



Volume 1, Number 6

**March
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!



Save the Date for "Travels with Arnie"

Mark your calendar on **Wednesday, April 10th** for a presentation by Arnie Lambert, president of the BCRTA and local PQRTA member. Arnie recently traveled to Namibia with a BCRTA delegation, and he'd like to show us some of his fabulous photos on the big screen, as well as share some of his interesting experiences there.

He will also speak to the new federal Pharmacare program, the Canadian Dental Care Plan, and the effects of our COLA pension increases (Cost of Living Allowance).

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

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

To register, contact: pqartaprograms@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@bcrt.ca) to update your contact information



ORES Deadline Extended to March 15

Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship committee is still collecting for scholarships for Oceanside students graduating in June 2024

Contact Cathy Van Herwaarden (cathyvanh@gmail.com) to contribute. Each year a small committee selects the recipients. The committee will be meeting soon to select the recipients for 2024.

Isobel Mackenzie Talk a Resounding Success

On February 27th, about 84 participants gathered at Arrowsmith Hall to listen to Seniors' Advocate Isobel Mackenzie speak about her latest report on the status of Long Term Care facilities in B.C.

Participants at the event included about 60 PQRTA Members as well as guests from Port Alberni, Nanaimo/Ladysmith and Campbell River branches.

The report, titled **Every Voice Counts** detailed the thoughts, opinions and ideas collected from more than 25000 senior citizens living in almost 300 residential care facilities across the province. In the most extensive survey of its kind ever conducted in Canada, over 800 trained volunteers, many of them BCRTA members, donated 25,000 hours of their time to conduct in-person interviews with seniors.

Participants in attendance were both enlightened and entertained as Isobel peppered her talk with stories and anecdotes that brought the material to life. All in all, the event was a big success.

After 10 years, Isobel Mackenzie is retiring from her role as B.C.'s first Seniors' Advocate. The new Seniors' Advocate, Dan Levitt, from Simon Fraser University will take office at the beginning of April. We look forward to having him visit our branch soon!



For Your Information

Driving Self-Assessment

Are you ever worried about your driving? B.C.A.A. has devised a simple and easy - to-use self-assessment tool for seniors.

Simple Driving Assessment

This simple driving assessment will help evaluate whether a senior driver needs to take steps to improve their driving skills, and pinpoint specific areas for improvement. It should take 10-15 minutes to complete the assessment.

Follow this link:

<https://www.caa.ca/app/uploads/2021/02/CAA-Simple-Driving-Assessment.pdf>

(if this link does not work, check out the BCAA website)

For Your Information

Canadian Revenue Agency Webinar for Seniors

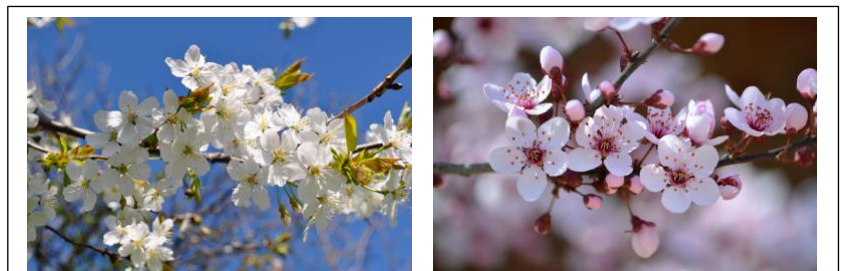
In February, the Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) held a live webinar specifically for people aged 65 and older to help explain tax credits and benefits, pension income splitting, and other CRA services for seniors. This webinar was recorded and the link can be found at the site below.

It is more important than ever to file an income tax return, even if you don't owe any money. Your eligibility for many important government supports, such as the new Canadian Dental Plan and Guaranteed Income Supplement, are based on your annual income tax return.

[Learn More \(click here\)](#)

For Your Information

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Tuesday, April 2nd is International Children's Book Day



- In honour of Hans Christian Andersen who was born in Denmark on April 2, 1805 who wrote 156 fairy tales, including: Ugly Duckling, Little Mermaid, Thumbelina, etc.
- Since 1967, his birthday is celebrated to inspire a love of reading and promote children's literature in all its forms: books, poems, plays, graphic novels, and more!
- This day acknowledges the authors and illustrators of children's literature, too.



WAYS TO CELEBRATE:

- Give a book to a child
- Share a book with a child
- Visit your local library with a child
- Re-read a favourite book with a child
- Donate to a Children's Book Program



Imagination is a gift that is cultivated through reading and it starts at home when a child opens a book. Spread the love of reading with a child and help to foster the imagination of the next generation.



World Book Day

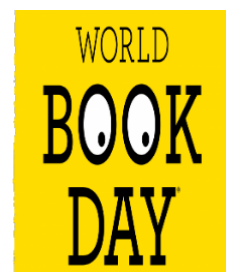
Sponsored by **"The Wonderful World of Books"**
a registered charity that gives FREE books
to Preschoolers in Qualicum School District

<https://thewonderfulworldofbooks.com/>

Facebook: Wonderful World of Books

Instagram: [EvaTheBookLadyHilborn](#)

Email: wwbeec@gmail.com





BC Retired Teachers' Surprise: No Access to New Federal Dental Plan

Because retired teachers in British Columbia have the option to sign up for retiree dental plans, they are excluded from new federal program.

[READ MORE](#)

LEARN MORE ABOUT ELIGIBILITY LIMITS AND BCRTA'S RESPONSE

Sad News

Since sending out our last newsletter, we have learned of the passing of two more of our members:

Shirley Anne McGill retired from teaching in 1994 and lived ever since then with her husband Morley in Qualicum Beach. She was an avid golfer and involved in many community organizations. She passed on November 23rd, 2023 in palliative care at Nanaimo General Hospital. She was 86 years old.

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Very recently, we also learned of the loss of Brian Daniel on February 9th. Brian was an avid gardener with a productive fruit and vegetable garden, an adventurer who had travelled from Alaska to South America camping and hiking, and an eager supporter of local businesses, but was perhaps best known for his beloved and beautiful Samoyed dogs, whose fur he collected for knitting into warm winter toques. He will be missed by his sisters and his many friends in the community.

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Above is the latest issue of BCRTA Connections sent out last month. If this does not look familiar to you, contact BCRTA at Office @bcrtc.ca to make sure you are on the mailing list!

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	partapresident@gmail.com
Cathy Van Herwaarden:	Past President	partapastpresident@gmail.com
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The PQRTA Newsletter is created and distributed by Stephanie Koropatnick, PQRTA Communications Chair. Please send comments & suggestions to: pqrtacommunications@gmail.com