



Volume 1, Number 7

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2024

PQRTA Newsletter

A publication designed for communication between the Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Executive and PQRTA Members

Are you eligible
to become
BCRTA/PQRTA
Life Member?

All you have to
do is celebrate
your
90th birthday.

Please let us
know when you
turn 90
so we can
update your
status to Life
Member!



Are you looking forward to Arnie Lambert's Namibia Presentation?

Don't forget to register so we know you're coming!

Recently, BCRTA President & local PQRTA member Arnie Lambert travelled with BCRTA 1st Vice President Caroline Malm and a delegation from BCTF to visit Namibia on a continuing mission of assistance. A few short decades earlier, teachers from one of the world's youngest nations reached out to the BCTF to help them establish a teachers' association. Now, those teachers are ready for retirement, and they reached out to the BCTF again for help in establishing an association for retired teachers. Of course, the BCTF asked the BCRTA to help.

On April 10th, Arnie plans to tell us all about their adventure, share some beautiful photos and bring us updates on BCRTA activities related to the new federal Pharmacare program, the Canadian Dental Care Plan, and the effects of our COLA pension increases (Cost of Living Allowance).

When: **Wednesday, April 10th** from 2:00-3:30 (doors open at 1:30)
Where: **Main Hall at the Bradley Center**, 975 Shearme Rd, Coombs

Plan to arrive at 1:30 to enjoy a social time, coffee, and cookies before the presentation. Please bring your own mug and/or water bottle.

To register, contact: partaprograms@gmail.com OR, call Jennifer Coomes 250-937-9314 or Lisa Stepp 250-248-5001
Guests are welcome (non-members pay \$2)

If your address,
phone number
or email address
changes, please
contact BCRTA
(office@bcрта.ca)
to update
your contact
information

KEEPING IN TOUCH PROGRAM

Are you an Oceanside senior living alone who may be in need of someone to check in on you on a daily basis?

Oceanside Community Safety Volunteers have a solution for you!

THE KEEPING IN TOUCH program is a free daily telephone service for Oceanside Seniors who live alone. Our volunteers will call each morning, 365 days a year, to check on your well being. If there is no answer after three tries, a backup system goes into effect to determine if help is needed.

If you or a person you know may benefit from daily telephone contact with our KIT program, contact us for more information



phone: 250-752-2949
email: kit@oceansidecsv.org
www.oceansidecsv.org



You've been invited...

STAY ON THE ROAD

A practical guide for senior drivers



- Are you a driver staying road-worthy?
- Wondering about driver assessment?

You, too, can attend our workshop!!

This practical guide for senior drivers will help you learn more about driver assessment. It will be of particular interest to drivers who are nearing the age of 80. However, drivers of any age are welcome to attend and the workshop will be useful to everyone. Participants will learn about the ICBC and Road Safety B.C. assessment, which determines whether they can continue to drive. The workshop is a joint presentation of the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of B.C. (COSCO) and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC).

Workshop hosts: Campbell River Retired Teachers' Assoc.

**Thursday, April 18, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the
Eagles' Hall, 1999 14th Ave., Campbell River, B.C. V9W 4J2**

Contact Hilary at hansenhilary20@gmail.com by April 11th

*****Please pay \$10 at the door to defer costs of hall rental & morning muffins; COSCO provides lunch. Gratuities are optional, but welcome towards Eagles' good works projects.**



Are you interested in sharing your thoughts about the big issues in health care in B.C.? Consider participating in the B.C. Health Coalition's *Listening Campaign* by joining a virtual chat with me, Stephanie Koropatnick, PQRTA V.P. & Communications Chair and BCRTA liaison to the BHC.

When: Monday, April 22nd at 1:00 pm

Join the conversation by logging on at: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83119294112?pwd=ES0bfkdDSNJKJbiaCB5EKDejZgoAQ0.1>

Notes from Judy's Desk...

As we heard at Isabel McKenzie's presentation last month, there are many resources available for retired persons in BC; many more listed in the BC Resources Guide. As retired educators we belong to a unique subset of all retirees with our own unique perspective and connection with our working colleagues still in the education system. As a result, we have access to our own resources developed through BC Retired Teacher's Association.. This includes extended health benefits through Johnson Insurance as well as opportunities for reduced house and travel insurance.... The list goes on and on. Check them out on the BCRTA Website, the Postscript magazine and BCRTA Connections email delivered to your inbox every month.

BCRTA also supports local branches of retired teachers grouped into the school districts BC. As members of our own Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers branch, we receive frequent updates on the benefits of being a BCRTA member and opportunities to connect with former colleagues at our special events.

Our next event is on April 10 at Bradley Centre when BCRTA President (and PQRTA resident member) Arnie Lambert will be giving us an insight into the work that BCRTA does in connection with BCTF to support education initiatives as well as programs aimed at retirees in BC and Canada. Have you signed up? We hope to see you there. Once again, neighbouring BCRTA branches of Nanaimo, Alberni, Comox and Campbell River have been invited as our guests so you may catch up with more colleagues than before. (See the article in this newsletter for contact information.)

We are also in the middle of planning our June AGM and intend to announce the date and location at Arnie's presentation, but here's a hint... Keep the first week of June free!



Sharon Cox-Gustavson with her Heritage display at Coombs Family Day in February

ORES Corner:

In April, your Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship (ORES) committee will be viewing applications from Ballenas and Kwalikum Secondary Schools. Later in June, the ORES committee will receive applications from the Parksville Alternate Secondary School (PASS). As of the March 15th deadline for donations, ORES collected \$1655 which means there is one award of \$1000 for either the Ballenas or Kwalikum winner and an award of \$655 for PASS.

If you would be interested to join the ORES committee that meets once a year, please contact: Cathy Van Herwaarden pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com 250.248.0412 (landline)

If you intended to donate to our local graduates' scholarship program, you still can!!! Wouldn't it be great to award \$1000 to Ballenas and \$1000 to Kwalikum and \$500 to PASS....if not this year, then maybe next year! We can dream BIG!

PQRTA Executive

Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association Executive consists of 8 PQRTA Members who share a passion for supporting our fellow members and other seniors in the community.

Judy Stewart:	President	pqrtapresident@gmail.com
Cathy Van Herwaarden:	Past President	pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com
Stephanie Koropatnick:	V.P./Communications	pqrtacommunicationschair@gmail.com
Jennifer Coomes:	Programs Co-Chair	pqrtaprograms@gmail.com
Lisa Stepp:	Programs Co-Chair	pqrtaprograms@gmail.com
Ellen Coates:	Treasurer	eacoates@telus.net
Val Dyer:	Secretary/Sunshine Chair	
Sharon Cox-Gustavson:	Heritage Chair	sharoncg@shaw.ca

The PQRTA Newsletter is created and distributed by Stephanie Koropatnick, PQRTA Communications Chair. Please send comments & suggestions to: pqrtacommunications@gmail.com