



PQRTA Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 7

February 2025

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

An Afternoon with Dan Levitt

On February 6th, PQRTA hosted Dan Levitt, British Columbia's new Seniors' Advocate, at Arrowsmith Hall in Coombs. Despite the snow, the event was well attended, with about 30 PQRTA members and a couple of visitors from neighbouring branches, including Sylvia Malthouse, President of the Nanaimo/Ladysmith Branch. Tim Horton's coffee and delicious cookies from local bakery The Sweet Spot were enjoyed by all.



Dan was an engaging speaker who shared lots of information and statistics about seniors in B.C. but focussed his attention on the topics of combatting ageism, affordability challenges for seniors and the factors increasing the difficulties associated with aging in place as well as in care facilities, as costs and waitlists both rise. He finished with a series of recommendations for the government including increases in funding for low-income seniors, elimination of the charge for home support, public funding for shingles vaccine and developing and implementing a cross-ministry strategy and action plan for seniors.

A lively Q & A followed the formal presentation in which a wide variety of topics were raised and deftly handled by Mr. Levitt.

SAVE THE DATE

PQRTA is pleased to announce that we will be hosting **Lisa Hansen** from Johnson (Belair) Insurance. She will provide a timely update of all insurance types available to BCRTA members. This will include travel insurance, house insurance and the all-important Extended Health Benefits. BCRTA members who use Green Shield as a provider can also access products offered by Johnson (Belair).

When: Tuesday, April 8 Afternoon - (likely 1-3 pm)

Where: TBD

Look for a further updates and registration details in our March newsletter.

MORE RESOURCES TO ACCESS AT THE WEBSITE OF BC SENIORS ADVOCATE

At Thursday's presentation by Dan Levitt, BC's Senior Advocate, we heard about many of the resources that are available for seniors. Below is the link for the website of the Office of Seniors Advocate. <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca>

In addition to a link to the February newsletter, there is also an opportunity to register for an online CRA presentation for seniors about completing Income Tax for 2024.

<https://bcrrta.ca/tax-tips-for-the-2024-tax-year-for-retired-educators/>

ORES Corner

OCEANSIDE RETIRED EDUCATORS' SCHOLARSHIP (ORES)

Last year, we collected \$1700 for the Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship (ORES) which provided scholarships to two local graduates from Qualicum School District. Both of these students were aspiring to become future educators.

This year, our target for the ORES fund is \$2500 to support the three local high schools:

- \$1000 to a Kwalikum Secondary graduate,
- \$1000 to a Ballenas Secondary graduate, and
- \$500 to a graduate from PASS (Parksville Alternate Secondary School)

Towards our goal of \$2500, we have collected \$1445, which is almost half way there.

Thank you to those people who have already donated. If you haven't already, you should soon receive your individual income tax receipt from the school district. However, we still require \$1055 to reach our goal to support the post-secondary education of three worthy students. Of course, this is our minimal expectation and more would be a wonderful addition for the students.

You'll be glad to know that due to the postal strike this past November and December, the income tax deadline for 2024 donations has been extended to February 28, 2025. Lucky us! You can still donate NOW and receive a 2024 income tax receipt for your 2025 tax return, but get it done soon.

The deadline for collection of ORES funds is **April 15th**. We hope that you will take the time to send a few dollars...even the price of a coffee, 'cuz little bits add up to big bits!

This April, the ORES committee will be looking at the student applications for ORES funds and we welcome your input. Please contact Cathy if you are interested in perusing the applications. You can do it on your own time and then meet the committee to help to make the decision of three worthy recipients.

Three ways to donate to Oceanside Retired Educators' Scholarship Fund:

- 1) eTransfer to cathyvanh@gmail.com (Auto Deposit with note ORES)
- 2) Via Canada Post - Cheque or Money Order **payable to SD #69**
Cathy Van Herwaarden
Box 286
Coombs, BC
V0R 1M0
- 3) Drop off at Cathy Van's home:
2061 Pierpont Road
Coombs, BC (Virginia Estates)
250.248.0412 (Land) OR 250.954.7064 (Cell)

Thank you
Cathy Van Herwaarden
Past President of PQRTA
Chair of ORES

ARROWSMITH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION



COOMBS FAIR

MONDAY
February 17, 2025
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Bringing Baaack FUN!

13TH ANNUAL
COOMBS
FAMILY DAY



All Ages!

- Heritage Demos
- Educational Displays
- Games & Crafts
- Face Painting
- Garden Railway
- Live Animals
- Sandbox Treasure Hunt
- Cookie Decorating
- Photo Booth

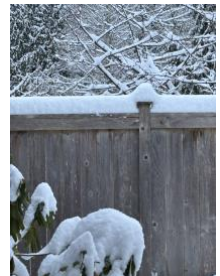
FREE Hotdogs, Popcorn, Coffee, & Tea while supplies last.

*Please leave your pets at home.

Coombs Fairgrounds
1014 Ford Road
Coombs, BC



Funding support provided by:



PQRTA Heritage Chair Sharon Cox-Gustavson will have a Heritage Display of French Creek Elementary at the Coombs Fairgrounds on **February 17th, BC Family Day.**



Frustrated with Telecommunications Companies?

The **National Pensioners Federation** (NPF) is conducting a Consumer Advocacy survey with the **CRTC** regarding Seniors' experiences with Telecommunications Companies. Participate in the Survey today by clicking the link below. The Survey is open until late February, so don't delay!

<https://nationalpensionersfederation.ca/national-pensioners-crtc-survey/>



Hello and Goodbye

Since our last newsletter launched (January 1) we have a new member! We would like to welcome **Anne Pearce**, who retired in 2021 and took a while to realize the benefits of being a BCRTA member. Welcome Anne. Glad to have you aboard.

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Sadly, we have also lost members in the past month.

Patricia Craig, aged 62, who retired quite recently after 35 years as a primary teacher, died on January 17.

In addition, Life Member **Margaret Stroyan**, who was born in 1925 died this month. Margaret taught the first kindergarten class and became a support for primary teachers in Nanaimo. She spent her last years at Woodgrove Manor in Nanaimo.

In addition, **Isobel McDonald**, 97 one of our Life Members who was recently living in Coquitlam, died earlier this month.

If your address, phone number or email address changes, please contact us at pqrtapresident@gmail.com OR BCRTA at office@bcrtc.ca) to update your contact information. Thank You

PQRTA Executive

Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association Executive consists of 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
Vacant	Vice President	
Vacant	Secretary	
Ellen Coates	Treasurer	eacoates@telus.net
Vacant	Programs Chair	
Vacant	Membership Chair	
Vacant	Sunshine Chair	
Stephanie Koropatnick	Communications Chair	pqrtacommunications@gmail.com
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