



Volume 1, Number 5

February
2024

PQRTA Newsletter

A publication designed for communication between the Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Executive and PQRTA Members



Calling all SENIORS!

Tuesday, February 27th - 1:00 to 3:00pm

ISOBEL MACKENZIE - BC Seniors' Advocate

Arrowsmith Hall: 1014 Ford Rd, Coombs Fairgrounds



After 10 years of being
"the voice for BC Seniors",
Isobel Mackenzie is
retiring in March.

In British Columbia, there are more than a million people over the age of 65, which is about 1 out of every 5 people, **20% of British Columbians are 65 and over.**

Come and hear a fascinating presentation on the state of BC Seniors in Long Term Care with the latest survey findings and **recommendations in 8 key areas.** Learn about multiple **resources available to seniors.** Followed by a Question-and-Answer period.

EVERY VOICE COUNTS: Long-Term Care Resident and Visitor Survey Results 2023



- compilation of results from thousands of long-term care residents and their family members
- 297 publicly subsidized care facilities in BC
- Responses from over 10,000 residents and almost 8,000 family & friends
- Over 500 volunteers assisted residents to complete the survey

DEADLINE to register: **February 20th**

EMAIL: pqrtaprograms@gmail.com

PHONE: 250-927-1706 (Lisa) or 250-937-9314 (Jenn)

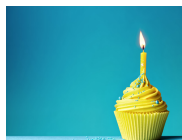
Sponsored by Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association

FREE to members of the
BC Retired Teachers' Assoc.
\$2.00 for Guests
Includes tea, coffee and
refreshments.

Are you eligible
to become a
BCRTA/PQRTA
Life Member

All you have to
do is celebrate
your
90th birthday.

Please let us
know when you
turn 90 so we can
update your
status to Life
Member!



Deadline for donations is February 28, 2024.

ORES - OCEANSIDE RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP

It's a new year and time to start filling up the ORES scholarship account!

In June 2024, ORES hopes to give two scholarships:

- \$1000 to a student from either Kwalikum or Ballenas Secondary who is training as an educator
- \$500 to a motivated student (most likely in trades training) from PASS (Parksville Alternate Secondary)

If you wish to donate, please make your cheque payable to **School District 69** (Not PQRTA) as the monies are held by the district "in trust" for ORES.

Mail your cheques or money orders to the following:

Cathy Van Herwaarden
Box 286
Coombs, BC
V0R 1M0

Or we can pick up your donation:

Contact Cathy Van: Phone: 250.248.0412 OR email or eTransfer to: cathyvanh@gmail.com

Qualicum School District will mail your individual **Income Tax receipt** to you.

What is ORES?

A few years ago the Canada Revenue Agency implemented new rules for Non-Profit organizations with the goal of separating operating funds, which benefit association members, from any charitable donations collected by the association. In accordance with these rules the Oceanside Retired Educators' Scholarship (ORES) was established as a separate organization to manage funds collected for the purpose of conferring annual scholarships to students graduating from Qualicum (S.D. #69) Schools. As a member of the Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association (PQRTA), you are automatically a member of ORES.

ORES has a small committee (and would welcome more members). We meet regularly to establish goals and evaluate scholarship applications. If you are interested in learning more, or wish to help choose scholarship winners, please contact me. ((cathyvanh@gmail.com))

Thanks so much to all of you for your continued support of our local students.

ARROWSMITH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

COOMBS FAIR

MONDAY
February 19th, 2024
1:00pm - 4:00pm

COW-ntdown to FUN!

12TH ANNUAL COOMBS FAMILY DAY

All Ages!

- Heritage Demos
- Educational Displays
- Games & Crafts
- Face Painting
- Garden Railway
- Live Animals
- Sandbox Treasure Hunt
- Cookie Decorating
- Photo Booth

FREE Hotdogs, Popcorn, Coffee, & Tea while supplies last.
*Please leave your pets at home.

Coombs Fairgrounds
1014 Ford Road
Coombs, BC

ACRA
ARROWSMITH COMMUNITY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Funding support provided by:
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

PQRTA is at Family Day in Coombs!

Find PQRTA Heritage Chair Sharon Cox-Gustavson presenting at Coombs Family Day on February 19.

On display will be Historical pictures of Coombs Village and models of original French Creek school and the CPR Cameron Lake Chalet. The Chalet and the government-built French Creek school were both constructed at the same time as the E&N (Esquimalt & Nanaimo) Railroad extended its line through Coombs into the Alberni Valley.

There also will be a power point display of historical Coombs area as well as a children's hands-on activity table of historical articles.

Have you ever wondered about the R.R. Smith page you see on the last page of every issue of Postscript?

Just like our own Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship (ORES) is the charitable arm of PQRTA, established to raise monies for local student scholarships, the *R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation* is the charitable arm of the BCRTA. Also similarly, every member of BCRTA automatically becomes a member of the R.R. Smith Foundation and pays a small annual fee.

Incorporated and registered as a charity in 2000, the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation was named in honour of Robert Reid Smith, a founding member of the BC Retired Teachers' Association and Past President of the BCTF. The Foundation provides a focus for the charitable activities of the members of BCRTA. Its reach is broad and extensive and ranges from providing bursaries for low-income students in Surrey to providing sewing machines for young women in Kenya who train to set up a home business as tailors; computer training for children in Uganda; to books for low income children in Guatemala and many more. Applications are received and evaluated every year. In 2023, over \$40,000 in grants to 27 worthy projects were approved. A small but significant fee increase, recently approved at the 2023 AGM, will mean that in 2024 even more projects can be helped. Two local projects that have received monies from R.R. Smith include Tumaini, which supports orphans in Kenya and Eva Hilborn's Wonderful World of Books!



BCRTA Valentine Broadcast and Contest!

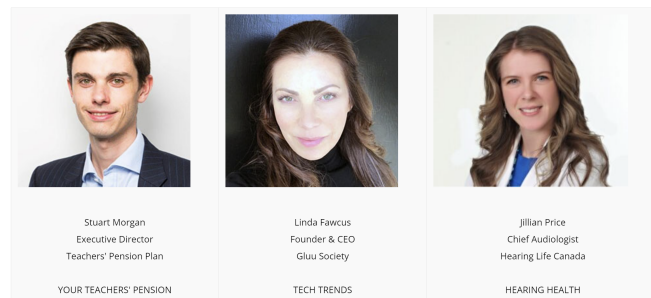
Our popular gift baskets giveaway for you and a Valentine friend is back!

Enter to win prizes that celebrate the Lunar New Year and that special day of friendship, Valentine's Day!

Then join us on **February 9th at 10AM** as we announce the winners during our Lunar Valentine broadcast.

<https://bcrt.ca/valentine>

FEATURING SPECIAL GUESTS



ENTER NOW TO WIN MATCHING GIFT BASKETS FOR YOU AND A FRIEND

PQRTA Executive

Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association Executive consists of 8 PQRTA Members who share a passion for supporting our fellow members and other seniors in the community.

Judy Stewart:	President	pqtapresident@gmail.com
Cathy Van Herwaarden:	Past President	pqtapastpresident@gmail.com
Stephanie Koropatnick:	V.P./Communications	pqtacommunicationschair@gmail.com
Jennifer Coomes:	Programs Co-Chair	pqtaprograms@gmail.com
Lisa Stepp:	Programs Co-Chair	pqtaprograms@gmail.com
Ellen Coates:	Treasurer	eacoates@telus.net
Val Dyer:	Secretary/Sunshine Chair	tvdyer@shaw.ca
Sharon Cox-Gustavson:	Heritage Chair	sharoncg@shaw.ca

The PQRTA Newsletter is created and distributed by Stephanie Koropatnick, PQRTA Communications Chair. Please send comments & suggestions to: pqrtacommunications@gmail.com