



Newsletter of the Surrey Retired Teachers' Association branch of the BCRTA February Edition

Presidents Report

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year. We welcome you to 2025 and are excited to present some workshops and social events for the upcoming year. First, let me give you an overview of the events we held in the latter part of 2024.

WORKSHOPS:

- Trip Merchant on trips offered through the BCRTA was in October. We had 20 attendees.
- Wills workshop by COSCO in November. There were 21 participants.
- CHAT GPT in November had 20 techies to learn about AI.
- SOCIAL EVENTS:
- “Night at the Races” at Fraser Downs, Cloverdale in November. We had an awesome time cheering on the horses with 22 members.
- Christmas Luncheon at the Rotary Field House on December 5th. It was a fantastic lunch for the 51 members and guests.

Here are some upcoming Workshops and Social Events to mark your calendars for. We highly recommend you sign up for them!

February

- Luncheon at the Rotary Field House on February 27th.

March

- Indispensable Binder at the Fleetwood Library on March 13th.

May

- Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Trip.
- Mark your calendar! May 25th at 1:00 pm.
- Watch for an email for signup.

Here's some info from the BCRTA. The **Pensions Committee** boosted your pensions by 1.6% thanks to the COLA clause. Now we're officially rich retirees! But, unfortunately, Green Shield Health insurance premiums will jump by 9%, starting February 1st.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2025

Tom Hastie,

President



Please Join Us

Thursday, February 27th.
Rotary Field House
Surrey (See below for a map)
Doors open at 11:00 am Lunch at 12.00 pm

Pay at the door: cash (exact amount please) or cheque made out to the SRTA

- \$20.00 per person for SRTA members*
- \$25.00 per person for guests.

*SRTA members' meals are subsidized using our branch membership fees. Guests pay the amount the caterer charges the SRTA. Prices include taxes and gratuity.

Soup, Sandwich and Salad Menu

- Vegetarian Soup
- 4 different varieties of sandwiches/wraps (different fillings... probably 2 meat options and 2 vegetarian options and different breads)
- Greens, herb and veggie salad
- Sweets and fruit
- Coffee, tea, cold water and punch

You must preregister before Wednesday February 19th
(This venue is smaller than others we have used so register early.)

Register (click the button below)

February Luncheon Registration

Or phone Karen at 604-572-5783

(Make sure to give the names of those for whom you are registering.)

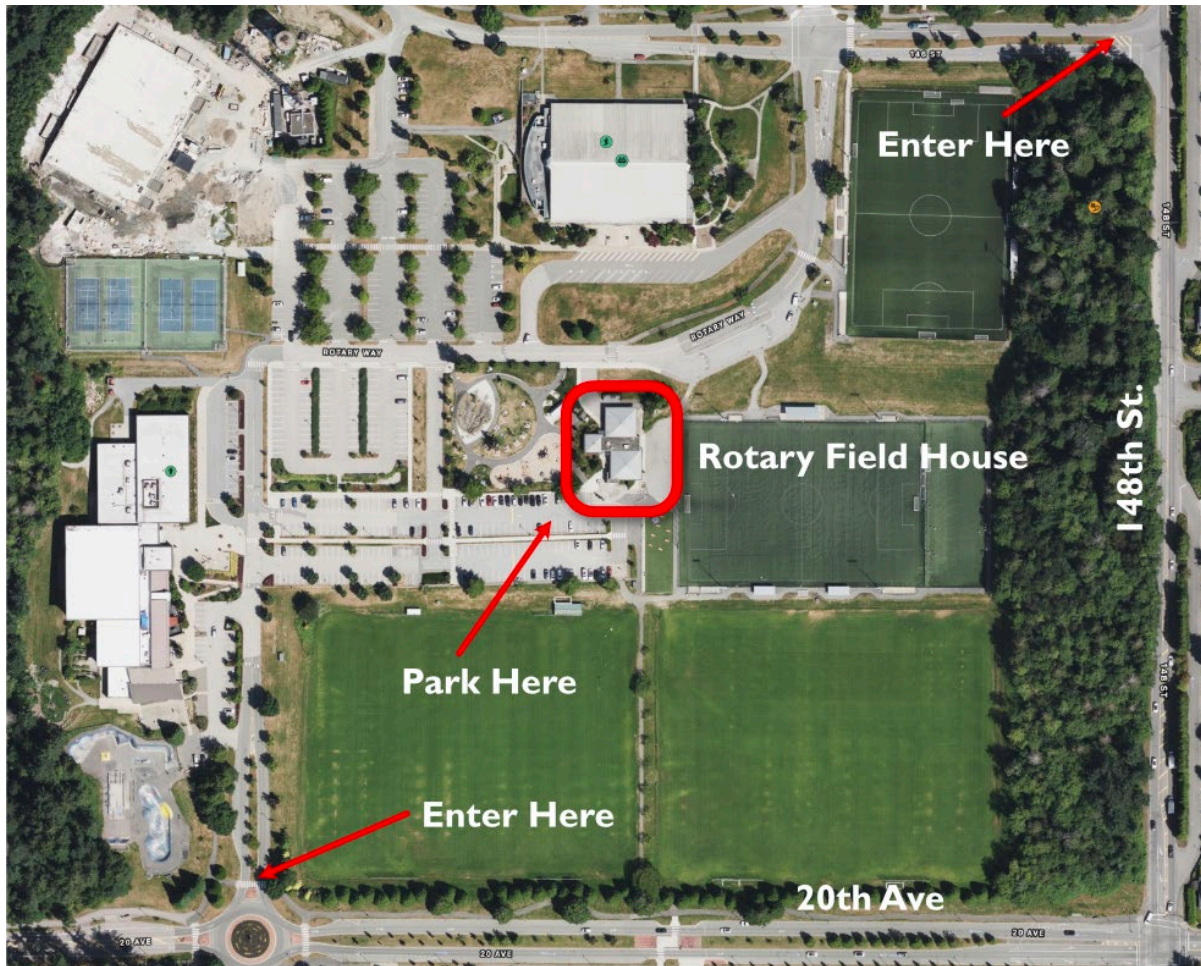
Cancellations

If you have reserved and your plans change, please be sure to call Karen at: 604-572-5783 to cancel your reservation.

If we don't make the number change with the caterer, there could be a charge.

Map to the Rotary Field House in Softball City, South Surrey
14600 Rotary Way, Surrey, BC V4A 9P5

This address, when entered into either Google Maps or Apple Maps will get you to the right location.



Transportation for Seniors

Many of our senior members who have given up or lost their driving licenses or are unable to drive may need information about available transportation options. In some rural communities, there might be barriers to affordable transportation. Below are some of the transportation services that are available to our members.

B.C. Transit

- Transit offers bus services in most towns across the province.
- The most convenient way to use B.C. Transit is by purchasing a Compass Card. Compass Cards can be bought at London Drugs. There's a \$6 refundable deposit for each card.
- You can deposit a specific amount of money or purchase a Monthly Pass.
- Compass Cards can be used for buses, Sea Bus, Sky Train, and the West Coast Express in the Lower Mainland.

- For more information, visit:
www.compasscard.ca
www.translink.ca

Handy Dart

- This service is an accessible door-to-door shared service for individuals with permanent or temporary disabilities.
- Handy Dart will pick you up from your door and drop you off at the accessible entrance of your destination.
- To register with Handy Dart, visit:
www.bctransit.com/handydart/register

Uber

- Uber is a ride-hailing service that requires only an email address or a phone number to sign up.
- You can request a ride by downloading the Uber app and entering your destination.
- Tap to confirm the pickup location and again to confirm a driver nearby.
- It's crucial to avoid false pickups by confirming the driver's details and the car model you requested.
- You can pay by cash or credit card, but be sure to confirm the price before booking.
- Uber has recently announced plans to expand its services to many other towns across the province.

Taxi

- Taxi services are available in various cities and towns across the province.
- Compared to Uber, private taxi services may cost 30% to 40% more.



BCRTA Advantage Partners Program

Please find below the other Advantage Partner Programs available to BCRTA members. Click the link to go to the [BCRTA Advantage Program](#) website and then click the link to the partners' web site for their discounts.

Here are some of the Advantage Program Partners:

Travel

- **Trip Merchant;** personalized travel and group travel in Canada and planned overseas destinations; eg long stay in Portugal for 21 days . Long stay in Spain for 21 days
- **Collette Travel;** type in the Code BCRTASAVE and save up to \$500.00 per person. There is also group travel with a mixed clientele.
- **Local Hospitality;** Exclusive Travel Discounts up to 50% off!

Airport Parking:

- **Park and Fly;** discounts on short- and long-term parking AND Valet parking. The discount Code is **828626** or sign up to **Park'N Fly Rewards** on their website.

Apple Products

- **Perkopolis** – special pricing on Apple Productsnot fruit eh!... but the computer. Go to their website and download their App.



A New Type of School 1976

Some of you may recall the Community School concept which was introduced to Surrey in the 1970s with the objective of maximizing the use of school facilities by the community outside of school hours.

Cloverdale, White Rock, and Guildford Park Junior High Schools plus Bridgeview and Holly Elementary Schools were designated as Community Schools. Each building had their own dedicated staff plus a Parks and Recreation supervisor at each secondary school.

Programs were created to reach into the community offering a wide variety of services, courses and recreation activities ranging from oil painting, language instruction, fitness classes to auto mechanics. These schools reported becoming hubs for their nearby communities and served as models for other school districts.

Unfortunately by the mid-1980s with increased budget concerns, the Surrey School District was forced to abandon the Community School program but its spirit has remained. Daycare, lunch programs, clothing drives and other community support programs are active in many Surrey schools today.



Guildford Park Junior High (formerly Mary Jane Shannon Junior High) was the first Community School in Surrey. (Photo courtesy Surrey Archives SMA 81.042.59)

Indispensable Binder

The Indispensable Binder Workshop is back in March! Keep an eye open for further information and registration.



Fraser Valley Heritage Rail Trip!

Where?

- Cloverdale Station to Sullivan Park (64 & 152) and return.
- Cloverdale Station is across from the Archives and Museum on #10.Park in the Mall parklot.
- The railway operates every spring and summer with dedicated volunteers.

When?

- Sunday, May 25th,
- Trip leaves at 1:30. Arrive about 1:00, there is lots to see
- Trip lasts about and hour.

Why Take this Trip?

- This is a must for all rail fans, it will revive memories of BC Electric Trains.
- We will give some history of the restoration of your train #1225.
- The trip will take you along the New McLellan Rd (#10)
- Over the Serpentine River Bridge, and give you some farm history.

Tickets

- Will be on sale in April. Adults are \$25 each, Seniors 65+ pay \$18. (+GST)
- Recommended to buy early online.
- On the Trip Day you pick up your Boarding pass at the Cloverdale Station.
- Family members of all ages are welcome.

Sunshine Report

Condolence cards were sent to:
Monica Forcier and family on the passing
of her husband Lloyd.
Heather Bruce and family on the passing
of her husband David.

A yellow starburst graphic with a scalloped edge, containing text.

If
you know of any
SRTA members who
could use some sunshine
in their lives due to illness
or loss in their family,
please let our Sunshine
Chair, Ann Bayfield
know.

[Click to contact Ann](#)

REPAIR CAFE

SOUTH SURREY
WHITE ROCK

FEBRUARY 2, 2025
SUNDAY 1:00PM - 4:00PM

ALEX HOUSE
2619 McBride Ave
Crescent Beach, Surrey

REPAIR CAFE MEANS

Repairing broken items
with experienced
volunteer fixers, saving
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environment.

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