

BRTA MATTERS

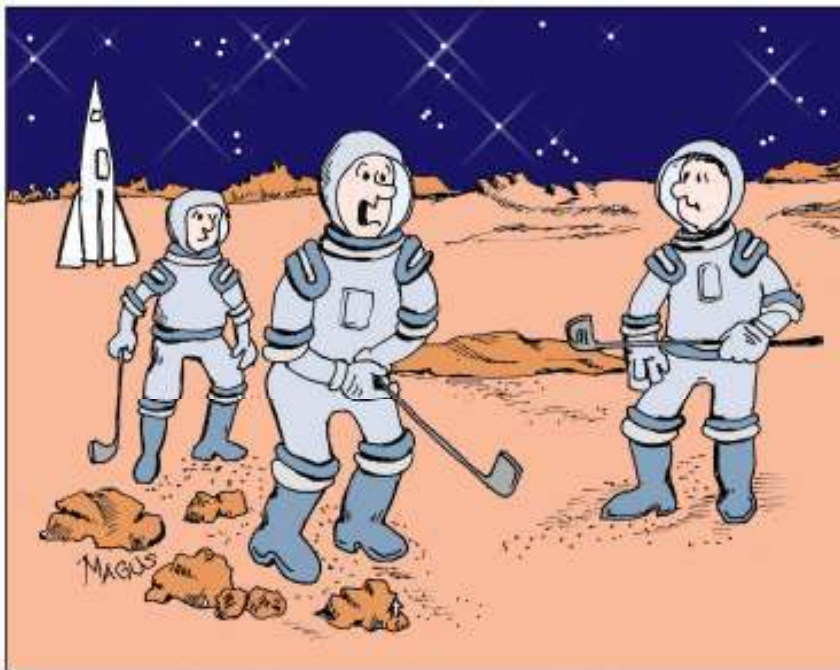
Volume 61 • Newsletter of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association • September 2022

President's Message

We are pleased to announce that our next luncheon will be held at the Burnaby golf course restaurant on Thursday, October 6th. Doors will open at 11 and lunch will be served at 12:00. You're invited to come early and visit with friends. The price for this luncheon will be \$25. The menu includes baked chicken breast with mushroom Marsala cream sauce, spinach & ricotta-stuffed cannelloni with marinara, roasted garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables, mixed greens, rolls, desserts, and coffee and tea. We will also be holding our infamous after-dinner trivia game.

Our May luncheon was a huge success. Besides a great meal, we were able to honour members who turned 85 during the past three years. We were unable to do this earlier because of Covid. We also had the pleasure to be entertained by the Retired Teachers' Choir.

It's really important to know if you will be joining us for lunch in October. We would appreciate getting an email as soon as possible. Please email me at rmaierle@telus.net or Ilse Armanini at ilse_armanini@telus.net. If need be, you can phone me at 604-294-3570. *We look forward to seeing you!*



WHAT? We came all this way and you forgot to bring the balls!!

Will the Artemis ever leave the ground?

Greek Mythology – Artemis was the twin sister of Apollo. She was the goddess of the hunt, the moon and chastity.



BURNABY RTA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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Elizabeth Wilson	Director	522-2384	helliwily@gmail.com
Merv Magus	Page 1 Cartoon and Design		

No longer with us-Donald Blazeovich, Rees Richards, Joe Varro, Ruth Percy, Lindsay McDonnell and Karam Gopaulsingh

A Great Read-if you're feeling sad or overwhelmed and you think that this world of ours is not a great place to live, check out this amazing book. It is really a "think piece".

"Humankind: A Hopeful History"

Rutger Bregman

Back Bay Books

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association-Treasurer's Report-September 2022

Balance as of March 30 th , 2022					\$ 13 170.47
Income	Membership Fees	\$ 10.00	Lunches	\$1 920.00	History Book \$50.00
Expenses	Lunches \$5 646.11	Newsletter printing \$86.19	Postage	\$ 92.61	
	Honorarium \$500.00	Flowers for Over 85 \$202.65	Office Supplies	\$29.53	
Total	\$ \$6 561.08	Balance as of August 31st, 20			\$8 589.39

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

BRT Scholarship 2022

\$1000.00 per student

Moscrop

Amina Hassan

Alpha

Emma Cheung

Cariboo Hill

Samantha Harris

Burnaby Mountain

Emily Gaythorpe

Byrne Creek

Christeena Raveen

Burnaby North

Eric Gao

Burnaby Central

Samantha Lee

Burnaby South

Min-Ji Kim

BRT W Richmond 2022

\$3000.00 per student

Ajla Dugic

Alex Chiu

David Ou

Avia Chung

Doreen Cai

Cole Volpni

Ava Chan

Elizabeth Yip

New Members of the BRTA Executive

Elizabeth Wilson

I returned to university at SFU in 1983 as a mature student. I graduated with a degree in English and Political Science. I began teaching English and Social Studies at the Youth Detention Centre and moved on to Burnaby North the next year to teach English. Gradually, I began teaching in the Social Studies department. Over my career I have also taught at Alpha and I retired from Byrne Creek. I appreciated all the staff I worked with as many helped me a great deal through illnesses. I also credit the BTA and BCTF for their help.

I am very happily making the most of the last six and a half years of retirement. Primarily, I've enjoyed volunteering for an organization which creates libraries for remote indigenous communities and I've travelled around British Columbia to install them.

Jim Reid

By 1978 with a teaching degree and an MSc. in Zoology in-hand I discovered that with declining enrolment Burnaby was closing schools. I taught Night School Biology 12 at Central and subbed short and long-term (Kensington and Burnaby North) through to 1983. In 1983 I became the first Science teacher at the Maples Adolescent Treatment Center when Burnaby took over the teaching duties there and where I taught for 4 years with 1 year in between at McPherson Park. In 1988 I moved to Moscrop Junior High as a Science Department Head which I remained through stints at Central, Cariboo Hill and Alpha. Throughout, I taught the Junior Sciences and in the latter schools Biology 12 and AP Biology as well. I retired from Alpha in 2008.

Since retiring from teaching, I worked part-time at Lee Valley Tools to help stock my woodworking shop. Woodworking, my '58 Alfa, golf, fishing, International travel and motorsport are among my hobbies. A few years ago, I started attending BRTA luncheons and Christmas dinners and finally decided it was time to give something back. Ergo.

A Story

In Ancient Greece, Socrates had a great reputation of wisdom. One day, someone came to find the great philosopher and said to him:

"Do you know what I just heard about your friend?"

"A moment", replied Socrates. "Before you tell me, I would like to test you on the three sieves".

"The three sieves?"

"Yes, continued Socrates. Before telling anything about others, it's good to take the time to filter what you mean. I call it the test of the three sieves. The first sieve is the TRUTH. Have you checked if what you're going to tell me is true?"

"No, I just heard it."

"Very good! So, you don't know if it's true. We continue with the second sieve, that of KINDNESS. What you want to tell me about my friend, is it good?"

"Oh, no! On the contrary."

"So", questioned Socrates, "You want to tell me bad things about him and you're not even sure they're true? Maybe you can still pass the test of the third sieve, that of UTILITY. Is it useful that I know what you're going to tell me about this friend?"

"Not, really."

"So", concluded Socrates, "What you were going to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor useful. Why, then, did you want to tell me this?"

"Gossip is a bad thing. In the beginning, it may seem enjoyable and fun, but in the end, it fills our hearts with bitterness and poisons us, too!" — Pope Francis

Burnaby School Board-June 2022

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

Many classrooms across the District had an extra focus on Indigenous learning this month – such as this one at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary** where students explored the significance of the medicine wheel. At **Morley Elementary**, a Grade 6/7 class was treated to bannock and a feast, when student Ava and her Mom prepared their family recipe of Nisga’a tacos. At **Burnaby South Secondary**, students gathered for a spectacular Learning Powwow. **Elder Alice Guss**, from the Squamish Nation taught students at **Burnaby North Secondary** how to harvest cedar bark. Under the guidance of Squamish Nation Elder **Alroy Baker** and Cultural Student **Ianna Lewis**, students from **Alpha Secondary** represented the District in **Drums Across North and South America** in a video-compilation for **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. Indigenous games were integrated into Sports Day at **Edmonds** and **Maywood Community Schools**. Several schools, such as **Maywood**, unveiled Indigenous art and other projects that were created over many months in the spirit of reconciliation. Their new mural was a collaboration between students and Katzie First Nation artist **Trenton Pierre**. A special ceremony was held at **Taylor Park Elementary** to unveil the completed totem and panel that now greets all who enter the school. **Simon James** from the Kwakwaka’wakw Nation led the project and Indigenous teachings. The District and City of Burnaby came together in partnership to support the efforts of a Grade 6/7 class at **Westridge Elementary**, who initiated the first-ever reconciliation crosswalk in Burnaby. The design was unveiled at a special event. It features Thunderbirds mirroring each other and was created by Coast Salish artist **Atheana Picha** who worked with the students. Squamish Nation Elder **Wes Nahanee**, trustees, the Superintendent, district leaders, the Mayor and Council, as well as the **Indigenous Youth Drum Group** from **Burnaby North** were among the special guests. The students’ leadership and revealed design was featured by several media outlets.

STUDENTS SHINE WITH AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Two students received **City of Burnaby Environmental Awards**: **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** student **Casey Lo** and **Smith Hemsley** at **Sperling Elementary**. Both had projects at school that were highlighted by the City in sharing their outstanding contributions to sustainability. Two **Burnaby North Secondary** students won at the **Canada-Wide Science Fair**: **Angela Cao** took silver and **William Li** brought home bronze. At the **Skills Canada Competition**, **Hung Huynh** from **Burnaby South Secondary** won silver in the IT Network Systems Administration category. **Moscrop Secondary**’s **Tyler Shine** earned Bronze in the Autobody Repair category. In the **Walk30 Challenge**, **Lyndhurst Elementary** was recognized as the class who walked the most to school, and **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** was the school with the most registered students. **Brentwood Park Elementary**’s **Ana Varjic** won this year’s Easter Seals’ **National AccessAbility Week** flag design competition in the Grade 6-8 category.

PRIDE MONTH

Schools celebrated Pride this month in many ways with at least a dozen schools raising the flag for the first time –the colours of pride served as a symbol of their commitment to celebrating diversity. Across the District, many shared what pride means to them, as part of a month-long Twitter campaign. At several schools – such as **University Highlands Elementary** – students also explored the meaning of pride. Many more created displays and discussed the importance of being your true self and honouring each other.

ENJOY THE JOURNEY – GETTING AROUND! - Steve Bailey

Troy Opper's enthusiasm is contagious, and the results are tailored to your enjoyment. If you haven't had a look at the "Enjoy the Journey" website recently, please set your google dial to enjoythejourney.ca. The R.R. Smith Charitable Foundation has enjoyed the support of Troy and his team for several years. Day adventures or longer trips booked through Enjoy the Journey by BCRTA branches or members result in contributions to the work of RR Smith here in BC and around the world. One of my favourites is the day trip to Salt Spring Island which a group of us from the BCRTA's Burnaby Branch enjoyed a while back. It is also the favourite trip of our wonderful guide for the day, Gysele Van Hoogstraten.

Gysele has been part of Troy's team for several years and brings an inspiring joy to her work – as do the other members of the team – Fernanda, Lou, Jocelyne, Deanna, Lana, and Kevin. Completing the operation are the comfortable tour busses – Jane and Tom. Get to know this dynamic team on the "about" link on enjoythejourney.ca. A great feature of Enjoy the Journey is the partnership network with local businesses that has generated a number of engaging small group tours to Pacific Northwest destinations – and beyond. Operations Manager Deanna points out that "Enjoy" has strong working relationships with Destination BC, and local tourism organizations as well as with the BCRTA and R.R. Smith.

The on-line 2022 Catalog lists a great variety of trips and proudly proclaims that BCRTA members can "join the Let's Go Group with fellow retired teachers in support of the R.R. Smith Memorial Foundation. Mention BCRTA or R.R. Smith when booking to donate 10% for day tours, 5% for multi-day tours, and \$100.00 for Vacations". We eagerly await the 2023 Catalog, but there are 18 tour possibilities for the Fall and Winter of 2022.

So you and your travel group can choose a range of activities from a day trip to Saltspring or a visit to a local festival or event all the way to trips to Hawaii, Haida Gwaii, or a train trip across Canada. Have a look. While you're at it, sign up for the monthly e-newsletter and check out the booking information as well as the informational video presentations.

Our Andante Choir-Fall 2022

What began as a Burnaby Retired Teachers' Choir has now become a singing community of retired teachers, friends, new acquaintances, and family members. For the Fall season we will be rehearsing at Deer Lake United Church on Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 starting on Oct. 11. We will perform 4-5 concerts in December.

We will again be accompanied by the fabulous Dayle Piller. Our amazing correspondent, Dorothy Mills, will keep us organized. Marguerite Henderson is taking the helm as our treasurer, Ted and Sharon Hope will be arranging our performance bookings, and Linda and Russell Collins will be compiling the music in our binders for distribution this season.

Our Christmas repertoire is varied; with some traditional, rock, jazz, gospel, swing, and calypso styles, and including inspirational and sometimes humorous messages. As well there are melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic considerations that provide new learning challenges.

We sing some unison, 2-part, SAB and mostly SATB arrangements. There is no audition but some experience singing in a choir is helpful. Studies have shown the many benefits of singing in a choir, so if you think that this would be a good fit for you, please contact Dorothy Mills at dmills1949@icloud.com to join.

Musically speaking-Gail MacDonald-Director of Andante If you have any further musical queries, please feel free to contact me: at 604-524-8716 or hgmac@telus.net

B.C. InvestRight-B.C. Securities Commission

When prices go up, money can't buy as much as it used to, reducing purchasing power and the value of income and savings. High inflation not only impacts your day-to-day purchases, but also your investments. This article takes a look at the basics of inflation, and why it may be a good time to revisit your financial plan

When businesses and consumers have to spend more to buy the same quantity of goods and services, it hurts everyone's standard of living. But it is especially difficult for people whose incomes don't keep pace with rising prices, such as pensioners and low income earners. Unfortunately, rising inflation means the value of today's money is eroding faster than it has in decades. And that can have short and long-term consequences that investors need to be aware of and – as much as possible – plan for.

Inflation erodes the purchasing power of money. Inflation is a measure of how prices change over time and affect the purchasing power of money. In Canada, the consumer price index (CPI) and its fixed basket of goods and services is a widely used measure of inflation.

The CPI is comprehensive and includes eight major components: food; shelter; household operations, furnishings and equipment; clothing and footwear; transportation; health and personal care; recreation, education and reading, and alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis. There's a number of reasons that inflation and the CPI are rising – especially in areas such as food, furniture, housing, autos and gas. These include the following:

- Bank of Canada bond purchases, record low interest rates and government spending and stimulus have helped inject more money into the financial system.
- The global economy has been disrupted by staff shortages, unfavourable weather events, supply chain issues and bottlenecks, and shortages of raw materials, leading to higher prices being passed onto consumers.
- The war in Ukraine has caused prices for oil and other commodities to rise.

According to a recent statement by the Bank of Canada, price increases have become more pervasive. To help fight inflation, the Bank of Canada began what is expected to be a series of interest rate increases in March 2022. In general, higher interest rates encourage saving and discourage borrowing, spending and inflation.

As the Bank of Canada takes measures to slow inflation, it hopes to allow the economy to remain resilient, create jobs and resolve supply chain bottlenecks. The Bank recently acknowledged, however, that persistently elevated inflation is increasing the risk that longer-run inflation expectations could drift upwards. The longer inflation and interest rates rise and stay higher, the more they impact investors' ability to reach their financial goals and maintain their desired lifestyles.

Generally, the value of money kept under the mattress, in low interest bank accounts or as cash will erode over time as prices rise due to inflation. Naturally, investors may become nervous when watching inflation rise and the relative value of their cash and certain investments fall. They may look to the past, to see which investments and sectors have outperformed during previous inflationary periods.

However, many of these investments can be risky and investors should exercise caution when buying them and past market performance isn't always applicable today. As high as inflation is right now, it may be temporary. As we move into 2023 and beyond, inflation may actually start falling as higher interest rates, improved supply chains, reduced government spending and normalized labour markets and geopolitics begin to alleviate inflation's key drivers. As always, it's important to make investment decisions according to your risk profile, time horizon, and financial circumstances.

Burnaby Children's Fund (BCF) and Supporting Burnaby Youth Society (SBYS)

Together Burnaby Children's Fund (BCF) and Supporting Burnaby Youth Society (SBYS) have been helping Burnaby children and families for over 30 years. During this time, we have raised over a million dollars, which has gone directly to children and their families for food gift cards, footwear, clothing, medicine, camps, programs and other educational opportunities. Through our programs, we hope to level the playing field so that all children are able to have a happy, healthy and successful childhood.

Burnaby Children's Fund (BCF) began in 1991 in response to the identified needs of Burnaby children and their families. They are now in their 31st year of service, and still tirelessly led by Helen Stolte and Ginny Tahara.

During Covid, of course, the BCF has not been able to have the annual fundraisers it has had in the past, but in 2018, it raised \$64,000. With this money, the BCF provided food gift cards, footwear, clothing, beds and linens, as well as medicine and medical aides for families. The response from the children and their families has been positive and heartwarming. To all of you who have donated to the Fund, you have our heartfelt gratitude.

Supporting Burnaby Youth Society (SBYS) is managed by a committee of several Burnaby counsellors, teachers and Parks and Recreations leaders. With the passing of SBYS' decades-long serving and dedicated Chair, Darlene James, the other committee members have worked hard to continue the good work of this organization. SBYS believes that participation in a wide range of recreational, social and leadership activities will:

- Foster the development of healthy attitudes
- Encourage and enable young people to make healthy lifestyle choices
- Improve self-esteem and self-confidence
- Assist in strengthening personal values including respect for oneself, others and personal property

11,000 Days

Hugh Greer never met his paternal grandfather and by the time he was 14 years old his remaining three grandparents had passed away. He spent years wishing he had known more about his grandparents, so at age 69 he decided to write a small memoir for his two grandsons. The first "final" draft was 6,000 words. His last final draft was over 92,000 words and is dedicated to his three grandsons.

11,000 Days spans 53 years of Greer's life, from his student days attending kindergarten in the 1950's to his retirement as a high school vice principal in 2009.

His memoir recounts Greer's comical, teachable, tragic and unforgettable experiences as a student in the Burnaby School District and educator in the Vancouver School District of British Columbia.

11,000 Days at School: From Class Clown to High School Vice Principal is an illuminating and entertaining journey through the evolution of education in British Columbia.