

President's Message

• Luncheon Speaker •

Our guest speaker for the April luncheon is Linda Fawcus. She will be speaking about Artificial Intelligence and its impact on society in general and on an aging population in particular. She has recently written an article in Postscript titled 'AI and You' that you might wish to review before attending the luncheon. Linda will also provide opportunities for questions.

Linda has over 25 years of experience working in the technology sector. She is the founder of a non-profit society that helps older adults decipher today's technology. Some might remember the thought-provoking presentations she has provided us in the past.

Please note that you will need to sign up for the luncheon to hear her presentation.

• Luncheon Invitation •

We are pleased to announce that our next luncheon for 2024 will be held at the Burnaby Golf Course Restaurant on Thursday, April 25th. Doors will open at 11

and lunch will be served at 12:00. You're invited to come early and visit with friends. The price for this luncheon will be \$35. The price for non-members is \$50.

It's really important to know if you will be joining us for lunch. We would appreciate getting an email as soon as possible. Please email Rennie Maierle at rmaierle@telus.net or Ilse Armanini at ilse_armanini@telus.net. We look forward to seeing you!

Please take the opportunity to invite some retirees to join you for the luncheon. The more the merrier!

• Birthday Celebration •

Our February luncheon, honouring members who are turning 85 this year, was an overwhelming success. Ten of the thirteen people on the list were able to attend. It was wonderful to see each person that will be celebrating a birthday. We also appreciated all of the humorous anecdotes. Their attendance and funny stories made for a joyous occasion.



Sorry, we will not be sailing to see the "land of the midnight sun". But you get the same effect by setting your watches 4 hours ahead.



EXECUTIVE MEETINGS-April 4, September 19, November 14

LUNCHEON DATES- April 25, October 10, December 5 (Christmas Luncheon)

BURNABY RTA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Rennie Maierle	President	294-3570	rmaierle@telus.net
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Leslie Lennox	Director	298-3776	lesliejlennox@gmail.com
Jennifer Murn	Chair-Scholarship	754-4755	j.murn@cloud.com
Elizabeth Wilson	Director	522-2384	helliwily@gmail.com
Merv Magus	Cartoon and Artwork		

No longer with us-Frank Alder, George Buckley Al Cordoni and Annetha Spagnut

Seniors Advocate

As many of you know, Dan Levitt has been appointed as Seniors Advocate. I have heard him speak several times on Ageism. The presentations are very informative but funny. I had contacted him a few weeks to see if he'd be willing to speak at one of our luncheons. Unfortunately, I didn't nail down a date. He has since then been appointed to his new position. I have put in a request with his office for him to speak at one of our luncheons, but we will have to stand in line. Never fear, I will persist.-Marion Hartley

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation

c/o Burnaby School District, 4054 Norfolk St, Burnaby, B.C, V5G OC3

Yes, I would like to support the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation. I understand the money will be used to support graduating students in their future studies.

Enclosed is my cheque for ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ other (A tax receipt will be issued)

Signature

Address

Name (Please Print)

City Province Postal Code

Thank you letters from students who have received BRTA Scholarships

Burnaby Mountain Secondary-Daniel Friedman

Dear members of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association. I was very excited to learn that I was a recipient of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship. I am writing to thank you for your generous financial support towards my post-secondary education. In September, I will continue my learning in the field of Applied Science, hoping to maintain my academic success. This year brought many exciting challenges alongside my courses at school including acting in two musicals, participating in math contests and volunteering at a Spring camp. It means a lot to see my hard work recognized. Thank you again for your support. The money will help me earn my Bachelor of Applied Science degree.

Burnaby Mountain Secondary-Siobhan McClean

I was very happy to learn that I was a recipient of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association Wynn Richmond Bursary. I am writing to thank you for your generous financial support towards achieving my goals. My plans are to become a high school teacher, teaching math or science. I am overjoyed to be the recipient of this award. Thank you again!

Moscrop Secondary-SLC Committee

Dear Ms. White. On behalf of Moscrop Secondary, we would like to thank you for your participation in our School Leaving Ceremony. We are honoured that you took time to help us make this evening special for our graduating students. With much appreciation.

Ecole Alpha Secondary-Barbara Mudrovcic

Dear Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association. I am extremely grateful to be the recipient of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association Scholarship. Thank you for supporting my post-secondary education, it will be put towards my Commerce Degree at UBC. Post-secondary education is very important in my family. In the past, my relatives in Croatia were not so fortunate to have this opportunity. My parents work hard to ensure I can attend. Thank you for making it easier for them. Sincerely.

Treasurer's Report-April, 2024

Balance as of January 31, 2024 \$ 8594.36

Income-Luncheon \$ 1,945.00

Expenses

Bby Mountain Golf Club \$ 4,004.25

Newsletter- Printing \$ 71.68

Stamps & Envelopes \$ 180.81

Office Supplies \$ 34.44

Flowers \$ 219.89

Insurance \$ 12.50

Total \$ 4,523.57

Balance as of March 31, 2024

\$ 6,015.79

R.R. Smith The R. R. Smith Memorial Foundation Fund Board deliberates in March for the yearly distribution of grants to CRA registered groups operating both in BC and in developing countries. Such an amazing variety of worthwhile projects brings joy to the members of the R. R. Smith Board who deliberate on the funding. We are thrilled with the opportunity to share some of the grant funds into projects which transform the lives of recipients. We will have a full account in the coming pages of PostScript. If you would like to contribute and get a tax receipt, please check www.rrsmith.ca or contact the BCRTA office at 604 871-2260 for further information. Thank you, Barb Mikulec, chair

February 29th Luncheon celebrated those Burnaby teachers who turned 85

The BRTA paid tribute to those retired Burnaby teachers who reached 85 this year. Those 85ers who attended the luncheon were Maureen Hoechsmann, Fred Lepkin, Judith Parks, Jean Bedford, Pauline Hall, Ann Kergan, Margaret Sanderson, Gerald Weslowski, Dorothy Yamamoto and Dave Carter. Unable to attend were Terri Butler, Alice Kozier, Aileen Hollifield and Pat Sexsmith.

A number of honorees spoke and recounted hilarious stories about their careers in Burnaby. The funniest, by far, was told by Gerald Weslowski and had to do with a student in a coffin.

A few teachers were disappointed that the occasion wasn't marked by a poem and so, reluctantly, under extreme duress, a bit of doggerel was slapped together to appease the disgruntled. Poem on next page.

Canada-Defining Years for BRTA Members Turning 85

1939

It was the beginning year of World War II, with a new thing called TV,

One million workers out of jobs, you could live to 63.

Drive in movies filled with cars, and gas was just a dime,

Amelia Earhart disappeared, and Stalin praised by Time.

Monopoly was the latest fad, with Batman all the rage,

A loaf of bread for just eight cents, two bits the lowest wage.

Mary and Robert best baby names, and a gourmet product “Spam”.

Dorothy found her way back home; Clark Gable swore with “damn!”

2024

So many years have now flown past, new medicines abound,

This fact would be much better news if doctors could be found.

Death by drugs and a warming Earth, our lives are not the same,

Ukraine and Gaza both at war, and no one takes the blame.

Reading and writing losing ground, no cookbooks anymore,

Just ask Alexa who to call, for food at your front door.

Virtual travel from your couch, AI the greatest gift,

The “crazies” worship Donald Trump, the “Swifties” Taylor Swift.

We lived within the “best of times” and prayed that they would last,

We told our students “enjoy today, but don’t ignore the past”,

“Hold on to hope, and also love, each day that you’re alive”,

“Then you will have a life well lived, when you turn 85”.

Hilarious Student Answers to Test Questions

1. “Marguerite, what is a digital footprint”? “When you step on your iPad”.
2. “Janet, what is a synonym”? “It’s what I put on my toast”.
3. “Gail, who painted the Mona Lisa”? “Leonardo DeCaprio”.
4. “Jim, how do you turn centimeters into meters”? “Take out ‘centi’”.
5. “Rennie, name two reactions used in the separation of Calcium Carbonate”. “Surprise and Relief”.
6. “Leslie, what is the difference between 8 and 6”? “8 is curly and 6 isn’t”.
7. “Elizabeth, motivate your answer”. “Go, answer go!”
8. “Marion, write a question with ‘why’”. “Why?”
9. “Elizabeth, suggest one cause of deforestation”. “This paper”!
10. “Ruth, why do we pay taxes”? “So we won’t get arrested”!
11. “Gail, what is the highest frequency noise that a human ear can register”? “Mariah Carey”.
12. “Dave, how old is your Grandmother”? “Dead!”
13. “Barb, Bob has 36 candy bars and eats 26 more. What does he have now”? “Diabetes!”
14. “Marilyn, what do we call the science of classifying living things”? “Racism”.
15. “Merv, how would you make a marriage work”? “Tell your wife she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck”!
16. “Describe a situation in which people share something and everyone benefits”. “Communism”.
17. “Ilse, the first cells were probably....?” “Lonely”.
18. “Barb, if you were the principal, what would you do”? “Quit and get a job I’d enjoy!”
19. “There are 26 kids at the beach. 37 more kids come. How many kids are at the beach”? “Too many for CoVid!”
20. “What three things do Saturn, Uranus and Neptune have in common”? “Planets, round, and no McDonalds”.
21. “Marcus once could only lift 17 pounds. He now can lift 97 pounds. How much more can he lift now”? “Marcus is on steroids!”
22. “Write a 7 digit number that has the digit 6 in the 10,000,s place”. “6, 666, 666”.
23. “Name a country or region that is sparsely populated”. “The ocean”.
24. “Date_____”. “No thanks, I want to stay single”.
25. “Write 5 words you can spell”. “ five, words, you, can, spell”.
26. “Who is you hero. Why? Is there anything he is afraid of?” “My Dad”. “Because he is brave.” “My Mom”.
27. “The army didn’t receive any support from.....”? “Godzilla”.
28. “What positive ways does your family handle stress”? “Suck it up!”
29. “What two wishes would you like to make”? “To fly and make the biggest burp!”
30. “Upon ascending the throne the first thing Queen Elizabeth did was.....” “Sit down”.

BURNABY SCHOOL BOARD

STUDENTS' SKILLS AWARDED AND RECOGNIZED

Burnaby Schools students wowed the judges at the **Skills Canada Regional Competition**. Impressive work was submitted by youth in the **Professional Cook Program** held at **Burnaby Central Secondary**. Students in the District-wide program took home gold, silver and bronze medals. Two students in the **Graphic & Media Arts** program held at **Byrne Creek Community School** won gold medals in the **2D Animation** category. Two more students were awarded silver. All gold medalists have qualified for Provincials, which will be held in Abbotsford next month. The Grade 9 team from **Moscrop Secondary** earned first place at the **Math Challenger Regional Competition**. The Grade 10 team from the school took second in the contest held at Simon Fraser University.

CELEBRATING WITH PRIDE AND APPRECIATION FOR ONE ANOTHER

More than 150 students from across the District attended the **Diversity Dance** held at **Byrne Creek Community School**. The annual event is hosted by the District's **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee**. In the spirit of celebrating diversity and inclusion, the dance is for everyone. This year, internationally recognized performer **Kendall Gender** signed autographs and performed for the crowd. The **SOGI Committee** has also launched a **Pride Bookmark Contest** that's open to all students. One elementary submission and one high school entry will be chosen. The winners will have their bookmarks shared, including at the **Vancouver Pride Parade** this summer.

SETTING THE STAGE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' ARTISTIC TALENTS

Children at **Confederation Park Elementary**, the arts-integrated school in the District, worked on dance skills through a **Ballet BC Outreach** program. Elementary students from multiple schools are rehearsing for a vocal performance at an upcoming conference for music teachers. The annual **Burnaby School District Jazz Festival** featured high school ensembles in multiple age groups. Visual and Performing Arts students at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** held a special evening showcasing their talents in art, music, drama and dance. **Burnaby South Secondary** is among the many schools putting on plays and performances. The actors there took the audience down the rabbit hole with their rendition of **Alice in Wonderland**. Students, such as these at **Burnaby Central Secondary**, are competing to represent their school in a District-wide talent contest to be held next month. Youth at **Burnaby North Secondary** also showcased their talents last week in the hopes of making it to the big event in April. Performers there were encouraged to come out to an open audition.

Fraud Prevention Resources for Seniors

March is Fraud Prevention Month and with reported cases of fraud rising, seniors are encouraged to increase their awareness of current scams and learn how they can protect themselves. Every year, people of all ages fall victim to fraud. According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC), 62,365 Canadians reported being targeted by scammers in 2023 and lost over \$554 million to fraud and cybercrime.

The CAFC reports that in the past year, the top three most reported types of fraud were identity fraud, service fraud, and phishing –all designed to get you to pay or give away sensitive information like your social insurance number, passwords or banking details. The top three frauds reported that had the highest level of financial impact were investment scams, spear phishing, and romance scams.

Learn About Different Types of Scams

The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre offers an online resource called '*Tricks of the trade: What's in a fraudster's toolbox? What's in yours?*' that aims to raise awareness of top scams and how to avoid them. Scams that most frequently target seniors include the [grandparent scam](#), [romance scam](#), [investment scam](#) and [service scams](#).

Emergency scams prey on your fear of a loved one being hurt or in trouble. Scammers claim to be someone you know and tell you they need money immediately. Scenarios they may use include: Needing bail money because they've been arrested. Being in a car accident. Trouble returning from a foreign country

Reports are showing a new variation where fraudsters contact you via email or text message, claiming to be a loved one asking for a favour. For this favour, they'll ask you to send money or gift cards.

Fraudsters will: Claim to be law enforcement officials, lawyers and impersonate the grandchild/family member. Use urgency and threats to convince you to take out money. Claim that there is a "gag order" preventing you from speaking about the situation. If you agree to pay the requested amount (cash or cryptocurrency), fraudsters will arrange to pick up the funds in person or will ask you to send cash in the mail.

Variation: Broken phone scam: The CAFC is getting reports about a fraudulent emergency text or social media message. The fraudster might claim to be a family member or loved one saying that their cellphone is broken or has been dropped in water. The fraudster will then provide an alternate phone number to contact them at. The fraudster will proceed to ask for a favor by requesting funds from the victim to repair the broken phone or to pay a bill.

Spoofing: How does a fraudster use spoofing as a tool? [Spoofing](#) is used to mislead and convince you that you're communicating with people you know, or legitimate companies and organizations. Fraudsters can change the caller-ID that is displayed on your phone, the sender address in an email, and often mimic legitimate websites, etc. Hang up and call the official phone number of the company or agency in question. If the call is claiming to be someone you know, hang up and make the outgoing call to the number you have in your contact list. For emails, hover your mouse over the sender's email address or hit "reply" to see if the email address appears differently