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# PQRTA Newsletter

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



## Upcoming PQRTA Event

On Tuesday, February 27, 2024, (1:00 to 3:00 pm) we will be hosting **BC's Seniors' Advocate Isobel Mackenzie** for a fascinating presentation on the state of Seniors in Long-term care in B.C. today.

Since March of 2014, Isobel Mackenzie has been B.C.'s Seniors Advocate, the first of its kind in Canada. Designed as "the voice of seniors in B.C." Ms. Mackenzie has had a broad mandate to monitor and review system-wide issues affecting the well-being of seniors and raise awareness about resources available to them and also to make recommendations to government and those who deliver seniors' services related to health care, person care, housing, transportation and income support. In the intervening years, she has released 24 comprehensive reports on the state of seniors in the province. After 10 years of service, Ms. Mackenzie's mandate is coming to an end and she will step down in March of this year.

In the fall of 2023 Ms. Mackenzie released the results of a survey of the experiences of 10,000 BC residents in long-term care and 8,000 of their family members or close friends. The results of the report, titled "Every Voice Counts", identified eight areas of concern including frequency of bathing, help at mealtimes, meaningful activities and social engagement. Residents gave high marks to long term care staff, who they said they trust to look after their needs.

Ms. Mackenzie will present more about her survey findings and her recommendations regarding those key areas of concern. After Ms. Mackenzie's presentation, there will be Q&A session, where you can engage with Ms. Mackenzie and dive deeper into the topic.

Following the presentation there will be an opportunity to socialize with fellow PQRTA members and guests. Coffee, tea and goodies will be served. Please consider bringing your own water bottle or mug.

Are you eligible  
to become  
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!



When: February 27, 1:00 to 3:00 pm  
Where: Arrowsmith Hall, 1014 Ford Road, Coombs  
Please register to attend so we can plan for refreshments!  
Contact: [pqrtaprograms@gmail.com](mailto:pqrtaprograms@gmail.com)  
or call 250-927-1706 (Lisa) or 250-937-9314 (Jenn)  
Guests are welcome for \$2

**It is time to think about your donation for ORES  
to support scholarships for Oceanside students graduating in June 2024  
See details on Page 3!**

## What do you know about our Parent Organization BCRTA?

Did you know ?

That there are 48 individual BCRTA branches around the province?

Membership in a branch offers the opportunity to engage in social activities, effective advocacy and continue contact with former colleagues.

That there are 7 (seven) Zones around the province? They are:

- Metro West
- Metro Fraser
- North and Central Vancouver Island (That's us!)
- South Island
- Northern
- Thompson-Okanagan
- Kootenays

That there are 9 (nine) committees working to advance the purposes of our organization?

- Heritage
- Membership
- Health Benefits (Our EHC and Travel)
- Pensions & Benefits (TPP and GSC)
- Well-Being
- Advocacy
- Communications
- Excellence in Education
- Finance

That any member can apply to work on one (or more) of these committees?

For more information on committees, check out [www.bcrta.ca/about-us](http://www.bcrta.ca/about-us)

**That Postscript Magazine** is published 4 times each year and provides important news about pensions, benefits and members' affinity programs, and feature topical experts on finances, health and well-being? Postscript also serves as a vehicle to share members' experiences, volunteer opportunities and travel tips and is always seeking local stories of BC Education history, inspirational profiles of retired teachers and personal experience articles. Members can also advertise in the classified at no cost! [www.bcrta.ca/postscript](http://www.bcrta.ca/postscript)

**That BCRTA Connections**, the official *newsletter* of the association, is delivered via email directly into your inbox? It keeps members informed on the work of BCRTA Committees, partner organizations and branches. Check it out at [www.bcrta.ca/connections](http://www.bcrta.ca/connections)

Also check out BCRTA's Website, [www.bcrta.ca](http://www.bcrta.ca). This is a great source for information, and includes links to past conference speakers and presentations, electronic issues of Postscript and much more. Check out the interactive map of BC to find listings for all branches, including ours. BCRTA staff provide support to keep branch information up to date and also support branches who wish to have their own website, which can be hosted by BCRTA at no cost to the branch.

BCRTA is also on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BCRTA](http://www.facebook.com/BCRTA)



## ORES - OCEANSIDE RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP

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. 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 (PQRТА), 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](mailto:cathyvanh@gmail.com))

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 PQRТА) as the monies are held by the district "in trust" for ORES. **Deadline for donations is February 28, 2024.**

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](mailto:cathyvanh@gmail.com)

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

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

## PQRТА Executive

*Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association Executive consists of 8 PQRТА 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 PQRТА Newsletter is created and distributed by Stephanie Koropatnick, PQRТА Communications Chair. Please send comments & suggestions to: [pqtacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:pqtacommunications@gmail.com)*