

CRTA Newsletter

President's Report



Image by callmetek on Freepik

Hello to all CRTA members. This time of the year is full of possibilities; we can feel it in the air. Spring is just around the corner and yet it can't seem to arrive quickly enough.

While we anticipate spring's warmer weather, winter however, reminds us that it is still in control with a blast of cold weather that is currently enveloping the Metro Vancouver area. So, I encourage our members to keep warm and perhaps indulge in some St. Patrick's Day festivities as we look forward to Spring's arrival. Take care, all.

Hazel Trembath Fire: Members can still make a direct financial donation to the teachers affected by the destruction of Hazel Trembath School by contacting the CTA Office at 604-936-9971.

Also, the SD43 Education Foundation has set up an online site to receive donations to support the Hazel Trembath community; tax receipts will be issued. Further information can be found by clicking on the SD43 Foundation link: <https://sd43foundation.org/make-a-donation/>

The CRTA General Meeting on February 7th, 2024 was very well attended. The Meeting was held at its new location at Montgomery Centre. The CRTA thanks SD 43 for confirming Montgomery Centre as the venue for future CRTA GMs.

Teresa Grandinetti gave a President's Report highlighting items of interest since the October General Meeting. Howard Spence provided a financial report and Maria Santone gave a review of the enjoyable CRTA Christmas Luncheon. The meeting then listened to a very entertaining presentation by CRTA Treasurer, Howard Spence, who gave the meeting a wonderful presentation on his personal journey with "Serendipitous Art". (See article below for further details!). Lastly, Bob Bartholomew, Margrete Wylie, Audrey Anthony and Howard Spence were the lucky recipients of door prizes.

The next CRTA General Meeting will be held on April 3rd at Montgomery Centre. Read further in the newsletter for information about the event. I hope to see many of our members there!

Teresa



Mark Your Calendar!

Mon. April 1, 2024

April Fool's Day

Wed. April 3, 2024

CRTA General Meeting – See details on the next page

Wed. May 8, 2024

CRTA Newsletter

Wed. June 5, 2024

CRTA AGM



Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2023–
2024

<https://bcrta.ca/coquitlam/>

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CRTA Meetings



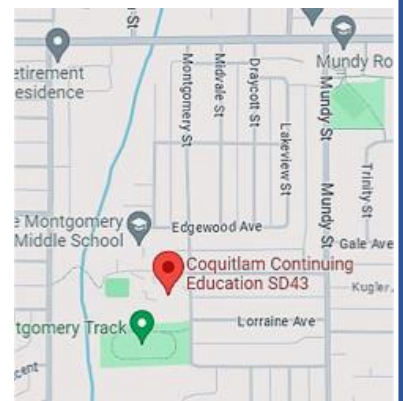
Serendipitous Art -Have you ever had a serendipitous moment? At our last General Meeting, we were all treated to "Serendipitous Art", a presentation by Howard Spence. He showed us what happens when haphazard paint splotches create a favourite painting, when enlarging a photo over and over, creates colours and designs not visible to the naked eye.

His frosty morning visit to his car captured ice crystals in designs and structures that are hard to imagine. Lastly, with those plastic net bags that contain our produce, and a heat gun, Howard twisted, turned and melted the bags into fascinating sculptures.

Thanks for our serendipitous presentation, Howard!

The Next Meeting is scheduled for **10 AM, Wed. Apr 3, 2024** at the Montgomery Center, 380 Montgomery St. Coquitlam. (Parking at the west side of the building). The speaker will be announced by email prior to the meeting.

Submitted by Fran Mitchell



IMPORTANT PHARMACARE UPDATE

Congratulations to all CRTA members who sent messages of support for a single payer national **Pharmacare Program** to our elected representatives! Following our years of advocacy, a draft **Pharmacare Bill** was introduced for parliamentary consideration on March 1. It is proposed that every Canadian with a health card would have access to free diabetes medication and birth control. The deal includes all insulin for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes as well as additional diabetes drugs and a fund for supplies such as devices for glucose monitoring.

Having our voices heard is so important! Even though the legislation is tabled, we need to make sure Members of Parliament know that Canada needs an expanded pharmacare program. Your voice is needed right now to keep the pressure on the politicians to deliver and push the Canada Pharmacare Act across the finish line.

Express your concerns by contacting your provincial or federal representatives with ACER-CART's easy-to-use letter-writing tool to send that message. The link also directs you to a letter from ACER-CART President Bill Berryman located on the ACER-CART website. Just enter your name, email, and postal code. Read the prepared letter and add to it if you wish. Press SEND and the email will go to all the elected representatives in your riding. You will also receive a copy. Here is the link to the ACER-CART website: <https://acer-cart.org/national-pharmacare/>

Thank you for your support of the campaign: **advocacy works!**



Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association



For many CRTA members who are no longer able to drive, attending a CRTA meeting can pose a challenge.

One solution to this issue, for some members, would be to access the Translink HandyCard, HandyDart and TaxiSaver programs. For information on eligibility and services, call 604-953-3680 or visit <https://www.translink.ca>handydart>

The non-profit Fraser River Discovery Centre currently has a **Volunteer Educator position** that is ideal for a retired educator with a passion for science communication and environmental education.



For further information contact: Petra Maior, Education Manager, at 604-521-8401 ext. 105 or pmaior@fraserriverdiscovery.org

Further information about the Discovery Centre can be found on its website at: fraserriverdiscovery.org

Class Actions

LifeLabs Data Breach Class Action – Settlement Approval & Distribution Notice

If you lived in Canada and were a **LifeLabs** customer on or before December 17, 2019, you may be a Settlement Class Member and eligible to receive compensation between \$50 and \$150, less court-approved costs.

The deadline for applying is **April 6, 2024**.

Apply in one of three ways:

1. File a completed claim form on the secure, online website at: <https://lifelabssettlement.kpmg.ca>
2. Email a completed Claim Form to the Claims Administrator at: lifelabssettlement@kpmg.ca.
3. Mail a completed Claim Form by ordinary mail to the Claims Administrator at the address specified below:
Lifelabs Claims Administrator, 600 Boul. De Maisonneuve West, Ste. 1500, Montreal, Quebec H3A 0A3

Meta Platforms Inc. – Facebook Sponsored Stories Class Action Settlement

Were you a resident of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Newfoundland and Labrador and a member of Facebook and resident of these provinces at any time from January 1, 2011, to May 30, 2014, and:

- a. at any time during this period was registered with Facebook using your real name, or had a profile picture that included an identifiable self-image, or both; and
- b. Whose real name, identifiable portrait, or both were used by Facebook in a Sponsored Story?

Stay tuned regarding the process and deadline for filing a claim.

CRTA 2023 – 2024 EXECUTIVE

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Howard's Wacky Word Play in the previous issue - Mispronunciation

The Mispronunciation Prize goes to **Linda Nelson**:

1. One of my students always referred to gloves as 'glubs'. I got such a chuckle out of it that I've used that term ever since!
2. Toob instead of tube.
3. Sundee, Mundee, Tuesdee, for days of the week. That sets my teeth on edge!
4. Spelling aside, I much prefer the pronunciation 'ce-me-tree' to 'ce-me-tair-ee
5. And finally, a food word kids typically default to - buscetti instead of spaghetti.

And "There was another fabulous one on Global News last night. The news reporter wished to reference the ancient Hippocrates and ended up calling him 'hypocrites'."

For her contributions, **Linda** will receive a gift certificate in appreciation.



Larri Woodrow also had something to say. And this is a good one, too, Larri,

"My gripe is usage, which has all but displaced WHO with THAT. 'The girl next door WHO —' has class, while THAT is just another 4-letter word.

Could the blame go all the way back to Abbott and Costello's 'Who's on First?'"



Missing In Action

CRTA asks members to send us a recent phone number or email address for **Maxine Glover**. Information to coquitlamrta@hotmail.com or 604.461.7355.

Members who change postal or email address are asked to contact us and the provincial office (office@bcrrta.ca)

Submitted by John Pope



CRTA Sunshine Director Dale Linton

sends cards to members who are unwell or families who have suffered a bereavement. Please keep her informed: 604-937-5113



The **BCRTA** website is your **one stop spot** for info on pensions, insurance programs, travel opportunities, taxes, member discounts, well-being and much more: <https://bcrrta.ca>

IN MEMORIAM



The CRTA regrets to announce the passing of the following District 43 colleagues.



We offer our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

Jennifer Bell: February 9, 2024: Jennifer taught at Banting and Montgomery Jr Secondary Schools and then at Student Services. She is survived by her husband John, son Stephen, family and friends.

Robert Whitelock: October 2023: Robert taught science, math and computer science at Centennial Secondary School. He also coached many sports teams. He is survived by his wife Patty, two daughters, son-in-law, five grandchildren, family and friends.