

## CRTA Newsletter

### President's Report

It's March already! We are nearing the end of winter and can look forward to spring – it truly is just around the corner. Snowdrops have been blooming for days and daffodils will join them. The transition from winter to spring has begun.

For several years, whether in winter or in spring, **CRTA members** joined with countless others to urge federal representatives to implement universal Pharmacare in Canada. In fact, our combined efforts led to promises made during the last three federal elections. But where is the **National Pharmacare Program** that was promised? So far, we have heard the words but have not seen the action. No other policy change and program can have the same kind of positive impact on our well-being as universal Pharmacare. CRTA members have the opportunity to participate in a **national campaign** to press the federal government to keep its word. **BCRTA** has created a simple way for each of us to send a strong message to our federal and provincial representatives. Let them know that we want action and we want it now! Click on this link and follow the prompts:

<https://bcrtc.ca/pharmacarenow/>

Thank you for adding your voice to the campaign!



*Caroline*

### Who says we don't exercise?

We '**jump**' to conclusions and we '**throw**' our weight around.

We '**twist**' the truth and we '**stretch**' the imagination.

We '**bend**' the rules and we '**push**' our luck.

We '**lift**' our spirits and we '**run**' from tough situations.

We are absolutely **fit**!

But still we gain weight because

we '**eat**' our words!



# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2021–  
2022

<https://bcрта.ca/coquitlam/>

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It was a pleasure to welcome *Linda Watson*, Chair of the BCRTA **Pensions and Benefits Committee** as guest speaker to our General Meeting on Feb. 8th. Linda spoke about how the **Teachers' pension fund** has grown over the years and how well it has fared even through the challenging times. Because of the excellent management of the pension fund and investment returns, our pensions and COLA will continue to support our retirees. Linda also covered **group health and travel benefits** and suggested we compare these packages and choose the one most suitable to our needs. Details can be found on the BCRTA website. Linda suggested that we check the **TPP My Account** for retirees and beneficiaries to make any necessary beneficiary adjustments. We thanked Linda for her excellent presentation with a colourful bouquet of fresh flowers. *Fran Mitchell*

**VANCOUVER  
CANUCKS**

## **EDUCATORS' NIGHT**

Educators' Night is back on March 21st, 2023, when the Canucks take on the Vegas Golden Knights at 7PM.



Tickets start at \$60 and include a Hot Dog and Beer/Soft Drink voucher with every ticket.

As a way to show our appreciation, this very special offer (i.e., price and voucher) is available to anyone in the education community, as well as their friends and family!

[Click here for tickets or more information](#)

## **Phoning Committee Update**



The Phoning Committee continues to keep in touch with members who do not receive information by email. Over the past few years we have had four volunteer phoners, including me, that phone periodically to pass on important information or to just have a chat with a fellow member.

**Gwen Raycroft** has been part of this committee for many years. According to my records she was a phoner in 2015. Gwen has just gracefully retired from her position. Thank you to Gwen for keeping in contact with so many colleagues with a phone call and a chat. **Janet Andrews** and **Sandy Sainiuk** will continue to be on the committee. I also have a few spares who I can contact for help if our list increases. Looking back over the years there have been many volunteer phoners – **Doreen Blanchard, Eva Collins, Margaret Ellwood, La Verne Miller, Eileen Miyanaga, Judy Mukuda, and Ethel Sears** to name a few. The list of names wanting a call is much smaller now than when we first started but it is still important. If you would like to be added to the list to receive a phone call or if you would like to be a volunteer phoner on the committee please contact me at 604-939-9897 or [lparsons@telus.net](mailto:lparsons@telus.net). Communication is so important in these times.

*Lynda Parsons*

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

## Howard's Wacky Word Games

In our last column, we were given the challenge of coming up with **imaginary car names** that failed, usually with some connection between the failed and the new name. Imagine if, instead of a Ford Explorer, you owned a **Ford Exploder**?



**John Pope** took a different, but very creative and amusing approach with car names, as follows:

"The January newsletter mentioned, tongue-in-cheek, the **Honda Oddity**, rebranded as the Odyssey. Designers at some other auto giants have produced cars with bizarre names targeting specific customers and demographics. For a certain rebellious royal, Chrysler offered the **Valiant Prince**. For deadbeat "Exes", there is the **Dodge Alimony**, and for marijuana lovers, Ford produced what they hoped would be a best seller, the **Escape Reality**. Fortunately, all were, like the Oddity, renamed before production began.

"In a reverse of those examples, after-market 'rebranding' was frequently applied to one manufacturer's first export model, which suffered from early rust-out. DIY owners renamed the Honda Civic the **Honda Bondo**."

Here are several from **John Schembri**:

Ford Country Squire - **Country Squalor**; Dodge Dart – **Daft**;



**Ford Cantina**- the car sold well in Mexico, especially with the wet bar in the back, but not in the U.S., until re-named Cortina, with optional roll bar replacing the wet bar. Then there are the Tata and the Yugo. Slight changes appropriately re-name them **Ta-Ta** and **Yu Go**.

Now, for something completely different. **Caroline Malm** told me about **Spelling Bee**, a daily challenge presented in the New York Times, in which readers are given a set of seven letters, and challenged to come up with as many words as they can, using only the letters given (though each letter can be used any number of times in a given word) and all words using a mandatory letter. The given letters are organized in circular fashion, encircling one letter, that centre letter being required in each word. Just search for "New York Times Spelling Bee" and you can find it easily, though a paid subscription is required if you want to have more than just a sample of the puzzle.

However, there is a **free version of the puzzle**, available online at <https://spellbee.org/> with a daily puzzle, and lots of puzzles archived. There are several equivalent websites you can access by using your favourite search engine (e.g. google). If you are a **Scrabble** player, this puzzle can be a good means of improving your Scrabble game. Try it. I think you'll like it!



In the course of my life, I have often had to eat my words, and I must confess that I have always found it a wholesome diet.

*Sir Winston Churchill*

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# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

## Mark Your Calendar!



Wed. April 5, 2023

CRTA General Meeting

Wed. May 10, 2023

CRTA Newsletter

Wed. June 7, 2023

CRTA AGM



### CRTA Sunshine Director Dale Linton

sends cards to members who are unwell or families who have suffered a bereavement. Please keep her informed: 604-937-5113



The **BCRTA** website is your **one stop spot** for info on pensions, insurance programs, travel opportunities, taxes, member discounts, well-being and much more: <https://bcрта.ca>

## IN MEMORIAM



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



**Patrick "Paddy" French:** July 2, 2022: Paddy taught, counseled or was VP at Glen Elementary; Montgomery, Hastings, Pearkes and Moody Jr Secondary schools; loco Program; and Port Moody, Riverside and Dr. Charles Best Secondary schools. He is much missed by his wife Arlis, his children Brent and Julie, grandchildren, family and friends.

**Denise Maultsaid:** January 17, 2023: Denise taught in Coquitlam, including at Miller Park Elementary and Pinetree Secondary schools. She is much missed by her children Meegan, Deirdre, Norm, and Harriet; grandchildren, family, and friends.

**Ray McNabb:** January 24, 2023: Ray was a long time Coquitlam District Area Counsellor. He was a founding member of our Branch and served as President from 1995 to 2000. We will remember his service with gratitude each time we ring the engraved hand bell he presented to the CRTA when he became Past President. During his career and after retirement, Ray served on the Executive Committees of the CTA, BCTF, CRTA and BCRTA. Ray's warm support and good humour are much missed by family, friends and former colleagues.

**Trudi Robson:** June 27, 2022: Before joining CRTA in 1993, Trudi taught at several District schools including Coronation Park and Ranch Park elementary schools. She is much missed by her children, grandchildren, family and friends.

**Dennis Secret:** December 13, 2022: Dennis taught at Centennial and was an administrator at George Pearkes, Minnekhada, Gleneagle and Como Lake schools. He was a valued member of the CRTA Executive Committee. He is much missed by his children Fraser, Cameron and Jennifer; grandchildren, family, and friends.

**George Carelse:** June 9, 2022

**Tom Harris:** January 20, 2023