

President's Message-Birthday Celebration

Each year, at our February luncheon we honour members who are turning 85. When I first started on the Executive, there were only three or four people on the list. This year we are inviting sixteen members to this milestone luncheon. Unfortunately, a few will not be able to attend because of health reasons.

We wish a Happy Birthday to the following members turning 85 this year ...

Charles Hou, Charlotte Kish, Diane Gibney, Gale Corder, James Wilson, James McDonald, John Mountain, Katherine Whittred, Marilyn McGoran, Merv Magus, Michael Fullerton, Nannely Lawson, Nita Tuan, Ronald Nelson, Sharon Nordquist, and Wallis Cameron.

Besides receiving a complimentary lunch for themselves and a guest, we present each with a token of our appreciation. Each of the members will also be given the opportunity to talk about a memorable experience from their teaching years. You don't want to miss the stories. Some of the past stories have been very moving and others extremely funny. I look forward to this each year.

••• Luncheon Invitation •••

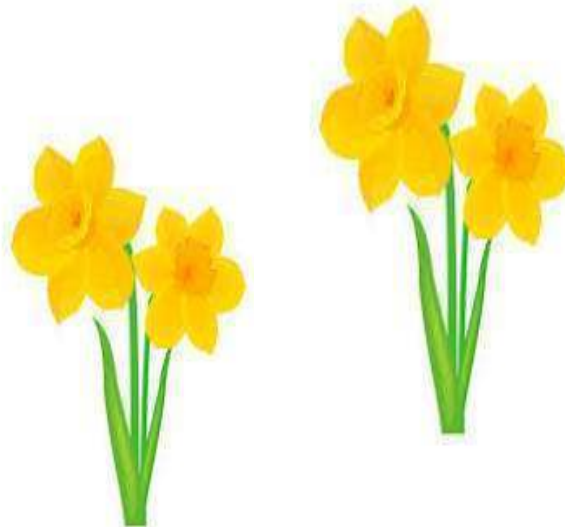
We are pleased to announce that our first luncheon for 2025 will be held at the Burnaby Golf Course Restaurant on Thursday, February 27th. Doors will open at 11 and a buffet lunch will be served at 12:00. The luncheon buffet promises to be a spectacular feast. You're invited to come early and visit with friends. The price for this luncheon will be \$50. The price for non-members is \$60.

It's important to know if you will be joining us for lunch. We would appreciate getting an email as soon as possible. Please email Jim Reid at jreid03@telus.net or Ilse Armanini at ilse_armanini@telus.net. We look forward to seeing you!

Please take the opportunity to invite some friends to join you for the luncheon. The more the merrier!



Those new "economy sized" bags of concrete mix are selling well, but there's another problem to consider.



EXECUTIVE MEETINGS - February 6, April 2, September 18, November 13
LUNCHEON DATES - Feb 27, Apr 24, Oct 9, Dec. 4

BURNABY RTA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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Jim Reid	Vice President	294-8049	jreid03@telus.net
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Merv Magus	Cartoon and Artwork	436-1672	exit33@shaw.ca

No longer with us –Bob Buzza, Aubrey Harris, Rosemary Cooke

Treasurer's Report

Income;		Expenses;	
As of October 31, 2024	\$5,033.47	Bby Mountian Golf Club	\$4,664.55
Luncheon	\$3,990.00	Newsletter Printing	\$64.12
Membership Fees	\$4,860.00	Stamps	\$95.69
Total	\$8,850.00	Envelopes	\$22.39
Less Expenses	\$5,595.30	Honorarium	\$250.00
		Office Supplies	\$68.03
		Poinsettia Campaign	\$430.52
January 31, 2025 Balance	\$8,288.17	Total	\$5,595.30

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

Our Andante Choir-Spring 2025 What began as a Burnaby Retired Teachers' Choir has now become a singing community of 30+ retired teachers in their 50's to 80's, along with friends, new acquaintances and family members.

Returning this year will be **Gail MacDonald** as our director, **Dorothy Mills** as our corresponder, and **Marguerite Henderson** as our treasurer. We are currently seeking an accompanist, so if you know of anyone who could help us out, please contact Gail.

This Spring we will meet **every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00-3:00** at Deer Lake United Church starting on **March 25** through to the end of May and will perform 5-6 concerts this May/June. Previously we have sung at such venues as Cecil Green Park, BRTA Luncheons, Lougheed Mall, Edmonds Community Centre, Deer Lake United Church, and many seniors' homes in Burnaby.

Our **repertoire is varied** with some traditional, jazz, gospel, swing, folk and ballad styles. We sing in unison, 2-part, SAB, but mostly SATB arrangements. There are no auditions but some experience singing in a choir is helpful.

Studies have shown the **many benefits** of singing in a choir; it can "increase respiratory function, improve overall health, heighten your immune system, improve brain function, increase confidence, give you more energy and improve posture and balance."

So, if you think that this would be a good fit for you, please RSVP to Dorothy Mills at dmills@shaw.ca asap. If you have any further musical queries, please feel free to contact Gail at **604-524-8716** or hgmac@telus.net.





*Christmas
Luncheon*

R.R. SMITH - The R.R. Smith Memorial Foundation has successfully completed their arrangements with the federal government so we are fully registered for our charitable status, thanks to our treasurer and your Burnaby member Jim Reid! Other Burnaby Board members include Dave Carter, Sarah Joyce, Marion Hartley and Steve Bailey. All charitable receipts are sent promptly if you wish to donate to this organization which impacts literacy in BC and developing countries. The attachment indicates how to contribute:

Online Donations to the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation-R.R. Smith-Treasurer-Jim Reid

Go to the Vancity Community Foundation at vancitycommunityfoundation.ca

Click “Funds” at the top of the Home Page.

In the box to the left of the “Search” arrow type in **RR Smith** (upper or lower case), Click “Search”.

Then, directly below, click on “RR Smith Community Fund”. Click on “Give to this Fund”.

In the “Donate” box, choose from the given amounts or enter your own value.

The “Leave a Comment” box is optional. Click “Donate”. In the “Summary”, go to “Donor Information”.

To the right: Click “Individual” if you are **NOT** a member of a “Friends of...” group. Click “Organization” if you **ARE** a member of the “Friends of Vancouver Retired Teachers” In the “Organization Name” box enter your “Friends of” Organization name either fully or abbreviated as FoVRTA

Continue with your “Donor Information”. Click “Review”. If the information is correct, click “Continue”.

Enter your Credit Card information and Address. **Check it all**. Click “Pay”.

Confederation Senior Centre - 2025

Please come visit us at Confederation Senior Centre, 4585 Albert Street, Burnaby. Our groups and clubs are very diverse. We have the Snooker room, Bridge, Poker, Mahjong, Monday night Dance and now new groups including Mediation, Sketchy Seniors and a Singing group. For more information call 604-294-1936. You can also signup for our monthly newsletter at confed.seniors@gmail.com. Our Facebook page is Confederation55+Burnaby and you'll find us on Instagram at Confederation 55plusBurnaby. Please check us out and "like" the postings. Within moments your income tax receipt for a Charitable Doation will be in your email.

My Christmas Vacation-Jim Reid

Did I go anywhere warm and sunny—nope, just my TV room, oh, and my workshop. As my dad used to say, “I’m now the contractor to my children”.

I digress, I have, however, saved all of us in Metro Vancouver from, as of this writing, the spectre of any snowfall on our roads and sidewalks. How, you may or may not ask? Well, after 41 years of shovelling the city’s sidewalks of our corner lot as well as our internal sidewalks and driveway, in November, I finally bought an electric powered snow shovel. I only recently took it out of its box and fearing the worst if I complete its assembly, it is still sitting in two pieces in my workshop. A small detail, for its assembly one is provided with 4 separate manuals one for each part of the machine. I have, however, fully charged the 56 Volt, 4 AH battery which is as big and as heavy as it sounds. Now I wait. So, thank you all for your heartfelt gratitude.

In my adventure, exploring of Palm

Volun-Tourism: Exploring Albert Frey's Legacy

latest volun-tourism I had the privilege of the architectural marvels Springs, California. Last

week, the desert community showcased its 'Modernism' theme, offering tours of some unique mid-century homes. I volunteered to help lead tours of the Frey House and was thrilled to showcase the work of Swiss architect Albert Frey. Frey first visited Palm Springs in the 1930s and fell in love with the mountains, reminiscent of the Swiss Alps of his homeland. After a year of hiking the San Jacinto mountains, he discovered the perfect spot for his home. While



most architects seek level ground, Frey was ambitious and innovative. His stunning structure, Frey House II, is perched precariously on a steep rock face, 300 feet above the bustling downtown Palm Springs strip.

Though I don't consider myself an expert in mid-century architecture, my passion for learning makes me feel like an imposter sometimes. Albert Frey, born in Zurich, Switzerland in 1903, moved to Palm Springs in the mid-1930s. He is renowned for

projects like the Aerial Tram, Tramway Gas Station, Aluminaire House, Palm Springs City Hall, and Desert Hospital. The tour I helped lead was both exhilarating and challenging, taking place in 103-degree temperatures on the distinctive rock outcropping of Frey's actual home. Together with a friend, it took two years to build this 900-square-foot residence, which Frey lived in until his passing in 1998 at the age of 95. His designs harmoniously blend with the surrounding landscape, and though the home is small, the many windows and crisp lines create a feeling of spaciousness.

Fortunately, I had prepared by learning about Frey, and I was paired with his godson, Marc, to lead the tours. Marc's parents were also from Switzerland, and his father worked closely with Albert, forming a deep bond. Marc spent much time in this home, and his stories added a personal touch to the tour. His father, a former circus acrobat, encouraged Marc's adventurous spirit—allowing him to climb the rock inside the house, play hide and seek, and later scale the outside rock and traverse the corrugated aluminum roof before cannonballing into the pool below.

The pool itself is unique, lacking stairs to exit. On the northern edge is a large bulge, which one can slide into the water from, anchored by a massive boulder underneath.

Marc shared many fascinating anecdotes about life with Albert, including how, when LEGO first debuted, young Marc bought one of the first sets as a Christmas gift for Albert. Another intriguing detail was the hidden safe near Albert's bed (which I found!), along with custom-made curtains that mirrored the springtime landscape, bright yellow like the blooming bottlebrush. Frey positioned his bed to face east, allowing him to gaze at the PSP airport, as he was an avid pilot. He referred to the sunrise as his "gentle alarm clock."

If you find yourself in Palm Springs, don't miss the chance to visit the Palm Springs Museum, which offers free admission on Thursday evenings during the street festival. Just down the road, the museum's annex features a full exhibit devoted to Albert Frey, showcasing his drawings, photos, and models. What a fascinating man! On Saturdays, you can book a guided tour of Frey House II, but be sure to reserve early, as it's a popular attraction. Or you can volunteer with Palm Springs Life and become a tour guide like I did! Barb Stoliker

The Memorial Society of BC

The Memorial Society of BC (MSBC) is a registered nonprofit helping people access affordable and dignified cremations and burials since 1956.

The Memorial Society movement began in Canada in the 1920's as a response to rising funeral costs, with the goal to create informed prepared community members who have access to affordable funeral services. The non-denominational movement grew across North America so that now most provinces and states have Memorial Societies or Co-operatives. Since its inception, MSBC has had more than 250,000 members, and was recognized for its service to the province in 2008 with a BC Human Rights Coalition Award.

Members pay for a lifetime membership (under \$100 in total), which entitles them to a reduced price (typically 10-20%) on basic cremations or burials from our partners, who are independent and family-run funeral service providers from across the province.

Our member support team provides knowledgeable and compassionate support to members and their families, whether in preparation for, or after a death. Members also have access to an online account where they can store their vital statistics and arrangement information. Our website, social media and community presentations are great places to find information and to learn about your options.

For more information or to become a member, visit our website at www.memorialsocietybc.org/ , or call us in the office weekdays at 604-733-7705, or 1-888-816-5902 .

Christmas Poinsettia Deliveries Another Christmas has come and gone and we have done our best at BRTA to spread some good cheer. Every year at Christmas a group of us 'baby' retired teachers don our Santa hats and deliver a poinsettia to a former colleague who is 85 or better. The photo below shows me visiting my fellow teacher Noreen Bremner who I worked with at Stride during the 80's. If you would like to become a poinsettia Santa in December 2025 please contact me at barbstoliker@gmail.com or give me a call at 604-319-2690. A big shout out to these dedicated volunteers who helped me make these visits. Ilse Armanini, Pat Greenfield, Donna Polos, Myrna Ziola, Jennifer Murn, Margaret Paris, Lynda and Mike Coutts, Liz Wilson, Gail MacDonald, Marilyn Bullock, Ruth Nicolson, Ray Myrtle, Jane Allen, Elaine Peterson, Theresa Sian, Susan Keilty, Jim Reid, Elizabeth Beer, Louise Meville, MaryAnn and James Brown, Loretta McLaughlin, Marguerite Henderson, Janet White and myself...Barb Stoliker. Such a gratifying project!



Burnaby School Board

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

As classes resumed at the start of 2025, many found ways to recognize the new year, such as this student-initiated **New Year's Resolution Project** at **Burnaby North Secondary**. Grade 4/5 students at **Brentwood Park Elementary** worked together to showcase their resolutions for 2025 through art. An intermediate class at **Brentwood** was among those who set goals at the start of the second term. A Grade 5/6 class at **Buckingham Elementary** wrote about what they want to accomplish this year. Students in dance from five high schools started the year off with a collaborative performance. The show featured the talents of dancers from **Byrne Creek**, **Burnaby Central**, **Burnaby Mountain**, **Alpha**, and **Moscrop Secondary** schools. Children at **Suncrest Elementary** have been testing out their recently installed sensory pathways in the hallway. It provides a fun brain break, with short activities to help students reset and refocus. Children at **Second Street Community School** returned from Winter Break to news that **Sophia** was being celebrated for winning a provincial contest. Her design was selected by **Easter Seals BC/Yukon** as one of two winners in their annual contest. Grade 6 to 12 students are challenged to symbolize a more "AccessAble society." Additionally, the design by **Darrel** from **Byrne Creek Community School** was chosen as a runner up. And as **Lunar New Year** approaches, many are getting ready for the **Year of the Snake**. These creations are by children at **Forest Grove Elementary** – home of the District's **Mandarin Language Arts Program**. **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** held a community gathering with a parent who shared Lunar New Year teachings.

SUPPORTING STUDENT PLANNING FOR NEXT FALL

Forest Grove's information evening about the **Mandarin Language Arts Program** was among many planning sessions held across the District – all designed to help students and their families make decisions for the 2025-26 school year. The Program of Choice is among the options at the elementary level. Families were also invited to an information session to learn about French Immersion. Additionally, there are dozens of District Programs of Choice for students in high school. This includes everything from year-long sports options like the **SFU Basketball Clinic** to technology choices – as seen here in the **Cisco Networking Academy** – and exposure to careers, such as the **Professional Cook Program**. There was a full house at the information session about District-wide **Career Education** programs. People came to hear about choices from trades and industry to technology. Student Planning Nights are also taking place at each high school. It's a chance to learn about the options, including electives. Students transitioning to the secondary level get to visit their future school to consider choices, such as band, art and drama. At **Cariboo Hill Secondary**, Grade 7s were also exposed to the **DigiPen Academy** – a Program of Choice located there.

Bob Buzza

A Celebration Tea will be held on April 13, 2025 from 1:30-3:45 at the South Bonson Community Centre Banquet Hall, 10932 Barnston View Rd. Pitt Meadows, BC. Please visit the on-line guest book to RSVP, share a story or two or send a note to rmbuzza@gmail.com. RSVP's appreciated.

If desired, donations to the Joan Kelly Memorial Research Fund at www.sclerodermabc.ca or cancer research are greatly appreciated.

Inspirational Quotes from Burnaby Retired Teachers

01. "I've got so many wrinkles, I should be sponsored by a prune company".
02. "When I have a headache, I take two aspirin and stay away from children like the bottle says".
03. "Age is just a number until you do a somersault".
04. "Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done".
05. "I'm not old, I'm just well-crinkled".
06. "If you see me talking to myself, just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting".
07. "I'm not old, I'm just chronically gifted".
08. "I hate it when I can't operate my iPad and my five year old tech support guy is asleep".
09. "I may not be aging gracefully but I'm definitely aging humorously".
10. "Today's three-year-olds can switch on laptops and open apps. When I was three, I ate mud".
11. "I'm not aging, I'm marinating".
12. "A marriage tip: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready while she's mowing the lawn".
13. "Aging reminds us that we're one step from becoming a legend".
14. "So, do you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?"
15. "I don't need an anti-aging cream. I need an anti-gravity cream".
16. "Old age is coming at a really bad time".
17. "I don't need anger management. I need people to stop irritating me".
18. "'On time' is when I get there".
19. "The older I get, the better I was".
20. "I'm not aging, I'm just becoming a classic".
21. "If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees".
22. "When I was young, I remembered everything, whether it happened or not".
23. "Marry a man your age. As your beauty fades, so will his eyesight".
24. "The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off".
25. "I don't buy a stock that will triple in three years. At my age, I don't even buy green bananas!"

Good Morning Potus

I have just received in the mail (Attention Occupant) a top-secret document that you sent to your WH staff titled, “A Discussion Paper on the Annexation of Canada”. I can only think that you might have a “leak” (read ‘torrent’) or a “whistle blower” (read ‘full orchestra’) somewhere but as to why he/she/they forwarded such a sensitive missive to my house, I can’t imagine. May I take this opportunity to offer a few changes in strategy that might help you in this endeavour?

I think there are several “non-starters”. Suggesting that the RCAF Snowbirds are about to launch an attack on US soil, that the RCMP Musical Ride is a WMD and that “poutine” is a chemical weapon, might be a “stretch” even for your “disciples”. If you substituted “screech” for “poutine”, it might be an easier sell.

There is a problem with the use of “alternative facts” as we don’t have such a term in Canada. I can guarantee that this would be translated as “lies” in all your propaganda materials. Canucks are also not impressed with “fake news” and have only been fooled once in history by the famous BBC news broadcast on April 1, 1957, concerning the “Spaghetti Harvest”. Having said that, one might make a case for Newfoundlanders on July 1, 1949.

I regret to inform you that you are not a popular figure here in the Far North. Your nicknames are “Pinocchio”, “Peter Pan” (the boy who never grew up) and “Wapiti” (Indian for “big white bottom). Canadians often say of you, “He has lost his rudder” and “If hogwash was a trumpet, he’d be a brass band”.

To suggest that CSIS is a branch of ISIS and is funding terrorist cells in Pouce Coupe must fall under the heading of “desperation” and to insinuate that our Federal Government is creating a race of “super monsters” (read Ogopogo and Sasquatch) is laughable. As to the point that Canadians have barbaric traditions because they have been known to eat “bangbellies” and slurp “goeyducks”, someone advising you must be “mondo bizarre”. Concerning your statement, “I have just learned that the Fathers of Confederation were not even born in Canada”, DROP IT!

To offer products from Ivanka Trump at “par” and then 40% off after annexation really is not a major incentive considering that in many Canadian hamlets your daughter is known as the “Gougou”. You might get some more mileage if you offered us the opportunity to watch American Super Bowl commercials!

The new flag that you are suggesting, an American eagle with a beaver in its mouth, might upset a few die-hard nationalists and the slogan, “One Nation, Tru and Tru” (Trump and Trudeau?) while catchy, probably has a noticeably short shelf-life. You can’t call the new country, “USA-CAN as the Canadian Parks Service has already patented the phrase on their garbage receptacles.

Your story that your great-grandfather, Tobias Trump, lived in Canada and worked towing boats across the St. Lawrence River, has no basis in fact, especially the part about him being given “all territory north of 49 degrees north latitude”, in lieu of wages. You might better use this story to claim that this was the first “Trump tower” in Canada if that would be helpful. I must plead guilty to your charge that Canada has shipped some rather nefarious people south, not just the three you mention, Jim Carrey, Pamela Anderson and Justin Bieber. You are also correct that grammar teachers here tell students that the subject of the sentence “Go home” is “Yankee”.

I hope you found these ideas helpful. Eh Hoser

(This article was published in the BRTA Newsletter during Donald Trump’s first term as President 2016-2020. It seems that it is just as pertinent today). The Editor