

# Lower Vancouver Island Retired Teachers

**Fall /Winter November 2022 Bulletin**

## **President's Message**

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President: Sharon Lassey 236-478-7171  
Vice-Pres: Lynna Schaldemose 250-514-7527  
Secretary: Marg Eagle 250-478-1579  
Treasurer: Paule Moor 250-385-3697  
Membership: Bronwyn Taylor 250-592-4826

We are glad to be able to update you, our members, on the activities of our organization. My thanks to the executive for their hard work, also for their help when someone gets to go on holiday – there is no lack of volunteering to help out while they are away. Berna and Marg have been enjoying time away but their jobs continue to be covered. Thanks again for our excellent executive. Now for an update on activities:



### **Christmas Lunch – December 5, The University Club of Victoria**

We are so happy to return to our regular lunch schedule. For Christmas we have chosen the University Club (former Faculty Club) because it usually brings back happy memories and is such a lovely place. Pat has chosen a menu (a buffet) that is going to be very tasteful with lots of choice. The bar will be available, and you will all remember the nice conversation areas. We do know that time to talk is really important to you.

The Executive has decided that our member attendance is important so the cost will be \$30.00 per person which is a rate below the cost of the buffet. Parking is also included in the event. A parking code will be forwarded to your email before the event.

Marie has arranged for the Campus View Children's Choir to come for 1:00. The children and their Choir Director are walking over so we will hope for good weather.

### **THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR THIS LUNCH IS VERY SHORT. THE**

University Club is asking that they have totals by the 19<sup>th</sup> of November so please email or call Pat as soon as you get your bulletin. I know we have been able to give you more flexibility in the past, but this cannot be helped.

**SO PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL RIGHT AWAY**

### ***LVIRT Winter Holiday Luncheon***



The  
UNIVERSITY CLUB  
of Victoria

**DECEMBER**

**5TH**

**FORMER  
FACULTY CLUB**

**\*RSVP BY SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19TH**

**TO ppawlett@telus.net phone 250-391-6477**

## Seminars/workshops update \*\*\*\*\*

David Futter, Debra Swain, and Darinka Popovic have been working to make these activities be a regularly available activity. They have been working to locate a place to have activities whether it is in person or on zoom, to offer topics for members and to decide on a time. Darinka has prepared a short survey that members on email will have received by now. Members who receive their Bulletin by mail will find the survey in the Bulletin. Please would you all respond so we can offer you what you would like.

Progress on being able to offer Trips has not happened as we are still looking for a couple of people to take this on. It is not onerous and will be a lot of fun organize different activities. Let me know if you are interested in taking on this task or know someone who might be interested.

In closing I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sharon



### \*\*\*\*\*SUNSHINE COMMITTEE\*\*\*\*\*

The **Sunshine Committee** regularly sends cards to members who are celebrating a **special birthday or anniversary**, to **those who are not well** or to families of our deceased members. Sunshine Committee Chairperson, Berna Ruffell, ***bruffell@shaw.ca; phone-250-532-4262*** welcomes names and contact information in order to send out our LVIRT SUNSHINE!!! If you know of a member who especially needs sunshine, please let Berna know!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **IMPORTANT!!! \*\*\* OUR SEMINAR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR INPUT \*\*** **PLEASE COMPLETE THIS SURVEY**

LVIRT would like to provide the membership with opportunities to participate in workshops. Eventually we are hoping to provide these workshops on a monthly basis with time, location, and topics to be planned around what members would like to attend.

Ideas for workshops could be for health, investment, projects, general interest, or maybe future travel. Folks have already suggested that they would be interested in the following: Friendship Force an opportunity to travel with a group using homestays in various parts of the world; exercise classes such as chair yoga; having a First Nations elder present on topics of interest; workshops on grief and loss. We need your help to make this work. Please complete this survey so that we can work on making plans. Your ideas and feedback would be greatly appreciated.

For additional information or problems with the survey please contact Darinka Popovic at [popovic@shaw.ca](mailto:popovic@shaw.ca). This is the link for the survey.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOPr3nDLRIqBfdtRZUcncSRoghww7KFEAxZc4VO5PZOer-nw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdOPr3nDLRIqBfdtRZUcncSRoghww7KFEAxZc4VO5PZOer-nw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## **Membership Report –Fall, 2022**

**In Memoriam:** Bev Hee, Aug. 25; Audrey Van Eerden, Sept. 5; Peter Cruse, Sept. 20; Ned Lemley, October; Leslie McNeill, Oct. 14;

**Birthday Wishes** for our members celebrating 90+ birthdays this season:

Missed birthdays -

October – Audrey Leacock, 1924; Marion E. Smith, 1926; Ron Blasner, Oct. 22, 1932;

November – Kathleen Wood, 1927; Anne McLaughlin, Nov. 27, 1930;

Ken Gibbard, Nov. 30, 1931

December – Bill Ashwell, Dec. 17, 1919; Louise Baur, Dec 13, 1927;

Beverly Tandberg, 1926

If you turn 90 this year and wish to be added to the list of greetings, please contact me so you can be added to our list of venerables.

After each Bulletin is sent, if an envelope or email is ‘undeliverable’, I phone the last number available to us. If it is N.I.S., the name and address is removed from our mailing list, but not the members’ list.

All changes are recorded as I receive them, shared with Robyn & Sharon, as well I send them to the BCRTA.

I apologize for any inconvenience, and thank you again for reminding me of changes to be made to the e-mail and mailing lists after every Bulletin.

Many thanks, as always, to the dedicated volunteer group that sees to the mailing of LVIRT bulletins, and to Robyn Evans, who sends the email version.

To stay up to date with LVIRT’s up-coming special events, and those of the BCRTA, please make sure we, and Laurie at BCRTA [laurie@bcрта.ca](mailto:laurie@bcрта.ca) have your current contact information.

Thank you in advance,

Bronwyn Taylor ([taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca](mailto:taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca) or 250-592-4826)

\*\*\*\*\*

## LVIRT Winter Holiday Luncheon

*Meet old and new friends. Bring a visitor. Enjoy the lunch and entertainment offered.*

*Spacious venue with lots of **FREE** parking.*

**Monday, December 5th**

**AT THE**



The  
UNIVERSITY CLUB  
of Victoria

**Formerly the Faculty Club @ UVic.**

11:00 to 2:00 (Luncheon at 12:00)

Cost: \$30.00



*Musical Entertainment will be provided for your  
enjoyment.*

**THE CAMPUS VIEW CHILDREN'S  
CHOIR**

**WILL PERFORM UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
MS. JODY ONUMA**

**Reservations**

**RSVP by Monday November 19**

**Call: Pat Pawlett 250-391-6477**

Email: [ppawlett@telus.net](mailto:ppawlett@telus.net)

All contacts will be confirmed Please indicate dietary restrictions with reservation.  
Rides and mobility access assistance available upon request

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

\*\*\*\*\*

1) \*Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees,  
focuses on mental health support. If you are interested in assisting  
Ukrainian Refugees contact VICCIR at [volunteer@viccir.org](mailto:volunteer@viccir.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

2) Cancerdriveline.ca

3) victorialiteracyconnection.ca



VICTORIA  
Literacy Connection

Opening the world of learning in our community.

**TUTORS**  
*Needed*

## ADVANTAGE TUTORING

### Who?

We are looking for Tutors/Teachers to join  
our team in this paid service program.  
BC Certified teachers or equivalent  
preferred

### What?

Provide targeted support in  
reading, writing, math and  
other school subjects. Gr 1-10  
\*French Immersion options

### Where? When?

On-line  
or in-person at VLC office  
A10 830 Pembroke St,  
Victoria, B.C.  
Casual 1-4 hrs per week



From  
\$27/hr



### CONTACT

Karen Gonzales  
Program Coordinator  
[advantage@victorialiteracyconnection.ca](mailto:advantage@victorialiteracyconnection.ca)

672 974-7323

# **Walking Groups and Contact Persons**

## **SCRAMBLERS**

**Thursday morning Rosemary Kelso 778-265-2657 [drkelso2@gmail.com](mailto:drkelso2@gmail.com)**

Socialization, Activity and Safety are important aspects of our walks. We meet once a week on Thursday's, beginning September 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 and will complete our SCRAMBLERS' Walks, June, 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All walks are in the Greater Victoria area. Starting time is 9:50am and we only wait 10 minutes after starting time for late arrivals. Our walks are approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours. Members take turns planning and leading a walk. At the end of our walk, we usually go for a coffee at the nearest coffee shop. If you are interested in joining our walking group, please contact Rosemary Kelso [drkelso2@gmail.com](mailto:drkelso2@gmail.com) or at 778 265-2657. Thanks, Rosemary

## **RAMBLERS' WALKING GROUP**

**Tuesday 10:00 CONTACT PERSON: Nancy Carson [nancycarson75@gmail.com](mailto:nancycarson75@gmail.com)  
250-477-2278**

Our walks are held on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30, followed by optional lunch or coffee at a local restaurant. Routes are usually in the Greater Victoria area with easy terrain and modified to suit individual exercise abilities.

Occasionally, we visit various points of interest. In addition to our weekly walks, we plan an annual [Christmas](#) luncheon.

If you are interested and would like more details contact Nancy Carson

## **WEDNESDAY WALKERS**

Wednesday Walkers Wednesday morning

Terry Wendorf [twendorf@shaw.ca](mailto:twendorf@shaw.ca)

Marg Eagle [margeagle619@gmail.com](mailto:margeagle619@gmail.com) 250-478-1579

The Wednesday Walking Group began in the fall of 2012, with a core group of four or five walkers. We selected our walks one week at a time, as there were so few of us. Some weeks nobody could come but over time, we have increased our numbers and added to our walking repertoire. Many weeks, we have more than 15 women walking together. People walk at their own pace. We now have six-month lists of walks. We try to spread ourselves across the region, so never walking in one neighbourhood two weeks in a row. Walks are approximately an hour and end with a tea break. In the spring and at Christmas, we save Butchart's coupons from the paper and travel out to see the lovely gardens, at no cost. We also have some other seasonal favourites. No secret handshakes or membership dues – maybe give us a try!

\*\*\*\*\*

In the new season, beginning September, 2022, we welcome clubs and may enjoy the future possibilities of a TENNIS CLUB, BRIDGE CLUB, BOOK and ART CLUBS.

We are open to considering anything of interest to our members.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS NOVEMBER 2022 Paul Hutcheson**

LVIRT presented the following resolution at the BCRTA's AGM held October 1<sup>st</sup> in Richmond. "That the pension trustee continues to work with the BCRTA Executive to apprise the pension corporation of the need to use an ethical lens when choosing investment opportunities." As teachers, we supported our local and provincial bodies on matters of social justice: Indigenous rights, the environment, labour laws, and human rights issues including, but not limited to, gender equality and matters about the LGBTQ1A2S community.

While corporations are now including minority groups in their advertising, there is also disturbing trend developing in the US that targets minority groups. Bills are being introduced in statehouses across the country that single out LGBTQ1A2S individuals - many specifically targeting transgender youth - for exclusion or differential treatment. For example, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) recently signed the legislation known as "Don't Say Gay" into law, which prohibits any discussion of "sexual orientation or gender identity" through the third grade and any discussion "that is not-age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students" in other grades. AT&T donated \$50,000 to DeSantis in October 2021. AT&T is the second largest contributor to anti-LGBTQ1A2S politicians, as shown on the table below. The table was developed using information in a number of recent US news publications.

**In this example, American politicians are the recipients of the funds.** And their actions would not be allowed in British Columbia, based on our Human Rights Code. **But we do have a corporation, British Columbia Investments, that has one shareholder, the provincial government.** It manages our pension fund along with a dozen others. We, as former educators, have a duty to insist that the pension corporation exercise its right to speak at shareholders' meetings and condemn the contributions. In a direct way, it is our money that is funding discrimination based on sexual orientation in at least ten states and in congress. Financing practices that are against the law in BC and an affront to our policies and bylaws must stop.

<b>Corporation</b>	<b>Contribution, \$ m</b>	<b>BC INVESTMENTS \$ m</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Charter Communications	1.12	17.81	branded as Spectrum
AT&T	1.1	44.5	
GM	1.0	15.25	
Walmart	.954	230.4	
Deloitte*	.843	0	
Home Depot	.824	160.16	
Comcast	.799	66.95	purveyors of porn
Amazon	.560	354.04	
Verizon	.559	49.64	
Exxon	.550	48.70	
CVS	.548	249.87	pharmacy chain
Aflac	.507	7.06	medical insurance
FedEx	.467	14.63	
PWC	.458*	0	accounting firm
Google	.403*	0	
Toyota	.387	6.16	
Delta	.384	1.59	
Anheuser-Busch	.366*	0	
Dell	.356	4.49	
Johnson & Johnson	.268	115.79	
Ford	.232	10.16	
American Airlines	.174*	0	
American Express	.144	19.95	
Allstate	.129	7.21	car and home ins
Target	.122	20.44	big box chain

See next page re: \* remarks and reference



BCI British Columbia Investments, March 31, 2021 (unaudited), public equities

\*Contributors, not in BCI inventory, included for sake of interest :

### **Aging in place**

Aging in place means having access to services and the health and social supports you need to live safely and independently in your home or your community for as long as you wish or are able. For many seniors, this is a practical alternative to some of the costly options that the marketplace supplies currently. For seniors able to live independently, it avoids the institutional setting that was so detrimental to residents at the height of the recent covid pandemic. An internet search will provide you with a plethora of information. A very good site is <http://seniorsfirstbc.ca/links/aging-place-resources-2/> and it provides many links that are specific to your community.

### **Inflation**

The following LVIRT resolution was passed without dissenting vote at the October BCRTA AGM, "That the BCRTA be encouraged to join with other groups to lobby for an increase to the old age pension." In most years, our pension receives a cost-of-living increase, but because of the way in which it is calculated, it never keeps up with the cost of living. With inflation rates at extremely elevated levels, a great many of us are falling behind. This is especially true in rural areas where food prices are at all-time highs. It has been my experience that significant numbers of retirees in the community don't have an income that allows them to live comfortably and worry free. The easiest way to address the situation is a national approach whereby the old age pension is increased substantially. The federal government certainly has the financial resources available as witnessed by its response to both the covid pandemic and the conflict in eastern Europe.

The federal government, through the Bank of Canada, is fighting inflation by adjusting the prime rate. This approach affects all of us. It is a regressive policy that ultimately penalizes lower income citizens, many of whom are the elderly. How is it that the federal government can allow a 1500% increase in the prime rate while making the recent and insignificant increase in the OAP? Canada's annual inflation rate slowed to 6.9% in September of 2022, below the 39-year peak of 8.1% hit in June, but this reduction is based on major components being seasonally adjusted, while the necessities of food and shelter remain at all time highs. It is time for our organization to join with others at the national level to lobby for a significant increase and for each of us to contact our MP and do the same.



# GVRTA Scholarship Committee News

## News from our Fall Meeting

Our Committee convened our regular Fall meeting on October 26, 2022. We reviewed our scholarship selection process for 2022, and used our experiences to inform preparations for inviting eligible UVic students to apply for our next round of scholarships in early 2023. We are hopeful that our current finances, which have somewhat improved of late, should allow us to give out at least three bursaries in the coming year. (You may recall from the August bulletin that, due to the limitations on fundraising because of Covid restrictions, total bursaries were reduced to only two in 2022.)

Speaking of those recently improved finances, we are very grateful to the generous donations we received at September luncheon, and in addition, we have received some much-appreciated memorial bequests, all of which are of tremendous help for our worthy cause. Our entire Committee sincerely thanks all who have helped new teachers receive much-needed support on their journey to become new members of the teaching profession.

While the recent September luncheon and bequests mentioned above were extremely helpful, the success of the Scholarship Committee continues to be very much connected to member support, and is as important as ever.

Donations can be made at any time. Here is the process:

## Member Donations to the Scholarship Committee.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to our Committee, your cheque is payable to: **GVRTA Scholarship Foundation.**

\*\*\*\* **PLEASE NOTE that cheques go to our Treasurer, Philip Allingham.** \*\*\*\*

Philip V. Allingham  
4965 Lochside Drive  
Victoria, B.C.

V8Y 2E6      Philip will gladly issue you a tax receipt for your donation.

## **Extra! Extra!**

In addition to relying on member donations, our Committee continues to look for other creative ways to raise money to help finance our scholarships. Please note the following offer that might be of interest to you, and at the same time, help build up funds for our 2023 scholarships.

Whether it is through your donations and bequests, or by purchasing some of the many great puzzles described below, **We Appreciate Your Ongoing Support!**

## **JIGSAW PUZZLES FOR SALE**

### **Stock up for Winter!!**

The Scholarship Committee has been “gifted” a large number of gently used jigsaw puzzles to sell in our fundraising endeavours. These include many top quality brands: Cobble Hill, EuroGraphics and Ravensburger. (All have been carefully packaged after use in ziplock bags to avoid loss.) Prices range from \$5 to \$10. Others brands in the \$2 to \$5 range. Discounts given for multiple purchases. **Puzzles make great gifts and will be available at our Christmas luncheon.**

For further details and early bird sales contact Carole Gray at 250- 658-2687 or Wendy Swonnell at 250- 477- 9706.      All proceeds go to our student teacher Scholarships.

# LOWER VANCOUVER ISLAND RETIRED TEACHERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2023

<b>President:</b>	Sharon Lassey	236-478-7171	lvirtpresident@gmail.com sharonlassey29@gmail.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	Lynna Schaldemose	250-514-7527	lynnaschaldemose@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Paule Moor	250-385-3697	paulecmoor@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Marg Eagle	250-478-1579	margeagle619@gmail.com
<b>Advocacy:</b>	Paul Hutcheson	250-629-2074	skiver@shaw.ca

**Bulletin Submissions:** Marie Veintrop 250-658-8122 [lvirtbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:lvirtbulletin@gmail.com)

Note: Name on [lvirtbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:lvirtbulletin@gmail.com) reads as Lynna Schaldemose  
(disregard THIS name, as it is going to Marie Veintrop, the BULLETIN EDITOR )

[marieveintrop@shaw.ca](mailto:marieveintrop@shaw.ca)

**Heritage:**

<b>Social:</b>	Pat Pawlett	250-391-6477	ppawlett@telus.net
<b>Membership:</b>	Bronwyn Taylor	250- 592-4826	taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca
<b>Social Concerns:</b>	Paul Hutcheson	250-629-2074	skiver@shaw.ca

**Members-at-Large:**

Berna Ruffell	250- 532-4262	bruffell@shaw.ca
Loretta Deutscher	778-430-0735	lorettarose@islandnet.com
David Futter	250-995-1943	futter.david@gmail.com

**Next Executive Meeting :** Meetings are on a Monday at 10:30 ON ZOOM January 23rd 2023

**Bulletins Published– November 12th.**

**Luncheons:**

DECEMBER 5TH AT THE



The  
UNIVERSITY CLUB  
of Victoria

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS

**BC Retired Teachers' Assoc., Vancouver** 1-877-683-2243  
[laurie@bcrtta.com](mailto:laurie@bcrtta.com)

**Greater Victoria Teachers' Association** 250-595-0181 #5-515 DUPPLIN Rd. Vic. V8Z 1C2

**Teachers' Pension Service** Victoria 250-356-9658

**JOHNSON: MEDOC Travel Insurance** 1-866-799-0000  
Home Insurance 1-800-563-0677  
Long-term Care Insurance 1-877-582-7526

**Green Shield (Greenshield.ca)** 1-888-711-1119  
**BC Seniors' Line** 1-800-465-4911

**HealthLink** 8-1-1 [www.HealthLinkBC.ca](http://www.HealthLinkBC.ca)