

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

November 2023  
Issue No. 2

## CRTA Newsletter

### CRTA Christmas Banquet



Join us on **Wednesday December 6, 2023** at Burnaby Mountain Golf Club (BMGC), 7600 Halifax Street, Burnaby B.C. Doors will open at 11:00 am. Luncheon will be served at 12:00pm.



We need at least sixty people to register for the event so that we can keep the use of the large banquet room. Please bring a friend, your partner/ spouse or former colleague – the more the merrier! There is competition for the room and we want to keep it rather than gathering in a smaller dining area at BMGC.

Because we are loyal customers, we have been quoted the same price as last year including tax and gratuity. Once again CRTA has decided to **subsidize the cost** of the buffet for BCRTA members:

**BCRTA Members and Partners/ Spouses: Early Bird: Register by November 16: \$37.00**  
**BCRTA Members and Partners/ Spouses: Regular price: Register by November 29: \$40.00**  
**Friends (non- BCRTA Members): CRTA is not permitted to subsidize this price: \$49.00**  
**Drinks: \$9.00 plus tax and gratuity**

The shared buffet will be set up in the Bistro as usual. We'll be serving Christmas Spirit along with:



Assorted dinner rolls with butter  
Tuscan green salad  
Traditional Caesar salad  
Yukon Gold mashed potatoes  
Vegetarian lasagna  
Market vegetables  
Caramelized orange-glazed ham with roasted peach  
Carving of roasted Christmas turkey with Riesling gravy  
Italian spiced chorizo and mushroom stuffing  
Chef's dessert  
Starbucks coffee and Tazo tea



Again this year, everyone is encouraged to bring a mask decorated for the holiday season and prizes will be awarded for the most festive! **We recommend that you wear a mask** when leaving your table, especially when joining the buffet service line. Plain masks will also be available at the registration table.

Please **make cheque payable to CRTA**

Please **mail by** Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup> to **arrive by** Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup>. Due to caterers' timelines, this is a firm cut- off date. **Please mail to:**



Howard Spence  
2288 Portage Avenue  
Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 2Z3



# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2023–  
2024

<https://bcрта.ca/coquitlam/>

## TABLE OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Teresa Grandinetti  
(604) 230-5411  
[tgrandin@uniserve.com](mailto:tgrandin@uniserve.com)

### PAST –PRESIDENT

Caroline Malm  
(604)461-0008  
[caroline@malm.ca](mailto:caroline@malm.ca)

### SECRETARY

Jennifer Blenkinsop  
(604)461-4088  
[jennfb@shaw.ca](mailto:jennfb@shaw.ca)

### TREASURER

Howard Spence  
(604) 936-8320  
[hwsponce@gmail.com](mailto:hwsponce@gmail.com)

## DIRECTORS

### SEPTEMBER BRUNCH

Audrey Anthony  
(604) 937-3086  
[louaud@telus.net](mailto:louaud@telus.net)

### MEMBERSHIP/ MEMBER CONTACT

John Pope  
(604) 461-7355  
[tipope1@hotmail.com](mailto:tipope1@hotmail.com)

### DOOR PRIZES/GIFTS

Margrete Wylie  
(604) 464-1788  
[stan\\_wylie@telus.net](mailto:stan_wylie@telus.net)

## President's Report:



Hello CRTA Members,

I would like to introduce myself: I am **Teresa Grandinetti** and, as of September 13<sup>th</sup>, your new CRTA President! I have taken over the reins of the organization that has been so capably led by Caroline Malm, now our Past President.

It has been a busy fall for your CRTA Executive! The season began with our traditional first day of school **To Hell with the Bell Brunch** at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Club. Along with much conversation and laughter, attendees enjoyed a delicious buffet. We look forward to repeating the gathering in December with our Christmas Luncheon - details are outlined in the newsletter. Be sure to secure your spot for this always popular event by sending in your cheque quickly! ✍️

Next up: three CRTA delegates, myself included, attended  **Conference and AGM** on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Although the Conference and AGM were to be held in-person, an on-going hotel labour dispute meant that the event had to be converted to an on-line meeting. Of course, the delegates were understandably disappointed but enthusiastically participated in the proceedings. Read the reports from delegates in this newsletter. A special mention goes out to our very own **Caroline Malm** who was re-elected as First Vice-President of the BCRTA Executive Committee. Congratulations, Caroline! We know that the BCRTA will benefit from your leadership. The entire Conference presentations can be accessed at <https://bcрта.ca/category/conference2023/>

Then, an event that saddened many CRTA members: the total destruction of **Hazel Trembath Elementary** by fire on the morning of Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. A number of our members have fond memories of their years teaching at Hazel Trembath. As retired member **Sharon Cooper** stated, "... [It is] so heartbreaking. What was once my classroom is now a pile of ashes". Our hearts go out to the Hazel Trembath teachers who, even though they are grieving the loss of years of personal resources, immediately began the work required to transition the school community to a new facility.

Some members have reached out and asked how they can assist their Hazel Trembath colleagues. For any CRTA member who wishes to contribute financially, the **CTA** has organized two methods whereby members are able to make donations to the affected Hazel Trembath teachers. Information can be found 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/>

Lastly, our first **CRTA General Meeting** of the 23/24 fiscal year was relocated due to the need to transform rooms within Winslow Centre into temporary relocations for the displaced Hazel Trembath staff and students. Many thanks to the District for quickly finding another space at Montgomery Centre for the CRTA to hold its meeting. Future meeting information will be available in our next newsletter.

I wish all CRTA members a healthy and productive fall and as we look forward to the end of the year, a holiday season filled with happiness and the warmth of loved ones.

*Teresa*

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

## Who Is Nick Magistrale?

Being a new member of the BCRTA Executive committee, I'd like to introduce myself: my name is **Nick Magistrale** and I retired two years ago in the midst of COVID-19, which was a major contributor to my decision to retire. I taught in SD 43 for twenty-four years as a shop teacher, which I enjoyed immensely. I taught at Minnehada Middle for four years, and for twenty years at Montgomery Middle, which is located only a block away from my house.

Before my teaching career, and equipped with a diploma in Mechanical Technology from BCIT, I worked as a Quality Control Technician in a metal manufacturing plant, and later as an HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) designer and draftsman for an engineering office. I also taught drafting at night school in Vancouver and fell in love with the teaching profession. This led me to UBC on a part time basis to obtain a Bachelor Degree in Education followed by a diploma in ESL.

I'm enjoying retirement very much, but I miss working in the shops, and the camaraderie of my teaching colleagues. However, after joining the BCRTA executive committee, I've hooked up with past colleagues again, and met new ones. Everyone on this committee was very welcoming to me when I joined, and I am happy to be with such professional fun loving individuals.

*Nick Magistrale*

*Editors' note:* Welcome, Nick! Thank you for volunteering to head up the CRTA Phoning Committee!



## Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

Have you registered to receive  **BCRTA CONNECTIONS** the official BCRTA email Newsletter? Your provincial Association invites you to receive emails periodically with news about your Association and our programs. You have the ability to opt out of any separate marketing emails from our Advantage partners. Subscribe your email: <https://bcрта.ca/publications/>

*Caroline Malm*

## Delegate's Report: **BCRTA Conference and AGM 2023**

I enjoyed attending the AGM on Zoom again this year. Speakers presented topics of interest to retirees who still want to contribute. Volunteering and living in your own home as you age were discussed.

Particularly well done was the efficient offering of motions and ease of voting. Questions were accepted in advance and dealt with prior to the vote so voting results were expedited quickly.

My attendance is my way of staying current with the activities of the committees of the BCRTA and the work of the R.R. Smith Memorial Foundation.

*Audrey Anthony*

## CRTA 2023 – 2024

### DIRECTORS cont'd

#### PHONING

Nick Magistrale

778-899-7701

[Magistralenick99@gmail.com](mailto:Magistralenick99@gmail.com)

#### LUNCHEON/SOCIALS

Maria Santone

(604) 936-2869

[msantone@hotmail.com](mailto:msantone@hotmail.com)

#### WELCOME/DOOR PRIZES

Vicki Stacey

(604) 936-9040

[akrod@telus.net](mailto:akrod@telus.net)

#### SUNSHINE

Dale Linton

(604) 937-5113

[sewgr1@gmail.com](mailto:sewgr1@gmail.com)

#### POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Jennifer Blenkinsop

(604) 461-4088

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

#### GEN MTG SPEAKERS

Fran Mitchell

(604) 936-1120

[fmitchell@telus.net](mailto:fmitchell@telus.net)

#### BURSARIES

Henry Thiessen

(604) 939- 9906

[tsen@telus.net](mailto:tsen@telus.net)

#### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Caroline Malm

Audrey Anthony

Teresa Grandinetti

#### FORMATTING

Howard Malm



# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

## Delegate's Report: Conference and AGM 2023

It was a privilege to attend this year's virtual **BCRTA Conference**. On the first day, we were introduced to BCRTA Member **Helene McGall** who gave the land acknowledgement, then continued on with her reflections on teaching in Nunavut. Her previous experiences of teaching in other countries landed her the job in a small northern Canadian village - at the age of 75! She found it so rewarding, she's returning for another year: <https://bcrta.ca/helene-mcgall-land-acknowledgement-and-reflection-on-teaching-in-canadas-north-bcrta-conference-2023/>

Last Wednesday, for our General Meeting at Montgomery Centre, we had to make rapid changes to location and speaker. Luckily, **Howard** was able to plug into the **BCRTA Conference** videos on the **BCRTA website** and we were able to listen to **Rob Field**, Vice President from BCI (BC Investment Corporation). Rob gave us an overview of BCI's operations and the ESG (Ethical - Social - Governance) investing strategy. Our **Teachers' Pensions portfolio** is managed by the BCI Corporation and we were assured that our plan is "in very good shape". I would encourage our membership to watch this presentation on the **BCRTA website** to learn more about the investing and management of **your** pension: <https://bcrta.ca/bc-investment-management-corporation-presentation-bcrta-2023-conference/>

*Fran Mitchell*



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



Please update Dale at (604) 937-5113.

## Lost and Found!

CRTA has lost contact with **Sue Davey** and **Debra Eisel**. Please let us know if you can help us to update contact information. Message to: [coquitlamrta@hotmail.com](mailto:coquitlamrta@hotmail.com).

If **you** have changed your home or email address or your telephone number, please let us **and** the provincial office know:

[coquitlamrta@hotmail.com](mailto:coquitlamrta@hotmail.com)

[office@bcrta.ca](mailto:office@bcrta.ca)

*John Pope*

## 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.



**George Buckley:** September 20, 2023: George served the District for 30 years as teacher and administrator including at Terry Fox Secondary and many summer schools. He is survived by his wife Marilyn, four sons, grandchildren, family and friends.

**Nancy Fernandes:** September 2023: Nancy was a trailblazer for women seeking leadership positions in the District. She is survived by her children, family and friends.

**Sally Terakita:** August 2, 2023: Sally retired in 1995 after spending her entire career in Coquitlam teaching at Austin Heights, Cedar Drive, Harbor View and Meadowbrook elementary schools. She is survived by her sisters, nieces and nephews, family and friends.