



David Heise on iPhone

**Year End Report
Card....Cowichan
Valley Retired
Teachers Association**

July, 2023

Instead of the familiar newsletter format, here is an update using the current BC Ministry of Education term for a year end report card.

1. June 23 Seniors Fair at the Cowichan Community Centre:
Thanks to David Denyer, Maureen Shaylor, and Judith Blakeston for attending to the booth, Gil Heise for constructing the display shelves, Richard Nelson for

constructing the hanger for the banner, the Heritage Committee for providing the pictures, and David especially for engineering the whole enterprise. The hope was to let seniors know what our association does and the many possibilities for membership, and to show the excellent work of the Heritage committee in documenting the history of Cowichan Valley schools. We had a few folks show interest in joining, but many more, including some familiar figures from the past, stop to reminisce about their school days and their favourite teachers.

Report Card: Extending

2. We were able to give two \$1500.00 bursaries this year to high school graduates planning a career in education. As Gil Heise, our Scholarship/Bursary Chairperson says, the bursary is an important part of our operation and this year's winners were notable not only for their strong academic standing but also for their contribution to school life and to the community. Our successful recipients were David Capper from Cowichan Secondary and Chloe Young from Chemainus Secondary.

Report Card: Extending

3. Our traditional **TGIF gathering, this year on September 5th**, has been arranged as a lunchtime visit to Red Arrow Brewing (just south of Duncan). There will be a chance to see how the brewery operates and the pleasure of a no-host pub style meal. We're hoping some of our new retirees will join us. You will be receiving a reminder later on this summer.

Report Card: Developing

4. Many, many former BCTF/BCTU members transition into retirement by joining the provincial body of retired teachers, the BCRTA. Here one keeps in touch with pension, health, travel and other matters directly and/or through the magazine Postscript and the on-line Connections. A number of districts form local associations, as Cowichan has, and for a yearly fee, in our case, of \$6.00, keep in "formal" touch with the parent body, enabling us to share in speakers, host representatives from the BCRTA, and have representation in their decision making.

Our CVRTA AGM was held on June 1 at the Cowichan Golf Club. 15 members were present. 9 people sent regrets. "Elections" were held. We elected no President (David Denyer, after 5 years at the helm, having indicated beforehand that he would not be serving in this role again).

Our local executive met on July 5 to discuss the situation. Declining membership is happening in a number of organizations so we are not alone: possible reasons for our failure to interest members in taking an active part range from Covid stress, exhaustion from too many meetings, and a desire to put one's professional life behind and get on with rest and relaxation. Apart from the September TGIF and a prospective Christmas lunch to encourage our members to donate to our bursary fund for 2024, the executive saw no reason to continue with regular planning for general meetings and speakers until the 15 plus 9 plus the remaining 176 CVRTA members offer some direction. So here are some choices: Which would you think is best?

A. Start the process to disband the CVRTA

B. See if another Island RTA would agree to us amalgamating with them (eg.Nanaimo, just as Victoria, Sooke and Saanich have done to form the Lower Vancouver Island Retired Teachers Association)

C. Muddle along as an informal social group if someone would agree to be the coordinator

It would be helpful if you would **press your reply** button after reading this newsletter and simply press one of **A, B, or C** to the choices above.

Oh, and the **Report Card? Emerging**