South Secondary**'s second year earning the designation. Students are seen here supporting South's health goal of having a nutritious breakfast before starting school. 400 breakfast items and recipes were distributed.

STUDENT TEAM WINS HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL

Twelve secondary teams from the lower mainland had a day-long ethics bowl hosted by **Simon Fraser University's Philosophy Department**. Students discussed real-world cases and ethical issues. They were judged on their evidence and how well they collaborated, listened and responded to the opposing team. Congratulations to the winning team from our very own **École Moscrop Secondary**.

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ROBOTICS TEAM HEADING TO PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Students in the District's **Robotics (Mechatronics) Career Education Program** hosted at **Alpha** competed in the **BC Regional Robotics Tournament** last weekend. With more than 100 teams contending, the students won the judge's award and are the division finalists. Their impressive performance has them advancing to the BC Provincial Championship.

THE GIFT OF GIVING

The **University Highlands Elementary** community is collecting food, toiletries and toys to donate to the ongoing flood relief efforts. Students at **Parkcrest Elementary** raised money for the **Abbotsford SPCA** to help them support displaced animals. **Alpha** collected clothing and blankets for the **Salvation Army** to take to flood victims. Leadership students at the school decorated a **Deer Lake Rotary Tree** to put warm boots on children in Burnaby this winter. Among the many schools collecting donations for the Food Bank and Burnaby families in need are **Buckingham, Suncrest,** and **Lyndhurst**, as seen here. Several, such as **South Slope Elementary** and **BCSD**, are also offering online food drive options to make a difference. **Inman** students put together nearly 300 dental kits for the **Burnaby Homeless Task Force**. They will be included, along with handmade cards, in comfort kits that will be distributed to Burnaby's most vulnerable. **Lochdale Community School** collected and delivered wrapped presents for distribution by **The Society to End Homelessness** in Burnaby. **Burnaby North** students created 2400 holiday cards in one week for seniors in Burnaby. They were one of more than a dozen secondary and elementary schools participating in Operation Elf – put on in partnership with **Intentional Acts of Kindness** and the **City of Burnaby's Citizen Support Services**.

CREATIVITY BY BCSD STUDENT LEADS TO OPPORTUNITIES AND BUSINESS

-Kyle Cooney was featured in the North Shore News for bracelets he created that are much more than pieces of jewelry or linking beads. As the story says, the bracelets "are links connecting Kyle to the world." The young entrepreneur is in Grade 6 at the **BC Provincial School for the Deaf**. Kyle has CHARGE syndrome, which includes deafness, Autism, developmental delays, coordination and balance challenges. With the bracelets, he has been learning business and other skills that support his independence. So far, he's sold almost 300 for just under \$30 each and is expanding to more stores. Most of the money earned goes to Kyle's Registered Disability Savings Plan, which will help support him in adulthood. He is also donating a portion of profits to those in need. Most recently Kyle purchased items, such as diapers and baby food, for the **Archway Food Bank** to help flood relief in Abbotsford.

INDIGENOUS CARVING PROJECT SUPPORTS LEARNING AND COMMUNITY

The entire school community at **Taylor Park Elementary** is involved in a new project under the guidance of Indigenous artist **Simon James**, whose ancestral name is **Winadzi**. He is from the **Kwakwaka'wakw Nation**. James created the design for the carvings after several months of connecting with students, staff and families, who shared their values and stories with him. James is also working with **Squamish Nation Elder Sheryl Rivers** to honour local teachings and protocol. Beginning this month, all students from Kindergarten to Grade 7, along with staff, are getting the chance to listen to James' teachings and work on the carvings.