



ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



April 14, 2025

(9 pages)

Everyone,

Spring is here and the weather is so changeable! We can have days of rainy, cold and wet weather and then all of a sudden, the skies clear and the sun comes out and it's warm and beautiful! April showers will bring May flowers or so the saying goes! In the meantime, layer your clothing and bring an umbrella or use your hood! The summer will be here before we know it! We have lots of events planned this spring so try and come to meet old friends or make new acquaintances!

Happy Easter!

Gloria

Prez



What's in a Name?

Update on our project:

In the fall of 2022, the ADRTA executive brainstormed ideas about how to celebrate our 50th Anniversary besides having a luncheon in June of 2023.

We came up with the idea of researching and writing about the origins of the names of the schools in our district.

Some schools were named after the area they were in (such as Aberdeen, Matsqui (now Mathxwí), Sandy Hill); some were named after Indigenous elders (Chief Dan George, Irene Kelleher) and some were named after pioneers (John Maclure, Dr. Thomas Swift) and even two former superintendents (W. J. Mouat and Harry Sayers). We called our project, "What's in a Name?"

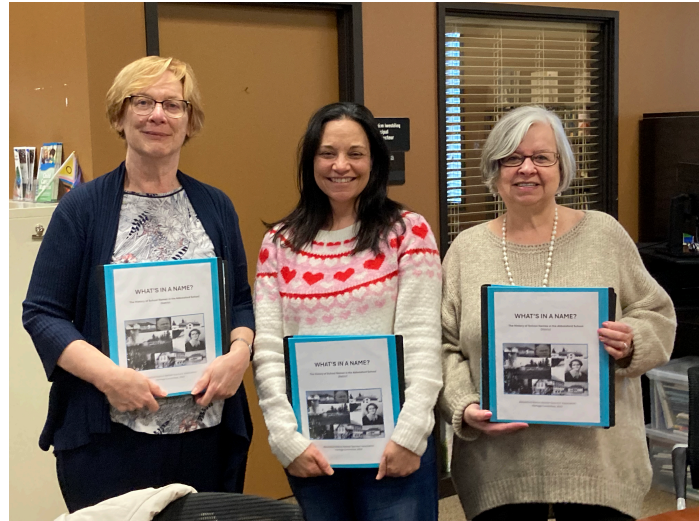
We wanted a resource that newcomers and parents could find out more about the history of their child's school as well as a teaching resource for our district teachers to use in their classrooms.

Linda Baynes took on leadership of this project and did an excellent job of researching, co-ordinating and polishing the finished project. She had help from Madeleine Gravel and myself to do the major writing and we had help from Ann Reekie, Adelin Beaujot and Madelyn Craven to fill in some of the gaps.

Editing this major project was done by Sharon Sutherland who did a fabulous job for us. Sharon lives in Ontario and we did all this by email!

We even translated the French Immersion Schools into French and that was done by our French Editors, June Bouchard and Guylaine Gagnon.

I am proud to say that the project is finished and published! Tracy Krys (Director of Instruction) helped us out enormously along with Kristi Ferguson (Manager, Communications) and Tina Robbins (Library Technician). Our thanks also goes to Kris Foulds, Curator of Historical Collections for her support and permission to use the archives photos for our book. Take a look at the site on the school district website and learn about our district schools. Some stories will surprise you! They surprised me...!



News from the BCRTA!

Janice Brost (ADRTA Vice-President) and I took part in the BCRTA Zoom meeting on April 7, 2025. This meeting was an information sharing meeting.

We heard first from the BCRTA President, **Caroline Malm** who spoke on election issues pertaining to seniors. ACER-CART (Association Canadienne des Enseignantes et des enseignants retraités; Canadian Association of Retired Teachers) has put together a comprehensive guide of election issues, such as national pharmacare, ensuring retirement income, opposition to privatization of medical services and many more. You can find it easily on the BCRTA website.

Caroline also told us that the BCRTA committee organizing the Fall Conference AGM is looking at having a broad based discussion session on end of life practices, such as palliative care and MAID (Medical assistance in dying). This would be a very interesting and informative topic to take in.

We next heard from **Al Cornes**, who is our BCRTA representative to the BC Teachers' Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

Al has extensive experience in pensions and benefits, and was part of the negotiating team that facilitated the joint trust agreement structure for the pension plan twenty years ago.

Al gave us an excellent presentation on the state of our pensions. We learned that we are in great shape with sufficient funds to pay our pensions and that the COLA is sustainable even during these uncertain times in the markets. The Pension Board is not making any immediate changes to their investment strategy as they have lots of cushion and our pension investments are well diversified across assets and geographic areas. In other words, we are OK!

The last presentation was by **Gerry Tiede**, Past President of the BCRTA and ACER-CART. He warned us to be wary of any overtures from the Ontario Retired Teachers (RTO) who are trying to get our health care business. They are not part of ACER-CART and their figures may initially entice you but in the long run are not as good as Green Shield or Johnson for extended health.

Gerry also said that Johnson insurance was bought out by Intact Insurance, an extremely large Canadian insurance company and they are rebranding their products. For our needs, we will have a new name: **Dogwood Retiree Benefit Plan**. The EHC will be Dogwood EHC and Dogwood Travel Gold will replace Prestige Travel and Dogwood Travel Silver will replace Medoc. Future plans will try to sever the EH component from Prestige so that you can choose exactly which EH plan to use even if you want to have Prestige Travel. Right now, you must switch to Prestige for both EH and Travel.

The Zoom meeting ended at 11:10 am and if you have any questions, just let Gloria know.



In Memoriam



Janet Hattrick

1948-April 5, 2025

Janet began her teaching career in 1970 in Chilliwack. She taught for four years in Port Alberni before coming to Ten-Broeck Elementary School in September, 1974. She worked there for over 30 years before retiring in 2005 to spend more time with her eight grandchildren and to continue having fun travelling with her dear friends. She will be missed by everyone.



Richard Frank Schmid

August 12, 1939-October 30, 2024

Rich passed away peacefully on October 30th from pancreatic cancer. He will be dearly missed by his wife Nonie, children Mike (Sarita), Mark (Valerie), Erin, and his 5 grandchildren as well as many friends in Abbotsford and Crescent Beach. Rich had a fulfilling career in Abbotsford in teaching and administration.





Breaking News!

If you would like to contribute to the ADRTA Bursary Fund to help students in their quest for higher education, it is now easier to do!

Just write a cheque and make it payable to:
Vancity Community Foundation or VCF

On the memo line: **Friends of the Abbotsford Retired Teachers**

Give to **Erin Quast (ADRTA Treasurer)** and she will send it off through the proper internal mailbag delivery system. You will receive your tax receipt by mail. (Make sure you have your current mailing address on the cheque!)

Easy peasy!

Luncheon at Milestones on May 8th @ 11:30 am.

Pre-register with **Janice Brost** (jbrost52@gmail.com) by **May 1st** so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. Come and visit and enjoy seeing old friends and make new friends! We look forward to seeing you! We will have door prizes and Gloria will give a short update on the AGM news.



Field Trip to Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site in Steveston

Meet: June 4th at St. Ann's parking lot
(park only at the north end on the other side of the yellow line close to the back gate)

Time: 9:00 am

We will be travelling by school bus.

*There may be a small charge for the bus, depending on our finances. We will make the decision in April at the next executive meeting.

Agenda upon arrival at Steveston:

- Arrive in Steveston and the tour will begin at 11:00 am. We have reserved two tour guides. The tour has an \$8.25 entrance fee.
- After the tour, break for lunch to a restaurant of your choosing. We are not planning on a large group luncheon.
- If time, you are encouraged to look around Steveston and see the shops.
- Back to the bus by 2:15 p. m. for departure to Abbotsford.



Pre-register with Linda Baynes lebaynes1@gmail.com by May 28, 2025.





Help Eric find information on School Board rules and regulations for teachers and principals!

The Reach forwarded this message from Eric Damer (ejdamer@telus.net) who writes:

I have a research project looking at rules and regulations governing public school teachers and principals in BC over the last century (mid-century).

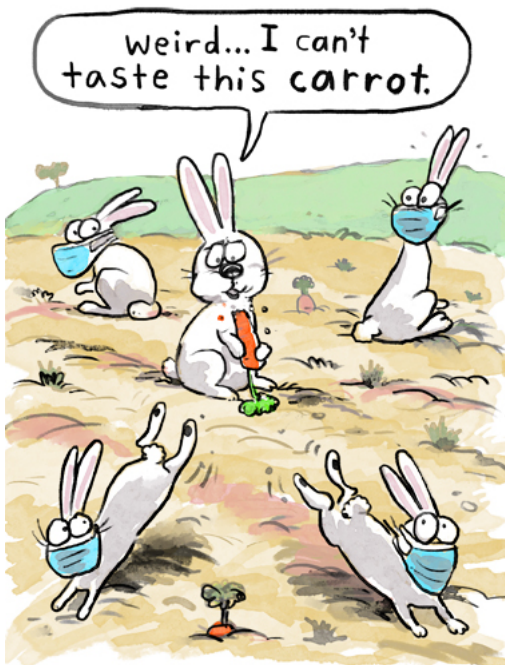
Any chance you have a archival collections that has such a booklet?

They probably vary a little from district to district, but I am looking for general patterns.

If you do not have such a document (I found one at the Vancouver Archives, but they are rare) perhaps you have other records such as pupil registers, principals' reports, or something similar.

Thanks,
Eric

Contact Eric (ejdamer@telus.net) directly if you have any information that would be useful to him!



Springtime in Paris

Bradner Flower Show
5305 Bradner Road.
April 12, 2025



A great time was had by everyone! Beautiful displays, Lots of flowers, trees and shrubs to buy, lunch out and even a bazaar in Bradner school gym!





