

Lower Vancouver Island Retired Teachers

February Winter 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

Good to be communicating with you all again.

I am so excited to be seeing the signs of Spring as we do in February. My relatives in Alberta are so envious. I am about to plant my spring bulbs in my deck planter and also in the garden area below our condo. I know, I am such a procrastinator about planting. After so many years of procrastinating I know the bulbs will come up! My pansies are blooming and I will get some other blooms soon as well.

We just got back from Maui where the weather was lovely. I took so many pictures of the plants at our resort. Got a bit of a tan but didn't overdo it. It was worth the agony of trying to find places to get tested here and in Maui. WestJet was very helpful when it came to having tests for Maui. Docs on Call were great for tests in Maui. Just in case anyone is planning a trip.

I have to say we are all suffering a bit of "What can we do". It was hard to get out and about and be amongst people again. I think we will all need to readjust when things finally open up again. Our organization is experiencing some of that adjustment. Our membership dropped by almost 100 members this year. I hope that as we get closer to the new reality that COVID has brought, our membership will again climb. We are all looking forward to having new activities for our members. Your executive has been working hard to plan future programs. If you have any ideas please let us know. Even better come join us as a Member at Large on the Executive.

Another piece of good news arrived in the mail this week. My husband Don is a Public Service Pension Plan member. Like us he received the Pension Life Newsletter. It was interesting to notice that his 2002 to 2022 Pension Plan went from \$20,000 annual income to \$29,922, while ours for the same time frame went from \$25,000 annual income to \$36,279. I didn't want to brag but I think our Plan has been very successful.

I also very much enjoyed our current issue of the PostScript Magazine. There are also other publications that are available so please check the BCRTA Website and sign up. The more informed we are the better.

In closing enjoy our early spring signs. Let us know if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Sharon Lassey

President, LVIRT



MEMBERS NEEDED

CALL OR EMAIL SHARON LASSEY
ASAP

250-361-6504,
sharonlassey29@gmail.com



*******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!

Membership Report – Winter, 2021-2022

In Memoriam: Helen Maxwell, Nov. 22, 2021; Judith Primrose, Nov. 27, 2021; George Gurney, Dec. 1, 2021; Anja Isaacson, January 11, 2022;

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

Missed birthdays -

February – Jev Tothill, 1929

March – Jean Bunch, March 9, 1931

April – Ron Berod, April 4, 1926; Dorothy Dobson, April 9, 1919

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.

We work hard to keep our mailing lists up to date, depending on you to forward any changes you make to your physical and/or email address or phone number.

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.

I'm not sure how, why, when or where communications break down, but after every issue I receive calls and emails from people reminding me of changes to email addresses or names that have been changed or removed from our contacts for one reason or another that "didn't seem to make it into the system after the last Bulletin".

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@bcrt.ca have your current contact information.

Thank you in advance,
Bronwyn Taylor (taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca or 250-592-4826)



GEORGE FRANCES RICHARD GURNEY

1931-2021

George was an educator who received his teaching certificate in 1951. He taught at Giscome, Harris Creek, and Langford Elementary Schools before becoming principal at Sangster Elementary in 1958. George retired in 1986 as principal of David Cameron Elementary. "OB's" passions were fishing, hunting, gardening and going to watch his family's various sporting events. He was the best fan ever.

A heartfelt thank you for George's years of volunteering and help with distributing our LVIRT BULLETIN.

SOCIAL CONCERNS, 2022 FEBRUARY BY PAUL HUTCHESON

I would like to recommend an environmental novel to you as we contemplate one of the most important questions facing humankind today—can we survive the coming environmental catastrophe that many of the world's leading scientists are predicting? While the author of ***The Overstory***, Richard Powers, does not answer that question directly, he does show us how human destruction of the planet has proceeded over decades and through the first-person narrations, may point us all to actions that we might take to mitigate the harm before it is too late for our grandchildren.

Although the novel takes place in the United States, I found myself constantly finding examples in Canada. Most of the tree species are familiar and when the author talked about Redwoods, I found it easy to substitute Red Cedar. Much of the action takes place in Oregon, where Douglas Fir and Hemlock dominate, as they do here. There are nine main characters in the novel, and each has a chapter at the beginning of the book. Their stories are sufficiently interesting to stand alone. But then the characters begin to interact, and we can see how different human beings can be connected, although on the surface this might not be evident. And here is the genius of the novel: when we look at a forest, we see trees. What we do not see are the intricate and supportive networks that exist at below the soil. A skeptic might say that the interconnections between species that we cannot see are pure flights of fancy, but in reality, considerable research about trees communicating with each other and mushrooms and tree roots enjoying rich and symbiotic relationships was done here in BC. And then there are the thousands of grasses, shrubs, insects, organic compounds, and flowers to add into the mix.

Why do I like this book so much? Because it supports all that we know in our hearts to be so dreadfully wrong with "forest" management in British Columbia. We are experts at growing trees like an agricultural crop, and there are locations on Vancouver Island that are being harvested for the third time since the arrival of Europeans. Those are not managed forests but farming on a scale of 35 to 70 years of rotation. All the other aspects of the forest are gone—the influence on the water table, the heat balance, the wildlife in all its forms, the cultural values of First Nations, and a place of refuge for all of us as we revitalise physically and spiritually. Reading this book is an emotional roller coaster and not all the characters honourable. But it is an important contribution to the understanding of the environment that will enable us to be more aware of the destruction of the forests and our role in that tragedy.

Walking Groups Contact Persons

Scramblers Thursday morning Rosemary Kelso 778-265-2657 drkelso2@gmail.com

Ramblers Tuesday 10:00
CONTACT PERSON: BEV HEE—
250.477.5956 (bevy.ergit@shaw.ca)

Wednesday Walkers Wednesday morning
Sue Svendsen 250-217-3749
sue.svendsen@gmail.com
Marg Eagle margegagle619@gmail.com
250-478-1579



**LVIRT wishes you a happy
and safe SPRING season!**

Important Dates for 2022

AGM - MAY 17

Bulletin Posting Dates

April 22, June 17, New Retirees, August 19

Executive Meetings

March 21, April 25, June 6, Aug 29, October 24

Hell With The Bell Luncheon- Hopefully September 6th

GREATER VICTORIA RETIRED TEACHERS' SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

***** PLEASE NOTE:** If anyone is interested in joining our Committee to learn, and then assume the role of Vice President, we would be delighted to have you!

The position mainly involves contact with UVic, and as such is very rewarding. Neither the work load nor the number of meetings is at all onerous, and our members are warm and welcoming.

If you are interested, or have any questions, contact our President, Mary Zak, at mmzak@shaw.ca, or our Secretary, Carole Gray crgray@shaw.ca.

As we've said before, please consider it!

As we shared in the September Fall Bulletin, we gave out \$6000 in scholarships in 2021. We are now looking ahead to 2022, when we will once again invite UVic student applications. Our deadline for applications is March 31, 2022. In the month of April, 2022, the Committee will assess all applications and then go through a group process to choose the scholarship winners.

As always, we invite, and greatly appreciate, donations from our community of retired teachers.

The procedure is as follows:

Please make cheques payable to: Greater Victoria Retired Teachers, Scholarship Foundation (GVRTSF) and send to the treasurer, or bring to the next luncheon, on December 14, 2021. The charitable number is BN89236 5644 RR0001.

Please specify how your donation is to be applied:

Annual Awards: by law, 80% of the donations specified for this award must be awarded within the coming academic year. To contribute to the annual award, no direction is required.

1) Annual Awards: by law, 80% of the donations specified for this award must be awarded within the coming academic year. To contribute to the annual award, no direction is required.

2) Capital Fund: Donations to the Capital Fund accumulate; interest generated is used for Annual Awards. By law, these donations may not be expended for 10 years. To contribute to this fund, fill in the DECLARATION FORM below and submit it with your cheque.

CAPITAL FUND DECLARATION

GREATER VICTORIA RETIRED TEACHERS' SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

I, (Name) _____ (Address) _____

_____ (Postal Code) _____ (Phone) _____

_____ hereby direct that my donation to the Greater Victoria Retired Teachers' Scholarship Foundation, registration number BN89236 5644 RR0001, of \$ _____ be held for a period of not less than 10 years. (Date) _____ (Donor Signature) _____ (Receipt # _____ to be completed by Treasurer:) _____ Treasurer: address, Victoria BC .

******* PLEASE NOTE** the contact information for our Treasurer, Philip Allingham. *********

Philip V. Allingham

4965 LOCHSIDE Dr. Victoria, BC V8Y 3B6

250-889-9755

Email: pallingh@lakeheadu.ca

Thank you for your ongoing support!

LOWER VANCOUVER ISLAND RETIRED TEACHERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021-2022

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

Bulletin Submissions: Marie Veintrop 250-658-8122 lvirtbulletin@gmail.com

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

marieveintrop@shaw.ca

Heritage:

Social:	Pat Pawlett	250-391-6477	ppawlett@telus.net
Membership:	Bronwyn Taylor	250- 592-4826	taylorbronwyn@shaw.ca
Social Concerns:	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 10:00am until further notice,
March 21st, April 25th, June 6th, August 29th, October 24th, January 23rd 2023

Bulletins Published– February 11th, April 22nd, June 17th, New Retirees, August 19th, November 19th.

Luncheons: Based on COVID RESTRICTIONS BUT HOPEFULLY SEPTEMBER 6TH and
DECEMBER 13,14,OR 15TH to be determined.

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS

BC Retired Teachers' Assoc., Vancouver 1-877-683-2243
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