

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

May 2023
Issue No. 5

CRTA Newsletter

President's Report

Greetings! This spring, CRTA learned of several school anniversaries including those at Gleneagle Secondary, Ranch Park and Mundy Road Elementary schools. These festive occasions provide opportunities to gather with others who taught with us in the past. Memories abound!

May 10th marks the **50th anniversary** of the **Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA)**.

Our previous roles as members of the CTA brought us together as colleagues and friends. As educators, we were proud members of the CTA. As retirees, the ongoing support of the CTA and District 43 means that we have familiar gathering places where we can renew acquaintances, have fun and conduct the business of our organization. We thank CTA for all they do both for us and for public education. Congratulations to CTA President Ken Christensen, the Executive Committee, all CTA members and office staff for 50 years of dedication and hard work. There is much to celebrate!

I know that all members of CRTA wish the CTA well as they celebrate their golden year.

CRTA members, please come out to support your Association at the **CRTA AGM on June 7th**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Caroline



NOMINATIONS, AGM and ELECTIONS

Nominations:

If you are a member in good standing and would like to nominate yourself or another member in good standing for an executive position, please submit the nominee's information in writing or by email to **Audrey Anthony** at louaud@telus.net by **Wednesday May 24, 2023**. The nominee must agree in writing or by email to accept the nomination. Candidates can be nominated from the floor but must be present.

Positions: President; Vice- President; Secretary; Treasurer; Directors; Delegates to the BCRTA Conference and AGM: September 28, 29, 30, 2023.



Agenda: CRTA AGM

Wednesday June 7, 2023

Chair: Teresa Grandinetti



1. Member sign in: 9:30am
2. Call to order: 10:00am
3. Welcome and acknowledgement
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Acceptance of Minutes of the 2022 AGM
6. Financial Report
7. Elections
8. Presentation: Gale Pirie * See p. 2
9. President's Remarks
10. Door prize draw
11. Adjournment

Join us for our traditional **FREE lunch after the AGM!** Initiated by the Teachers' Bridge Club several years ago, this year's bun-wich feast for all attendees will be provided by the Executive Committee.

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2022–
2023

<https://bcrrta.ca/coquitlam/>

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Learn All About Your Antique and Collectible Treasures!

Join us for retired educator **Gale Pirie's** presentation:



What's Hot and What's Not!

Attendees are invited to bring **one** item small enough to carry for appraisal.

Gale is an independent, accredited member of the *Canadian Personal Property Appraisers Group* with many years of experience in valuing antiques and collectibles for insurance and finance purposes, family division, estates, downsizing and inventories. She has worked as an appraiser with the CBC's *Canadian Antiques Roadshow*. **Gale** will appraise as many items as possible within the time allowed.

Howard's Wacky Word Games

Bothersome Grammar and Spelling



- No doubt we have all experienced words, phrases, or spellings that we find annoyingly or hilariously **misused**. Here are some of my favourites (to be correct, I guess I should call some of them unfavourites)!
1. "**would of**". e.g. "Had I known better, I would of saved my money". This stems from our abbreviating "would have" to "would've", which, when spoken, sounds like "would of". So many people, hearing "would've", believe it to be "would of", without thinking of the grammatical blunder they have created.
 2. I don't know if this is a common misuse, but I have encountered "**Rest your weary laurels**", somehow mindlessly combining "Rest your weary legs" with "Rest on your laurels". I have a hard time imagining a person stating that without mental alarm bells ringing, but there it was, in print.
 3. Then there is the very common "**irregardless**", really meaning "regardless" or "irrespective".
 4. And let's not forget about the **contradictory observation** attributed to **Yogi Berra**, about a New York Restaurant: "Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded". If you research this one, you will find it originated decades before Yogi was born, but he did confirm that he said it.

There is a myriad of these errors out there for our enjoyment or annoyance. What are your favourites? I would like to hear from **you**. Contributors will be entered into a draw for a **\$20 gift certificate**. Email your thoughts to **Howard Spence**, email address found elsewhere in this newsletter.

P.S. One sentence in that last paragraph might raise some hackles, and I expect to receive a response or two about that.

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA Members in Action: Thumbs Up!



In 2022, **BCRTA** joined with other members of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER/CART) and the National Pensioners Federation (NPF), to promote an important e-petition supporting **pension protection**. While our public sector pensions are protected, many in private sector plans (like the Sears retirees) need similar protection.

The BCRTA Board passed a motion of support for the e-petition and asked **Branches** to distribute the link to all BCRTA Members. **Thank you, CRTA Members, for your support of this important issue!** The petition challenged the federal government to develop a solution to ensure pensioners receive **100%** of the pension their employer committed to. **Bill C-228** is not law yet, but it's on the way! Now that the Bill has been passed in both the House of Commons and the Senate, the government has to schedule it for Royal Assent and then incorporate Bill C-228 into the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act.

In 2021 the BCRTA Board moved to contribute a grant of \$5000 in support of the *BC Health Coalition Legal Defense Fund* in support of their intervener status in the Charter Challenge against Brian Day and the privatization of medical services. We asked **CRTA Members** to consider signing an online pledge in order to build momentum in support of the *BC Health Coalition* and *Canadian Doctors for Medicare*. **Thank you for your participation!** On April 6, 2023 the **Supreme Court of Canada decided not to hear an appeal from Brian Day**. This decision supports the principles of universal health care, where access to medical care is determined by a patient's needs, not their ability to pay their way to the front of the line.

CRTA 2022 – 2023 EXECUTIVE

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CRTA Sunshine Coordinator **Dale Linton** sends cards to those who are ill or to family members in the case of bereavement.

Please update her at (604) 937-5113.



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- ✓ Update your personal info
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Mark Your Calendar

June 1: Intergenerational Day

June 7: CRTA AGM and Lunch

June 16: Mundy Road Elementary 75th Anniversary

August 2: CRTA Newsletter

September 5: Back to School Brunch: "To Hell with the Bell"



September 28 – 30: BCRTA Conference and AGM

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On the Road Again!

At our **General Meeting** held on April 5th, we were treated to **travel advice** and **information** by our presenter, **Neal Chark** from *Uniglobe Travel*, a Canadian company. Neal has been in the travel business for 35 years and told about his **post – pandemic** travel experiences with sports and faith groups. He punctuated his presentation with travel tips such as:



- always abide by the rules of the country you are visiting
- don't leave home without travel insurance
- have a copy of your passport and credit card in your suitcase and another copy at home
- bring your own snacks and earphones in your carry on.

Neal cautioned that booking your own trip may not save you money in the end. A travel agent can provide protection from surprises as you book or unforeseen risks when you arrive at your destination. Agents have access to other global agents for up-to-date information. Neal stayed to answer questions from our Members. He provided a handout with more tips and contact information. If you wish to contact him, phone 604-767-2042 or go to: nealc@uniglobecarefree.ca

Submitted by **Fran Mitchell**



The **Phoning Committee** continues to phone members who do not receive information by emails. Our list of members to phone has diminished over the years but we still have three of us who phone to chat with fellow retirees.

Sometimes we're able to help make connections between former colleagues when contact information has been lost. In fact this happened through a phone call last month with **John Pope's** assistance. John tracked down a missing phone number and, with a few phone calls between us, our member was able to reconnect with a former friend: a good example of how important communication is whether it is via a computer or a phone call once in a while. If you want to be a phoner or you would like a phone call from a fellow member just give me a call at 604-939-9897 or email me at lrparsons@telus.net.

Submitted by **Lynda Parsons**

CRTA has lost contact with several Members. Please let us know if you have a phone number, email or postal address for:

- **Patricia Fulton**
- **Mike Ross**
- **June Scatchard**
- **Bronwen Young**



Email to coquitlamrta@hotmail.com or 604-461-7355. Thank you!

John Pope
Membership Director



In Memoriam



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

Margaret Elwood: March 20, 2023: Margaret was a CRTA Life Member who taught at Montgomery, Rochester, Banting and Nestor Elementary Schools. She was a long-time member of the Teachers' Bridge Club. She is survived by her children Avon and Bill, family, friends and former colleagues.

Joanne Elizabeth Eriksson: April 13, 2023: Joanne was a CRTA Life Member who taught in Coquitlam School District from 1973 to 1993. She is survived by her children Brent and Nancy, family, friends and former colleagues.