



NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA BRANCH OF THE  
B C RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



THE **TRUANT**

Spring 2024

**Year-end Message from Co-President Peter Yang**

Greetings to all members. In writing this year-end message, I am reflecting on what the DRTA has accomplished in this past year. To me the highlights have always been the luncheons. We have successfully hosted 2 luncheons in September and December this year. Both were well attended. I have always enjoyed the social nature of these events and catching up with friends and former colleagues. I do want to take this opportunity to thank all the board members who worked hard to make those events a success. As I am writing this, the board members are busy planning for the upcoming AGM and luncheon on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Sharkey's Restaurant in Ladner. I hope to see as many of you as possible come to the luncheon. Watch for more information in this newsletter, through email and on our Facebook page.

In addition to the luncheons, I want to say a few words regarding our pop-up events that have been planned throughout the year. We have tried to host events that are of interest to the members. These events are planned and organized by our members for our members. Anyone can lead a pop-up event. We welcome any and all ideas and suggestions for pop-up events. These events can take place anytime throughout the year. We understand that not all events are for everyone, so having a variety of events will provide something for everyone. If you have any ideas of what you and your friends might like to visit or do, or would like to host/lead an event, please contact us at [drtacountact@gmail.com](mailto:drtacountact@gmail.com). Last but not the least, it is important that we have your most updated email. When you change your email or if you know of someone who has not received an email from us recently, please inform us by sending your email to [drtacountact@gmail.com](mailto:drtacountact@gmail.com)

Peter Yang, Co-President

## Message From Co-President, Annie Coblin

As the 2023-2024 term is nearing its end, the present DRTA Board Members continue to be busy, planning and preparing for our next DRTA Lunch as we have done for previous events in the past year: Pop-up Picnic, No Bell Lunch, Pop-up Secret Garden Tour, Christmas Lunch, and Pop-up Delta Museum Tour. Through it all, members were kept informed and entertained via our newsletter, the Truant. On another front, DRTA focused on recruiting new members, which resulted in BCRTA giving DRTA the top honour of having the highest membership increase in percentage! All in all, it was an “eventful” year.

As Co-President, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to you, my fellow Board Members for your dedication and diligence. I’m also grateful to the many volunteers who served on the various Committees. Your contributions are much appreciated. Last but not least, I would like to thank all of you who have taken time to attend our DRTA lunches and/or join our pop-up events. Your participation have made it all worthwhile.

At our upcoming Lunch/AGM, new Board Members will be elected and new Committee Chairs and Committee Members will be appointed. Please consider putting your name forward for one of these, or create a new Committee. You may find being on the Board or a Committee rewarding and...worthwhile.

I hope you will attend our next Lunch/AGM in May and other future events. You may find the conversations and conviviality among former colleagues (and possibly winning one of the many \$25 gift cards) very enjoyable and...worthwhile.

So, come join us at DRTA, We can make it all worthwhile...together.

Sincerely, Annie Coblin

## Vice-President's Report -

The V-P position demands flexibility to 'act in lieu of president, to step in wherever needed. DRTA practices continue to adapt to changes vis a vis our evolving electronic world. This year I created the posters for the luncheons and the pop-up events. Hosting The Secret Garden Tours is always a pleasure. September's luncheon and The Secret Garden Tour were reported in winter's The Truant. Both individually and with other Board members, I/we continue to revisit the DRTA practices with a view to better inform our members of what is available via BCRTA and the community at large and to foster a sense of social connection within our group of retirees. My thanks to all the Board for making our tasks enjoyable as well as successful.

Angelika Hedley

# DRTA MAY LUNCHEON & AGM

Reconnect with your retired school colleagues and district friends.

**Date:** WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

**Time:** 11:30 am to 2:00 pm (meal served at noon)

**Place:** Sharkey's Seafood bar & Grille  
4953 Chisholm St.

at Ladner Government Harbour (inside dining room)

- Menu Choices:**
1. Beef, Cod, or Veggie Burger & Fries
  2. Seafood or Vegetarian Pasta (in white sauce)
  3. 2-piece Cod Fish & Chips
  4. Cranberry Chicken BLT & Fries

Coffee, tea, or juice/soft drink is included in the cost.

Other beverages are available, and on your tab.

**Cost** (subsidized by DRTA): DRTA Members \$25 Non-Members: \$35

Please **RSVP** with your food choice to Yvonne Chard (drtaevents@gmail.com)  
RSVP deadline is May 1.

After lunch, we will have a brief formal DRTA AGM 2023/24 to elect our new executive board for 2024/25 and to elect DRTA delegates to the BCRTA Conference/AGM in September.

Come for good times with old friends and former colleagues and win a door prize.



Several \$25 Gift Cards will be awarded just for being there!



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### 2023-24 DRTA Executive Board

<u>Co-Presidents</u>	Annie Coblin ( <a href="mailto:acoblin@hotmail.com">acoblin@hotmail.com</a> ) Peter Yang ( <a href="mailto:py2010@telus.net">py2010@telus.net</a> )
<u>Vice-President</u>	Angelika Hedley ( <a href="mailto:ahedley@telus.net">ahedley@telus.net</a> )
<u>Secretary</u>	Suzan Egan-Olsen ( <a href="mailto:seolsen@telus.net">seolsen@telus.net</a> )
<u>Treasurer</u>	Lois Wilkinson ( <a href="mailto:rlwilk@telus.net">rlwilk@telus.net</a> )
<u>Member-at-Large</u>	Yvonne Chard ( <a href="mailto:drtaevents@gmail.com">drtaevents@gmail.com</a> )

#### Committee Chairs are:

<u>Social</u>	Yvonne Chard
<u>Communications</u>	Peter Yang ( <a href="mailto:drtaccontact@gmail.com">drtaccontact@gmail.com</a> )
<u>Membership</u>	Yvonne Chard
<u>Heritage</u>	Peter Scurr ( <a href="mailto:petergrantscurr@gmail.com">petergrantscurr@gmail.com</a> )
<u>Outreach/Phoning</u>	Joanne Thauli
<u>Truant Editor</u>	Pat Thiesen ( <a href="mailto:deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com">deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com</a> )

## **2024-25 - Election Information**

### **Delta Retired Teachers' Association Board Positions to be Filled**

**To be elected**

any position may be shared

**President**

**Vice-President**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Members-at-Large (up to 4)**

**Delegates to BCRTA AGM (3)**

**Committees needing volunteers – Social, Communications (Truant Editor, +), Heritage, and Membership/Sunshine/Outreach.** Each committee has an appointed Chairperson.

### **April 2024 DRTA Board Meeting**

As usual the Board continues to work hard on the membership's behalf. Following the call to order and Land acknowledgement, the Agenda and the minutes from the last Board meeting held on November 8, 2023 were approved. Annie, Peter and Angelika will attend the Sept. 26-28, 24 BCRTA Conference, location yet to be determined. The Metro-Fraser Zone meeting will be held at Langley Teachers Association before May 23, 2024 with the Co-Presidents attending. A lengthy working session concerning revising DRTA Policies and Practices was followed by a motion to continue discussion at the next Board meeting in late June or early July. Yvonne Chard is working on the next luncheon arrangements. The DRTA 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held following the luncheon. Annie and Peter are nomination chairs. Contact either should you wish to serve on the DRTA 2024-25 Board. All board positions including Members-at-Large are to be elected at the AGM.

Suzan Egan-Olsen

## Our DRTA Christmas 2023 Luncheon



On December 14, over 50 DRTA Retirees met for a Christmas Luncheon at Sharkey's Seafood Bar and Grille in Ladner! We were welcomed by our Co-Presidents Peter Yang and Annie Coblin and had a wonderful time, catching up with former workmates and meeting new friends.

We packed into a venue set up with lovely decorations and enjoyed a delicious lunch,

choosing between turkey, pasta (seafood or vegetarian) or fish & chips. And we talked, laughed, sang and played games – thank you Pat Thiesen for once again organizing these -- such a fun time! We were very happy to see that our district won the BCRTA trophy for the largest percentage increase in Membership for 2022-23.

Our grand prize winner, Jaqueline Loewen, was presented with a Purdy's coupon as her birthday was the closest to December 25th – congratulations, Jacqueline!

Thank you to the staff at Sharkey's who did an amazing job, and thank you to our DRTA Board for organizing the event.

Margaret Jensen



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## ***Membership Update***

The Delta RTA continues to grow its numbers which currently stands at 556 including 20 Life Members

***Please welcome Delta RTA's newest member –***



***Donna Jenner*** joined us on December 13<sup>th</sup>, last year.

## **“Retired Teachers of Delta” Scholarship Fund**

I would like to support the Retired Teachers of Delta Scholarship Fund,

I understand the money will be used to support graduating students in their future studies.

*(A tax receipt will be issued by the Delta School District for donations of \$25.00 or more.*

Deadline for submissions, with our thanks: Jan. 17, 2025. Send the following information to

Finance Department, Delta School District, 4585 Harvest Dr, Delta BC. V4K 5B4

Enclosed is my cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_



**The House Cat** - Annette Wynn

The house cat sits and smiles  
and sings,

He knows a lot of secret  
things.

## News from Around Delta and Elsewhere

### 1) LifeLabs Class-action Settlement

BCRTA members may qualify for a financial settlement if they have used LifeLabs for test results. A data breach of the database revealed the personal details of thousands, sparking a class-action lawsuit and subsequent settlement.

Learn more at the article posted on the BCRTA website:

<https://bcрта.ca/lifelabs-settlement-do-youqualify/>

### 2) Brand new washrooms at Memorial Park are now open for public use!

The upgraded facilities include:

- ◆ a vandalism resistant building
- ◆ four single occupancy stalls
- ◆ a water bottle filling station



### 3) Disc Golf at FVRL -



Spring is now here, and what a perfect time to place a hold for a Disc Golf Kit!

Disc golf is an outdoor game where you toss discs into metal baskets. It's a fast-growing sport accessible to people of all ages and abilities with free local courses (Winskill Park in Tsawwassen or Thompson Community Center in Richmond). You can play on your own or with friends. It's a great way to spend time in nature and exercise at your own pace. Learn more about Disc Golf at [www.fvrl.bc.ca/discgolf](http://www.fvrl.bc.ca/discgolf) or by visiting your local Fraser Valley library.

### 4) Great British Columbia Shake Out

On every third Thursday of October – a locally-driven, province-wide “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” earthquake drill takes place; it is called the Great British Columbia Shake Out (or ShakeOutBC). All residents, agencies, businesses and organizations across British Columbia are encouraged to take part in this earthquake drill, using it to get informed about and prepare for earthquakes. It is important to remember that each individual’s level of preparedness is critical to their ability to respond and recover after any disaster. Similarly, the preparedness of a neighbourhood builds resilience. Everyone is encouraged to learn more and register to participate at [www.shakeoutbc.ca](http://www.shakeoutbc.ca)



### 5) Reminder - April is Cancer Awareness Month





All Committee meetings were held in person at the BCTF building on Monday and Tuesday (February 12 and 13) and the Board met on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the BCTF Building. The morning session was dedicated to a training session for the directors. The Board meeting itself was chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Caroline Malm as President Arnie Lambert was travelling.

The BCRTA office is staffed Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:00 pm. The parkade at the BCTF building and the hallway door to access the BCRTA office is locked to the public. Should you have a need to attend the BCRTA office, please call ahead and arrange an appointment.

BCRTA contact phone numbers are (local) 604-871-2260. E-mail sent to [office@bcrt.ca](mailto:office@bcrt.ca) will be received by all BCRTA staff members.

### ***BCTF AGM***

The BCTF held their 2024 AGM at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Burrard Street in Vancouver. Arnie Lambert, BCRTA President, spoke to the assembly prior to the Pension session on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. He spoke of the long-standing agreement struck between the BCTF and the National Teachers Association of Namibia and the plans for setting up a retired teachers group using the BCRTA model. He narrated a series of pictures from the week-long trip he and Caroline Malm experienced while in Namibia. (See his write-up in the current issue of PostScript.) The BCRTA delegation to the BCTF AGM is made up of the BCRTA Board members and an additional 4 members who were elected to represent the BCRTA. The BCRTA set up an information table outside the large conference room at the Hyatt for our members to speak to current teachers about the benefits of joining the BCRTA when they retire. BCRTA delegates were there to cast an advisory vote (in-committee only) on the pension Resolutions. No decisions were made and they were referred to a later date.

### ***CANADA DENTAL CARE PLAN***

There was much discussion on the recently introduced Canada Dental Care Plan that begins rolling out in the spring. The application process has already started with some BCRTA members receiving letters from the government inviting them to apply. To join the CDCP, applicants must not have access to any other dental insurance, subsidized or not subsidized. Since the Teachers' Pension Plan and BCRTA each offer dental insurance plans, *our members, and members of the TPP are NOT be eligible for the Canada Dental Care Plan. Members cannot quit their dental plan to then join the CDCP.*

The Teachers' Pension Board has written to Ottawa asking the government to reconsider the 'access' criterion and just rely on an income test instead.

## Delta Members Write

### Life and School Days in a Pioneer Village in the 40's – Leone Wright

On the northerly westerly part of Vancouver Island, in a remote isolated area, the village of Zeballos was born at the height of the Dirty Thirties or Great Depression when the headline in the newspapers read, "GOLD STRIKE IN ZEBALLOS MINERS NEEDED". Giant Douglas Fir trees were felled to make room for homes and businesses as men and women came by the boatload to finally have a job and a future. That influx had brought my mother and her sister as well as my father in 1938. My father came to work in the gold mine and my mother and her sister started a laundry business. They washed all their clients' clothes by hand on a scrub board. Soon my mother and father met and married and in due time I was born in the Red Cross Hospital in Zeballos.

At first, people lived in tents but finally houses were built. Not long after, in the early 1940's, a one-room schoolhouse was built for ten children and a teacher. The class went from Grade One to Nine. Boys' desks were in a row on one side with the girls on the other. Later, as the school population continued to grow, a new two-room school was built with a basement for us to enjoy recess and stay out of the rainy weather. Miss Moon was my first teacher and any newly needed teachers for the primary and intermediate grades were coaxed to come with isolation pay and a place to live as incentives. Many years after I left Zeballos to go to high school, our own Delta teacher, Vic Williams, came with his wife and son to teach the intermediate grades.

The little town was considered isolated because one could only get in and out by boat or plane. The radio reception was poor and, of course, there were no telephones but we did have a movie shown once a week in the town hall. Most likely it would be a "western" with later TV stars like Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. The Maquinna, the CPR ship, came every ten days with provisions from the big city of Vancouver. Boat Days were *THE* most exciting thing to happen in the town and if the kids weren't in school, we all ran down to greet the boat....even the dogs.....who ran all over the place barking. Everyone watched the cargo get hoisted from the ship over to the wharf. I still remember the sound of the boat winch and all the tantalizing boxes of goods. We so looked forward to fresh milk, ice cream, soda pop and chocolate bars that we could then buy at Pollard's Drugstore. (and oh yes, comic books.) One year we had Mr. & Mrs. Jones as our teachers. Poor Mr. Jones! He taught the intermediate grades and I don't really know why but he had a horrible time coping with us kids. He was great for swinging the strap and landing it on our hands. I managed to avoid testing his ability to cope but one day his wrath came down on all of us.

Mr. & Mrs. Jones had to leave the town on an emergency and we were left in the care of the Zeballos pharmacist, Les Pollard. We all knew Les as he had the drugstore and pharmacy and all the ice cream and goodies were in his store. Besides his store there was a walkway with cracks large enough for dimes and nickels to fall through and the odd quarter and fifty-cent pieces. We considered ourselves lucky when we found them by crawling under the walkway. Well, poor Les Pollard! He did his best to hold the fort but many of the boys had fun using an elastic band and their ruler to fire spit balls to all parts of the classroom. I never took part but I remember watching them fly by. I don't think anything worse ever happened but when Mr. Jones came back, he got wind of it and I think he must have come close to a heart attack at the thought. He lined us all up across the room, every one of us, and starting with the boys who irked him the most, worked his way down the line to Sharon and me, the only two girls in the class at the time. I remember that I was wearing corduroy pants because I remember rubbing my hands on them trying to staunch the pain. It was only one on each hand but I still remember the sting. I felt proud I didn't cry. Despite Mr. Jones using the strap far too often, he did have some wonderful saving graces, at least for me. In my adult life I was very glad he taught me how to write with a slant...going the correct way...as I was left-handed and all my writing slanted to the left. He motivated the class by having a contest to see who the best at handwriting could be. I remember getting a case of nail polish and I am pleased my handwriting was always admired...that is...for someone who is left-handed. Mr. Jones also introduced the class to classical music. He surprised us with the theme song from, "The Lone Ranger", which comes from the William Tell Overture. Another life skill he taught us was dancing. I am glad he taught us all kinds of dance steps, the Schottische, for one. Mr. Jones also arranged for us to have sun lamp treatments once a week because I am sure we lived in the gloomiest rainiest place in Canada, if not the world. I clearly remember that activity because we had to stand under sun lamps in our underwear with mothers watching over us which was very embarrassing. Another life skill he taught us was fine dining. His wife, Mrs. Jones, the primary teacher, did all the cooking and serving. She put out a white tablecloth, napkins, glasses, dishes and eating utensils all in their proper places. We were taught which eating utensils to use first and to tip our soup bowl and spoon away from us as we ate our soup. We learned to lay our forks and knives side by side on the plate when we finished our meal. Fork first and knife edge towards the fork.

All these memories and more are still fresh in my mind although it was more than seventy years ago and, yes, I still remember poor Mr. Jones. I'm sure the time spent in Zeballos was one he wanted to forget. I've never forgotten his fingers. They were coated in nicotine. I hope we didn't shorten his life. .... Leone Wright

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## My Big Sister – by Alain Nowak

My personal journey may include similar journeys other retired teachers have experienced. During WWII, my father was a prisoner of the Gestapo both in France and then Austria. He was a member of the Maquis, the French Resistance, when arrested. Near the close of the war my dad had been transported to Austria to work in a mill. At this time, in Austria, he met a woman and they became intimate. When the French forces left Austria, to return to France, he went with them. Unknown to him, his lady friend had become pregnant.

In 1951, my dad, mom and I immigrated to Canada. At the age of 64 I received an email from a professional person-finder. The email, in detail, described my dad, Maurice. I informed them the information they provided was correct but my dad had passed away. When I questioned why they were searching for him; I was informed I had a half-sister named Herta in Salzburg, Austria, who had been searching for my father since the early 70s. I was given her email. I emailed Herta, confirmed our information and have been in contact ever since.

A few years ago I was very fortunate to visit Herta and meet more family members. I have a brother-in-law, a niece, a nephew, and 2 great-nephews all living in Salzburg, Austria. A treasured gift from Herta is this T-shirt. The front is me, her little brother, at 72 years old taken in Ladner while the back is her little brother at about 2 years old taken in France.



## **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1953...**

*It was a wonderful Spring Day in Newfoundland and Labrador with snow swirling all around our flight on final for a landing in GANDER. Here we switched planes: from a North Star Trans Canada Airlines prop plane to another TCA flight, this time a twin-engine prop.*

*The trip to St. John's was an experience; I had never seen so much snow in my short lifetime of thirteen years. Where are our parents taking us? From the air I could only see white with patches of dark, reminding me of moon photos back in the day. It really looked like a moonscape. Eventually we landed in St. John's, having left Germany for good twenty-four hours before. My brother and I were so excited once we landed, setting foot on new soil, our new home.*

## **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023...**

*It was wonderful Spring Day in Delta, BC., and I was celebrating my SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY as an immigrant, having lived through the best years of my life in both Eastern and Western Canada. But all was not copacetic on this joyful day: Dr. Johal of a nearby clinic, discovered that I had HEART FAILURE.*

*That was the reason I had trouble breathing the previous months, thinking it is normal for us old guys as we age. Not so. My body had filled with excess water, which medication cured, and I felt much better for several months. I had less trouble breathing and went for longer walks. But all was not completely Koscher. By August I was having relapses, and by the end of the month I struggled through the night until I called 911.*

## **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024...**

*A gorgeous Spring Day in Delta BC., and I had just finished my twelve-week SMH zoom exercise program for cardiac patients. I must say that the care I received at Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) was outstanding. It was the FIRST time I spent more than one day in a hospital since arriving in Canada, so I thank my luck stars.*

*The follow-up by the doctors, nurses, dieticians, pharmacists, and physiotherapists was excellent; I could not have hoped for better care. For now, this chapter of my 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary is closed: but what will the next year bring? .....*

*Frithjof Akerblom*

## Once an art teacher, always an art teacher: Collaborative print-making across generations on Galiano Island



Peter Scurr (right) and a student reveal a new print at the Galiano Relief Retreat.

In our professional lives, before retirement, we were very active in local and international art organizations from the BC Art Teachers' Association to the International Society for Education through Art. Along the way we made numerous presentations around the world and developed friendships with an eclectic but enthusiastic group of fellow art teachers. In our retirement, we have found ways of staying connected with our art community and expanding our repertoire of engaging folks in art practices. Two incredibly fortunate occurrences have opened possibilities for collaborative art experiences: we were able to build a studio on the footprint of the first mission house at the end of Whaler Bay on Galiano Island, and we were offered the discarded print-making press from art education at the University of British Columbia. The power of the press has fuelled our retirement collaborations.

Peter taught art and graphics for the Delta School District for 38 years. Throughout our working years and retirement, we always invited secondary school art teachers over for a year-end retreat. We would create a collaborative project and with the welcome addition of the press and studio, our focus turned to collaborative print-making. With greater capacity due to the studio and press, we invited other local art teachers and some of Kit's university students and colleagues to collaborate on our first themed print. Speedball, an art supply company, heard of our efforts and supplied ink and lino, and the Delta School District supplied paper.

It wasn't long before we realized this could be an exciting experience for school-aged children and offered the experience to classes from the Galiano school and classes all over the Lower Mainland. Many of the students come from city schools; they have never been on a

ferry or in the forest. The students and their teachers take the morning ferry to Galiano and are met by us at the dock. We take a short walk up to our cottage and studio and the students are divided into groups to take turns with print-making, painting, forest or beach explorations, or practising sculptural possibilities in the style of Andy Goldsworthy on our property. We take a break for lunch and have a chance to play with our standard poodle, Magritte, and then get back to art-making until taking the ferry for the return trip to Tsawwassen. Many students have told us it was the highlight of their school year. We also started adding Elder College participants to our list of enthusiastic print-makers.

Each year we select a theme for our workshops; some past themes include “font,” “under the Salish Sea,” and “selfies” (a huge favourite with kids). Our current theme honours Gordon Lightfoot: “If I could read your mind.”



Retreat participants and teachers pose with their work.

In all we have made 12 collaborative prints of 49 to 56 blocks sent in from around the world, and numerous collaborative prints with school groups, Elder College classes, and university teacher-candidates. Plans are already underway for six classes of students from primary to secondary, a group of teacher-candidates, an Elder College class, and a Scouts group to visit our studio this spring and summer. Take a look at our Facebook group, [Galiano Relief Retreat](#), if you want to be inspired with the possibilities of relief printing and the pleasures of collaborative art-making.

### **About the authors**

Kit Grauer and Peter Scurr are retired art educators who have been involved in teaching art for over 40 years each. Since retiring from UBC (and formerly Richmond School District) and Delta School District, respectively, Kit and Peter have been actively involved in art and museum education, leading workshops for Elder College and Scouts, and hosting numerous school groups and art teachers at their studio on Galiano Island.



## **In Memoriam**



### **RASMUSSEN, Walter**

February 7, 1935 - December 16, 2023

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Walter Rasmussen on December 16th at the age of 88 years. Walter was born to a family of ten children on a farm in Alberta, attending a one-room school for his early years. He later attended the University of Alberta, studying engineering before switching to his real love, education, at UBC. He taught for many years in Delta, and was devoted to his students. "Mr. Raz", as he was known to us in the 80s, was an absolute delight and our favourite teacher.

Whether he was drawing perfect circles on the board explaining complicated algebra topics, or sending us to math camp, he helped unlock a deep understanding of and love for math, sowing seeds for future careers.



### **BOUSFIELD, Tony**

February 20, 1938 - January 26, 2024

We sadly announce Tony's passing, unexpectedly, at home, following several years' aftereffects of stroke. Tony grew up in Chesterfield, England. After serving in the RAF and finishing College, he emigrated to Canada. He was hired by Delta School Board where he remained for his teaching career, including years as a Vice Principal. Tony's ready wit and dry sense of humour endeared him to those he knew.

### **BOHMERT, Peter**

January 4, 1933 – March 23, 2024

Peter Bohmert, fondly remembered by his former Ladner and SDSS students as "Herr Bohmert" passed away peacefully at the age of 91 at Kin Village in Tsawwassen on March 23rd. A celebration of life is planned for late May. More details to come once a location has been confirmed. Any messages or memories can be sent to [susanne.bohmert62@gmail.com](mailto:susanne.bohmert62@gmail.com)







# Spring 2024 Reading Recommendations



From Frithjof Akerblom

## The London Bookshop Affair - Louise Fein



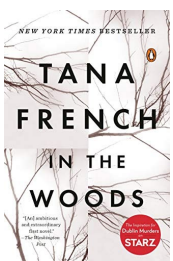
Some years ago I came across a book entitled "Daughter of the Reich" while browsing in a book store. Having recently read a number of beach reads about life in South Carolina, I was anxious to try something different. This book with *Reich* in the title looked interesting, as it was another take on WWII. It was also especially interesting to me, as it dealt with the German occupation of Poland during the war. As it turned out, this was Louise Fein's first novel, and very impressive for a new author. I was all excited for her accomplishment, which had to include hours of tedious research. As an aside, she is a British author living in England. Of special interest to me

was the fact that we lived in Poland in 1944; I was five at the time, and for the most part was unaware what was then going on. However, I did write to Louise about my life in Lldoz (Litzmanstadt, in German), which is some 50 kms from the capital of Warsaw. My email to Louise was acknowledged, and I did get a personal reply. Surprise. I liked her style so much, that I read her second novel "The Hidden Child", which is a true story, and hence waited for her third novel "The London Bookshop Affair". This fictional story about life in the post war years of "the Cold War", mainly in the 1960's England. It will be more meaningful for adults living those decades. Again Louise transports us through that part of the *Cloak and Dagger* era with her easy writing style. In closing, her email address is: [www.louisefein.com](http://www.louisefein.com) She will include you in her newsletters if you wish. HAPPY READING, Frithjof

### From the Editor

*Instead of giving a suggestion to try one single book at a time, I thought recommending 3 or 4 books from a series could give you many more hours of reading enjoyment. Let me know if you have recommendations of other book series you have enjoyed exploring. Pat*

## **Series 1. Dublin Murder Squad by Tana French**



In this series, Rob Ryan, Cassie Maddox, Frank Mackey, and a slew of other Irish detectives solve puzzling cases involving doppelgangers, murdered children, and more in their respective books. French puts a spin on the typical detective series by having each subsequent book narrated by a secondary character from a previous one.

**6 Books:** In the Woods, The Likeness, Faithful Place, Broken Harbour, The Secret Place, The Trespasser

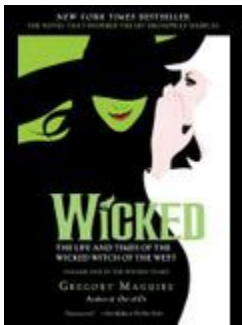
## Series 2. *The Crazy Rich Asians Trilogy* by Kevin Kwan

This mega bestselling trio of witty novels is a great romance book series to try if you love laugh-out-loud funny books. The stories follow Chinese American professor Rachel, who finds out her boyfriend is wealthier than she could ever have imagined when she accompanies him home to Singapore for a family wedding.

**3 Books:** *Crazy Rich Asians, China Rich Girlfriend, Rich People Problems*



## Series 3. *Wicked Years* by Gregory Maguire



These are the books that inspired the mega-hit Broadway musical *Wicked*. If you love the original L. Frank Baum *Oz* series or are a fan of the popular 1939 film adaptation, give this adult redux a read. Published in 1995, Gregory Maguire's revamps of the classic story offer a sympathetic take on Elphaba, the green-skinned girl who's unfairly judged. When you dive into this series, you'll see the Wicked Witch's side of things, where the Wizard is a mad dictator.

**4 Books:** *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, Son of a Witch, A Lion Among Men, Out of Oz*

**Canadian authored and highly recommended books include:** The English Patient (Ondaatje), The Stone Diaries (Lawrence), Barney's Version (Richler), Water For Elephants (Gruen), Barometer Rising (MacLennan), Do Not Say We Have Nothing (Thien), and favourites Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town (Leacock) and Who Has Seen the Wind (Mitchell).

## A Few Good Audiobooks to Enjoy

The Golden Couple (2022) – by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen; narrated by Karissa Vacker and Marin Ireland - A twisted domestic thriller

Stay with Me: A Novel (2017) – by Ayobami Adebayo; narrated by Adjoa Andoh - asks how much we can sacrifice for the sake of family.

Heartburn (1983) – by Nora Ephron; narrated by Meryl Streep - a story that explores the pain of infidelity and the resilience to get through it.

## *Change of Address or Circumstance*

Have you a change in your Email or change of address? Here's what to do...

Online. BCRTA Email: [amberly@bcrtta.com](mailto:amberly@bcrtta.com) **or** Phone: 604.871.2260

**and** DRTA Email: [drttacontact@gmail.com](mailto:drttacontact@gmail.com)

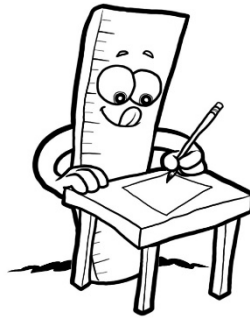
### **A bit of fun**

*- original poetry by Suzan Egan-Olsen*

I want to write haiku  
so easy, say you:  
Get the syllables right  
just don't be trite

Poetry is a different art  
all you have to do is start  
You don't need a thesaurus  
for Pete's sake: don't bore us

Express your feelings and thoughts  
those precious or what nots  
They are real in your world  
and can put you in a whirl



The meter is a feature  
stumping many a creature  
Shakespeare's is iambic  
His sonnets so romantic

There is no need to rhyme  
just keep the nouns in time  
Children love the words  
that have to do with birds

I leave you with humility  
having found my utility  
To you I wish Godspeed  
to meet your every need



# Fun and Games Pages

## A. Trivia - from the Original Trivial Pursuit Game

1. What's the more familiar name of the *Banana Boat Song*?
2. What IQ level is considered to be the beginning of *genius*?
3. In which city was Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated?
4. What's the women's tennis equivalent to the men's Davis Cup?
5. Who was Tasmania's most famous swashbuckler?
6. What series of letters is named for the first 2 Greek letters?
7. What is the term for a limestone deposit rising from the floor of a cave?
8. Who was Richard Nixon's first Chief of Staff in the White House?
9. How many men does a Canadian Football team field?
10. What is the geographical term for a ring-shaped coral island?

**B. Hink-Pinks** – A Hink Pink is a pair of one-syllable rhyming words that matches a silly definition.

- |                         |       |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. Paperback thief      | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Lengthy tune         | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Kitchen literature   | _____ | _____ |
| 4. A 10-cent fruit      | _____ | _____ |
| 5. A cruel monarch      | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Colourful footwear   | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Icy metal            | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Meat robber          | _____ | _____ |
| 9. A bird's foot defect | _____ | _____ |
| 10. 50% giggle          | _____ | _____ |

**C. Change-a-Word** - Go from one word to another in the number of steps as indicated, by changing just one letter at a time.

- |                              |                         |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. LATE to PASS (in 3 steps) | 2. EAST to WARD (in 4)  | 3. LOST to FACE (in 4)  |
| 4. FORE to LOCK (in 5)       | 5. SAND to FLEA (in 5)  | 6. FELT to HATS (in 6)  |
| 7. CANE to TOAD (in 6)       | 8. FOUR to LANE (in 7)  | 9. WING to SPAN (in 7)  |
| 10. PROM to DATE (in 8)      | 11. CREW to NECK (in 8) | 12. SNOW to BIRD (in 8) |

### D. Follow the Directions

1. Print the words PITCHER OR CATCHER omitting the spaces.
2. Replace the second R with a K.
3. Delete the sixth letter.
4. Replace the second letter with an A.
5. Switch the positions of the last two letters.
6. Delete every C.
7. Insert a U in the third-to-last position.
8. Insert 2 L's between the second and third letters.
9. Insert an F between the consecutive A and T.
10. Move the second A to the left of the P.
11. Insert a B between the O and the K.
12. Delete the sixth and seventh letters.
13. Switch the positions of the T and the H.
14. Insert an I and a G, in that order, to the right of the F.
15. Switch the positions of the second and the eighth letters.
16. Switch the positions of the sixth and eighth letters.
17. Delete the fourth and fifth letters from the right.
18. Replace the O with an A.

PITCHERORCATCHER

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E. Interweave – Rearrange and distribute the 5 letters accompanying each row so that you form a common ten-letter word.

(e.g.) PIKES: \_\_\_ R \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ R S - SPRINKLERS

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. ARSON: ___ I ___ CL ___ U D ___ | 2. HANDY: ___ PHE ___ TE ___           |
| 3. CROWD: ___ O ___ PE ___ KE ___  | 4. LINES: ___ CA ___ AT ___ O ___      |
| 5. STORY: ___ AN ___ IT ___ R ___  | 6. NOTED: ___ V ___ R ___ UR ___ E ___ |
| 7. ADORN: ___ E ___ IV ___ TI ___  | 8. RAPID: ___ U ___ L ___ C ___ TO ___ |

F. Delightful Words – Try to create 10 or more words from the group of 6 letters below. You don't have to use every letter in your word, but you can only use the letters that are displayed once per word.

1. **t k m r a o**
3. **i v b s a l**
5. **a c h i r w**

2. **g f p l i u**
4. **o f p n r e**
6. **b r n i p e**

## G. Favourite Logic Puzzles –

1. **Camels** – You are in a desert with several travellers and several camels. The following statements are true;

- a) If each traveller sits on a camel, there is one traveller who doesn't get a camel
- b) If two travellers sit on each camel, then one camel doesn't have any travellers.

How many travellers and camels are there?

2. **Augustus de Morgan** – The famous mathematician, who died in 1871, was fond of saying that he was “ $x$ ” years old in the year  $x^2$ . When was he born?

3. **Alphabetical Number** – Which number when spelled out is in alphabetical order?

4. **Hidden Instruments** – What musical instruments are represented below?

- a) P O
- b) BA BA
- c) ECLART
- d) %\$&#

5. **Tennis Tournament** – You are organizing a tennis knockout tournament with 119 entrants who signed up to play. How many matches do you need to arrange to get a winner?

6. **The Zookeeper** – A zookeeper oversaw the feeding of several animals – bears, giraffes, monkeys, lions and zebras. He fed them in the same order every day. In what order did he feed them based on these clues?

*The giraffes were fed before the zebras but after the monkeys; the bears were fed after the monkeys; the lions were fed after the zebras.*



## ***Fun and Games*** - Answers

### **A. Trivia** from the Original *Trivial Pursuit* Game

1. Day-O
2. 140
3. Memphis, Tennessee
4. The Federation Cup
5. Errol Flynn
6. The alphabet
7. Stalagmite
8. H. R. Haldeman
9. Twelve
10. Atoll

### **B. Hink Pinks** 1. Book Crook 2. Long Song 3. Cook book 4. Dime lime 5. Mean queen 6. Blue shoe 7. Cold gold 8. Beef thief 9. Claw flaw 10. Half laugh

### **C. Change-a-Word** – other answers are possible, and encouraged

1. LATE, PATE, PATS, PASS
2. EAST, CAST, CART, CARD, WARD
3. LOST, LAST, FAST, FACT, FACE
4. FORE, FARE, FACE, LACE, LACK, LOCK
5. SAND, SEND, FEND, FEED, FLED, FLEE
6. FELT, BELT, BEET, BEES, BETS, BATS, HATS
7. CANE, LANE, LAND, LEND, LEADS, LOAD, TOAD
8. FOUR, POUR, POUT, LOU, LOUD, LAUD, LAND, LANE
9. WING, WIND, WEND, WENT, SENT, SEAT, SPAT, SPAN
10. PROM, PROP, CROP, COOP, COOS, COTS, DOTS, DOTE, DATE
11. CREW, CROW, CROP, COOP, COOK, HOOK, HOCK, HACK, NECK
12. SNOW, SHOW, SHOD, SHED, SEED, SEND, BEND, BIND, BIRD

### **D. Follow the Directions** – Pitcher or catcher: a ballpark figure

- ### **E. Interweave:** 1. RAINCLOUDS 2. HYPHENATED 3. WOODPECKER 4. ESCALATION 5. TRANSITORY 6. OVERTURNED 7. DERIVATION 8. DUPLICATOR

### **F. Delightful Words** (Many more are possible)

1. kart, roam, atom moat, mart, tram, taro, oak, oka, arm, ram, mat, tom, oar, oat, +++
2. gulf, flip, gulp, plug, fig, flu, pig, lug, pug, lip, gip, +++
3. basil. Silva, Bali, Vail, vial, bail, slab, sail, visa, bias, labs, via, abs, +++
4. prone, prof, fern, nope, open, peon, fore, pore, rope, top, ten, pen, foe, ref, per, +++
5. chair, craw, chai, arch, char, rich, whirl, hair, caw, haw, hic, car, raw, war, air, +++
6. brine, ripen, bine, pine, brie, pier, ripe, rein, bin, pen, nip, pin, rib, pie, rip, +++

### **G. Favourite Logic Puzzles**

1. 4 travellers and 3 camels
2. He was born in 1806. He was 43 in 1849, which is the square of 43.
3. Forty
4. a) piano b) tubas c) clarinet d) cymbals
5. 118 matches. Every player loses once, except the winner.
6. The order is Monkeys, Bears, Giraffes, Zebras, and Lions.

## **Afterword from your Editor**

This TRUANT may be my last as Editor. Little did I think that when I took on the role about 10 years ago from dear mentor, Sheila Gair, when she needed to relinquish the role, that I was capable of creating something this substantial and that it would consume countless hours of my time 3 times a year – AND that I truly enjoyed creating. I learned so much each time publication came nigh.

The format for future Truant Newsletters must change as, I have been informed, the majority of you who actually take the time to read it, no longer do so from your computer but rather from your “smart” or cell phones, nor do you try to complete the mind-challenging activities I love finding and creating to put in at the end of each issue. I suspect there won’t be enough space available for those wonderful articles and recommendations I have asked you to provide or those candid photos of our luncheon attendees enjoying the chance to see one another. Brevity will be needed if you readers only have time for snippets from your phone.

No other Branch of the BCRTA has a structure like the Truant and there are only a few branches who publish a newsletter at all. In spite of the changes that will come, I want to thank you all for allowing me to inform as well as entertain and amuse you as I now pass the torch to a new editor. I hope that the Delta Branch of the BCRTA will continue providing you with a newsletter, no matter what its format becomes. I hope the Truant can continue its long-standing tradition of encouraging all its members to know a little bit about the larger association they joined not only for the financial benefits they enjoy, but also what makes the Delta RTA Branch a unique, welcoming body of retirees who used to teach here on the Southwest edge of BC.

Pat Thiesen, Truant Editor, retiring  
DRTA Past President  
BCRTA Director