

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

August 2023  
Issue No. 1

## CRTA Newsletter

### To Hell with the Bell Brunch

Tuesday September 5, 2023

Burnaby Mountain Restaurant  
and Golf Course

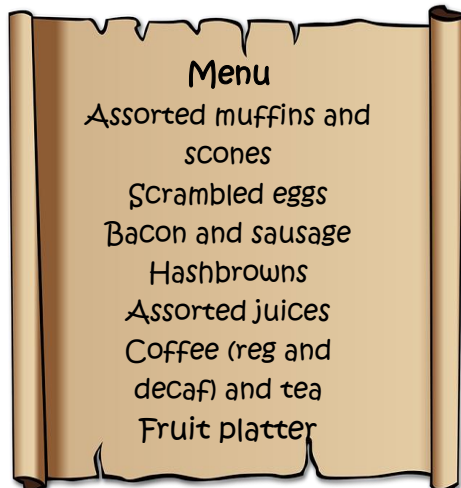
7600 Halifax St. Burnaby, B.C.

Doors open at **10am**

Tea & Coffee Available

If saving seats for others please ensure they arrive by **10:45am**

Brunch served: **11am**



Bar opens: **11am**



**Deadline for receiving responses is Thursday August 24; we are unable to accept payment at the door.**

#### Directions

The restaurant is located at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course at the eastern end of Halifax Street.

From the Lougheed Highway, turn at Lake City Way, cross Broadway and continue on Arden Avenue, which follows around the golf course. At the four-way stop at Burnwood, turn left. The golf course is on the left just before Halifax Street.

From Hastings Street, turn at Kensington and continue to Halifax Street. Turn left on Halifax and continue to Burnwood Street.

**Price: \$32.00 (includes tax and gratuity)**

**Early bird responses pay \$30.00 if paid prior to August 14, 2023.**

**Pre-pay by cheque made out to CRTA.**

Mail to:

Mr. Howard Spence

2288 Portage Ave.

Coquitlam BC V3K 2Z3

#### Mark your calendar!

To Hell with the Bell Brunch – September 5, 2023

CRTA General Meetings :

- October 25, 2023
- February 7, 2024
- April 3, 2024
- June 5, 2024: AGM and free lunch



\*All general meetings will be held in the Gallery Room at Winslow Centre

Christmas Luncheon – December, 2023: date TBA

#### Invitation from the CTA

At their upcoming **October 4, 2023** Annual General Meeting (4pm in the Winslow Centre Gym) the **Coquitlam Teachers' Association** is bestowing honorary memberships upon

**Dale Gregory and Caroline Malm.**

Refreshments will be provided, followed with the business of the meeting and then visiting with the new honorary members. Everyone is welcome to attend and stay for a visit and some snacks. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Kelly Roberts at the CTA Office - 604.936.9971- or email [kroberts@cta43.org](mailto:kroberts@cta43.org)  
We hope to see you there!

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2023 –  
2024

## TABLE OFFICERS

<https://bcрта.ca/coquitlam/>

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Caroline Malm  
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### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Teresa Grandinetti  
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### **SECRETARY**

Jennifer Blenkinsop  
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[jennfb@shaw.ca](mailto:jennfb@shaw.ca)

### **TREASURER**

Howard Spence  
(604) 936-8320  
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## DIRECTORS

### **MEMBERSHIP/ MEMBER CONTACT**

John Pope  
(604) 461-7355  
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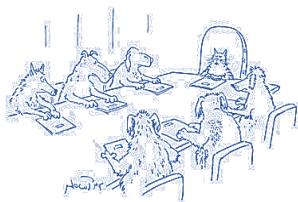
### **DOOR PRIZES/GIFTS**

Margrete Wylie  
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### **BACK TO SCHOOL BRUNCH**

Audrey Anthony  
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## **Past President's Report - submitted by Caroline Malm**



During the past year, it was a privilege to represent **CRTA** members at both Branch and provincial activities. Many thanks to the **CTA** and **District 43** for the meeting spaces and generous support given to us. Congratulations to the **Executive Committee** for a successful year of team work and accomplishments. Kudos to **CRTA members** for your support and encouragement throughout the year.

Due to privacy laws, we can no longer access contact information for teachers who retire in our District; many thanks to the **CTA** and **SD 43** for helping us to reach out to new retirees by posting **CRTA/BCRTA** information on their websites.

General meetings at Winslow and our brunch and lunch gatherings brought friends and former colleagues together for excellent presentations and lots of conversation.

**BCRTA** provided excellent information and advocacy for CRTA members throughout the year. Thumbs up to CRTA members for supporting provincial and national initiatives.

At our AGM in June, members chose the 2023-24 Executive Committee:

Past President: **Caroline Malm**; Vice-President: **Teresa Grandinetti**; Secretary: **Jennifer Blenkinsop**; Treasurer: **Howard Spence**; Directors: **Audrey Anthony, Dale Linton, Nick Magistrale, Fran Mitchell, John Pope, Maria Santone, Vicki Stacey, Henry Thiessen** and **Margrete Wylie**. CRTA members **Audrey Anthony, Teresa Grandinetti** and **Fran Mitchell** were elected as delegates to the BCRTA Conference and AGM. I will attend as BCRTA First Vice – President and Treasurer.

At the end of June, two long time Directors retired from the EC. Many thanks to **Lynda Parsons** and **Lynne Sowerby** for their outstanding service to CRTA members- thanks for the memories! It is a pleasure to welcome **Nick Magistrale** to the EC as Phoning Director.

It was an honour to serve six terms as your President and I thank you for the privilege. I will remain on the EC next year as Past President and look forward to serving you in this new role. Enjoy the rest of summer!

*Caroline*

## **AGM LUNCHEON June 7, 2023 - submitted by Jennifer Blenkinsop**

Following the Annual General Meeting, the CRTA hosted a successful and well-received luncheon for meeting attendees. Over the years this luncheon was put on by the Bridge Club, but in recent years has been hosted by the CRTA Executive.

There are too many individuals to thank for assisting with this event, but **John Pope's** organization and planning must not go unmentioned. John has been involved with this event for several years, and his meticulous records and planning made the volunteers' jobs run smoothly.

We plan to continue this event in the future and would encourage more members to attend both the AGM and the **"free lunch"**!

## **Door Prizes and Gifts – submitted by Margrete Wylie**

It has been a pleasure buying door prizes for our general meetings as well as poinsettias for presentation to Life Members in attendance at the Christmas banquet. I have also enjoyed helping to select and write Christmas cards for our members.

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

## Membership/Member Contact – submitted by Thomas John Pope:

**Numbers:** Our Branch roster at the beginning of November 2022 was 813, including 23 new 'sign-ups' and 4 'returnees'. Sadly, during the ensuing months 16 people from our Branch passed away, including several life members (age: 85-plus) and two former Branch presidents. The provincial office also cancelled 9 memberships for non-payment of fees. We look forward to welcoming 2023's retirees, who are encouraged to 'test drive' the Association with a no fee 1-year introductory membership. If you are in touch with any new retirees, please encourage them to sign up.



**Contact:** This was a busy year keeping up with new email and postal addresses, solving delivery problems with newsletters and messages, and answering member questions. Each contact with an individual member is recorded in a log which, for the past year, contains well over a hundred entries. CRTA produced 5 newsletters, and between newsletters emailed quite a few timely messages during the 2022-2023 membership year. In addition, Executive Committee members sent Christmas cards (Canada Post & email) to all members.

**Have you moved, changed your email address or telephone number?** Please let us **and** the provincial office know.

**Branch:** [coquitlamrta@hotmail.com](mailto:coquitlamrta@hotmail.com) --- 604.461.7355

**Provincial:** [Office@bcrtc.ca](mailto:Office@bcrtc.ca) 604.871.2260 / 1.877.683.2243 Fax 604.871.2265

## CRTA 2023– 2024 EXECUTIVE

### DIRECTORS cont'd

#### PHONING

Nick Magistrale

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778-899-7701

#### LUNCHEONS

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#### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Caroline Malm

Audrey Anthony

Jennifer Blenkinsop

#### FORMATTING

Howard Malm

## Presentations Report - submitted by Fran Mitchell:



What a pleasure it has been, following the pandemic, to be able to invite guest speakers to our General Meetings again! Engaging with speakers on Zoom allowed us to communicate with our membership, but interaction with in-person speakers was more enjoyable.

In November **Lisa Hansen** from Johnson Insurance gave us an update on our travel, home and medical **insurance plans**. She answered many of our questions regarding which options best suited our needs. In February, **Linda Watson**, chair of the BCRTA Pensions and Benefits Committee, spoke to us about the growth of our **pension fund** over the years and how well it has fared even through challenging times. In April, **Neal Chark**, from Uniglobe Travel, assured us that it was safe to **travel** again. He gave us a list of dos and don'ts when travelling post pandemic. In June, we welcomed back **Gale Pirie**, an **antiques appraiser**. She shared with us "what's hot" and "what's not" since the pandemic. She pointed out that immigration and a shift in necessity changed the value of "our clutter". Don't throw out those china cups and saucers!

## CRTA BURSARY REPORT 2023 – submitted by Henry Thiessen

CRTA is governed by the Societies Act and thus cannot fund raise or donate Branch funds. The money in the Bursary account is received and managed by SD 43. Individuals can donate to the fund by contacting the SD 43 Education Foundation c/o the Secretary – Treasurer: 604-939-9201. The selection of recipients is made by the District 43 Scholarship Committee. Congratulations to 2023's recipients of the \$750.00 CRTA Bursaries:

**Tamas Juk** from Charles Best and **Julie Einarson** from Riverside.

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association



## Phoning – submitted by Lynda Parsons:

This past year the Phoning Committee continued to contact CRTA Members who do not receive information by email. This was an important role for the committee during the pandemic and throughout the past year. It's always nice to have a chat with a colleague! I have had many helpers over the years. **Margaret Ellwood, La Verne Miller, Doreen Blanchard, Eva Collins, Eileen Miyanaga, Judy Mukuda, and Ethel Sears**, to name a few, volunteered on the committee for many years.

For the past five years **Gwen Raycroft, Sandy Sainiuk, and Janet Andrews** were phoners. Gwen stepped down from this job a few months ago and Sandy has decided to step down for the coming year. I have also decided to “retire” from being on the Executive but will continue to help the new phoning director, **Nick Magistrale**, with phoning a few members. I have thoroughly enjoyed being on the Executive and will miss the relationships I've formed. Your EC is a great group that works hard to keep our association up to date. If the volunteer phoning job interests you, please contact Nick at [magistralenick99@gmail.com](mailto:magistralenick99@gmail.com) or by phone at 778-899-7701. New phoners are always welcome, especially if the number of contact requests increases. A phone call is a great way to stay in touch!

## Treasurer's Report – submitted by Howard Spence:



Your executive had a good year with few financial surprises. We had deliberately budgeted for a deficit of \$870, arising primarily from lunch subsidies. Our predicted expenses for the year were \$4,770, and our actual expenses came to \$4,768. Membership dues were predicted to be \$3900, and came in at \$3750, a slight shortfall, resulting in an overall deficit of \$1018. We now have \$9,809 in the bank.

We plan to slowly reduce this over the years by providing member benefits such as general meetings with engaging presentations, door prizes and refreshments. We will likely also ensure reasonable lunch and brunch prices by providing small subsidies to attendees.

Full details of our finances will be presented at our **General Meeting on October 25, 2023**. Stay tuned!

## CHRISTMAS BANQUETS PAST AND FUTURE- submitted by Maria Santone

It was wonderful to finally have a **Christmas banquet** last December and to connect with our friends and colleagues! A bonus was an unexpected windfall when we were able, at the last minute, to use the banquet hall. With only 43 attendees and a special buffet price, we all received an early Christmas gift. This year, if we do not exceed 60 attendees, we will be seated in the restaurant and will pay the going rate for a shared buffet. Although it would be a different room, I know it would be comfortable and festively decorated. I have explored two other possible venues but the golf club still remains the best choice. I will be meeting with the restaurant's events coordinator in the late summer/early fall to discuss this year's Christmas banquet. The proposals will be discussed at a CRTA EC meeting and then presented to CRTA members. We have been trying to nail the Christmas “jello” to ascertain why our attendance numbers have dropped in the last few years, including before COVID. If you have any **feedback** that can address this concern please send me an email at [msantone@hotmail.com](mailto:msantone@hotmail.com) I will share the comments with the executive and hopefully we will be able to make decisions based on data rather than on guesses. In the meantime, have a happy, healthy and adventurous summer!

## IN MEMORIAM



We regret to announce the passing of the following CRTA Members. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.



**Al Argue:** June 30, 2023: A longtime CRTA Member, Al is survived by his wife Norma, children Roy, Grant, Erin, Andrea and Daniel, grandchildren, family and friends.

**Yvonne Gould:** November 13, 2022: Yvonne taught at Hillcrest and Birchland Elementary schools. She is survived by her husband Charles, children Wendy, Murray, Mary, Drew, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family, and friends.

**June Scatchard:** 2021