

President's Report



On behalf of the CRTA Executive Committee I would like to wish a Happy 2024 to all our CRTA members and their families. I hope that the past holiday season was one filled with the warmth of family and friends. We have much to look forward to in the first few months of this New Year and your CRTA Executive is hard at work serving our members.

1. **Hazel Trembath Fire:** Members who wish to make a direct financial donation to the teachers affected by the burning of Hazel Trembath School can do so by clicking this link to the CTA website: <https://www.coquitlamteachers.com/>. Also, the **SD43 Education Foundation** has set up an online site to receive donations to support the Hazel Trembath community; tax receipts will be issued. Further information can be found by clicking on the SD43 Foundation link: <https://sd43foundation.org/make-a-donation/>
2. **The CRTA General Meeting on October 11, 2023** was very successful. Although the venue was changed at the last minute, to allow for the relocation of Hazel Trembath staff and students to Winslow Centre, the General Meeting went ahead at its new location in Montgomery Centre. Attendees were treated to some wonderful "freebies" provided by the very accommodating SD 43 Continuing Education Department. The CRTA would like to thank SD 43 for their persistence in finding an alternate venue for this and future CRTA GMs. Howard Spence provided a financial report; a BCRTA Conference and AGM report was given; and a preview of the CRTA Christmas Luncheon was offered. The meeting listened to a very informative presentation by BC Investment Vice-President Rob Field who offered an overview of BC Investment Corporation's operations and Ethical-Social-Governance investing strategy with regards to the Teacher Pension Plan. And lastly, **Henry Thiessen, Fran Mitchell, Terry Peachey, Sue Ewart, and Howard Spence** were the lucky recipients of door prizes.
3. **Our CRTA Christmas Luncheon** held on December 6th at the Burnaby Mountain Golf club was a very successful and enjoyable event. Thank you and kudos to **Maria Santone** who was the principal organizer of the event. Read further in the newsletter for a recap of the festivities.

A look forward into 2024:

1. The next **CRTA General Meeting** will be held on February 7th at Montgomery Centre. Read further in the newsletter for information about the event. I hope to see many of our members there!
2. **Life Labs Class Action Settlement** – Read further in the newsletter about the results of the class action lawsuit and possible benefits to CRTA members.

Teresa

Teachers' Pension Increase for 2023



The BC Teachers' Pension Plan web site confirms that the 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment is 3.8%. READ MORE at: <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/cost-of-living-adjustments>



Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2023 –
2024

<http://www.bcrta.ca>

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Mark Your Calendar!



Wednesday February 7: CRTA General Meeting:

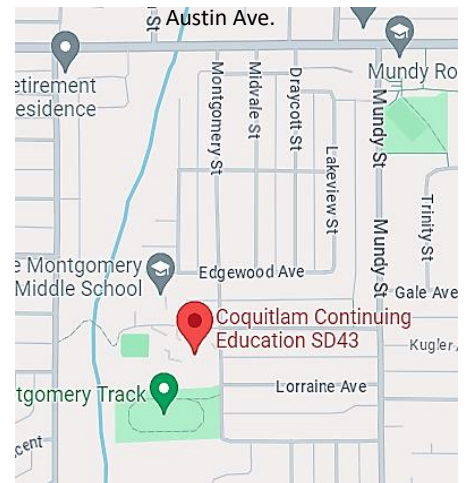
Howard Spence will introduce the audience to **SERENDIPITOUS ART** demonstrations and examples that are sure to captivate your imagination. **Be amazed, amused & mystified!**

Wednesday April 3: CRTA General Meeting

Wednesday June 5: CRTA AGM

All meetings begin at 10:00 am at the Continuing Education Center (aka Montgomery Centre) located at 380 Montgomery St, Coquitlam.

Parking is at the **WEST** side of the building.



Howard's Wonderful Wacky Word Games!



This issue's subject was inspired by an email from **Nancy Carl**, who states that one of her pet peeves is the mispronunciation of common words, giving the example of "realtor" being pronounced as "REAL-ah-tor". Somehow that extra "ah" sound has sneaked in.



I'm just guessing here, but perhaps this comes from thinking of it as being derived from "reality"? By the way, Nancy is the recipient of a \$20 gift card, for her submission, which formed the key idea behind this issue's column.

There are many very common pronunciation problems out there. A couple of examples:

1. Uclulet is often pronounced without the first "l", becoming "Uculet".
2. I often hear words ending in "ing" which, when followed by a vowel, are pronounced as "...een", as in "***I am goeen away***". For me, this became intolerable at the time when a CBC news announcer (who shall remain nameless, but with the initials R. Z.), in stating news about well-known football quarterback Eli Manning, said "***...Manneen is...***". When verbal sloppiness leads to the corruption of a person's name; that should be a criminal offense! Aren't CBC announcers supposed to be paragons of proper pronunciation? (Sorry for the alliteration.)

Now for a **QUIZ**. Try pronouncing the following words, then check the proper pronunciation elsewhere in this newsletter. How did you do?

And, lastly, my request for contributions. **What are your pet mispronounced words?**

I would like to hear from you. Contact me at my email address found elsewhere in this newsletter. Our offer of a \$20 dollar gift card draw for contributors still holds, so send in your thoughts on mispronounced words, or on any topic related to words.

1. nuclear
2. February
3. Antarctic
4. gyro (the sandwich)
5. quinoa

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

LifeLabs Data Breach Class Action – Settlement Approval & Distribution Notice

CRTA 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.

A Class Action was commenced on December 17, 2019. LifeLabs defended the Action, and denied all allegations. On October 25, 2023, the Ontario Court approved a Canada-wide Settlement Agreement and Distribution Protocol for up to \$9.8 million.

You may be a Settlement Class Member if you live in Canada and were a LifeLabs customer on or before December 17, 2019.

Each Settlement Class Member who completes a valid claim form, on time, will be eligible to receive estimated compensation of \$50, up to a maximum of \$150, from which will be deducted Court-approved legal fees, disbursements and taxes. The precise amount to be paid per person will be determined based on the total number of claims filed.

You must submit a claim between December 8, 2023 and no later than April 6, 2024, in one of three ways:

1. File a completed claim form on the secure, online website at: <https://lifelabssettlement.kpmg.ca>.
2. Email a completed Claim Form to the Claims Administrator at: lifelabssettlement@kpmg.ca.
3. Mail a completed Claim Form by ordinary mail to the Claims Administrator at the address specified below.

Note: Claimants are encouraged to submit the online Claim Form, as electronic submissions will be processed quickly. The Claim Form requires you to provide a valid provincial health card number to prove you are a member of the Class. You must also choose to be paid by e-transfer or by cheque. Payment will be expedited if made by Interac e-transfer, rather than cheque. In addition, a processing fee of \$2.00 will be deducted if you request a cheque.

CRTA 2023 – 2024 EXECUTIVE

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BCRTA Golden Star Awards 2024

Each year, the BCRTA *Excellence in Public Education Committee* recognizes outstanding **intergenerational** programs in BC's public schools.

If you know of a public school program involving **seniors and students**, please encourage the teacher to visit:

<https://bcrtc.ca/bcrtc-golden-star-awards/>

Deadline for submissions is April 15th each year.

HELPING BC STUDENTS AND SENIORS CONNECT
GOLDEN STAR AWARDS
FIVE + 1500 AWARDS GIVEN TO PROGRAMS FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.
PLUS ONE \$1900 AWARD
SUBMISSION DEADLINE APRIL 15
Local award ceremonies are held in the communities of winning entries.
Celebrating School Programs that Feature the Interaction of Seniors and Students
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: www.bccrtc.ca/home-goldenstar-awards/
BY MAIL: 100 - 110 WEST 6TH AVENUE, VANCOUVER, BC V6Z 4P1
EMAIL: info@bcrtc.ca

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

Christmas Brunch 2023

Once again, our Christmas lunch was a festive event with 65 attendees. It was a beautiful crisp day and a perfect beginning to the holiday season.



The venue was warmly decorated and everyone circulated and visited with friends and colleagues. The shared buffet was plentiful and delicious and many people commented on the high quality.

Expanding the guest list to friends and encouraging partners to attend got us to our goal. Everyone looked wonderful and very happy.

We have reserved Wednesday December 4 for our 2024 luncheon. **Mark your calendar NOW!**

Sunshine Committee

Sunshine coordinator **Dale Linton** sends get well and sympathy cards to members who are ill and to families suffering a bereavement. Please keep her updated by calling 604-937-5113.

Member Contact

Please let **John Pope** know if you have a **new** email address, home address or telephone number. We want to stay in touch!



1. nuclear: NUKÉ-lee-ur, not NUKÉ-you-ler
2. February: FEB-roo-air-ee, not FEB-you-air-ee
3. Antarctic: ant-ARC-tick, not ant-ARE-tick
4. gyro: YEE-roh (and rrrroll the r, if you can!), not JY-roh Yes, I know, it's all Greek to you!
5. quinoa: KEEN-wah, not quin-OH-ah

Pronunciation Guide for the quiz:

Phoning Committee



The phoning committee continues to phone members who do not receive information by email. We are always willing to add new names to our list so if you wish to have someone from the committee phone you periodically throughout the year, please give **Nick Magistrale** a call. Simply provide your name and number to be added to the list. If you would like to be a phoner, please contact **Nick**. This program was especially helpful during the COVID Pandemic as it was good to have contact with members and many enjoyed a chat with our volunteers.

Contact **Nick** at (604)936-7701 or magistralenick99@gmail.com

In Memoriam



The CRTA regrets to announce the passing of the following District 43 colleagues. We extend heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.



Beverley Nikiforuk: November 18, 2023: Bev's most recent school was Montgomery Elementary. She is survived by her husband, family and friends.

Lilly Jacob: December 4, 2023: Lilly was a special education teacher at Viscount and Coquitlam River Elementary Schools. She is survived by her sons Benjamin and Stephen, family and friends.