



Volume 1, Number 2

November 2023

PQRTA Newsletter

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



Are you eligible to become a **BCRTA/PQRTA Life Member?** All you have to do is celebrate your **90th birthday.**

Please let us know when you celebrated or will be celebrating your 90th birthday so we can celebrate with you. Life Members attend all PQRTA functions for only half Price.

We are so looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Seasonal Luncheon...not only for the opportunity to share good food, good company, and good seasonal fun, but also because we need to make a small but critical change to our constitution.

Rationale: Our year-end meeting/barbeque/AGM scheduled for June 2023 was cancelled because fewer than 10% of members signed up to attend, leaving us without a quorum, which was needed to hold our elections.

The current version reads:

Constitution: Page 4, Part 4: Rules of Order, 4.4

A quorum of the Executive Committee is two-thirds of its members: and of a General Meeting is 10% of the membership at the time.

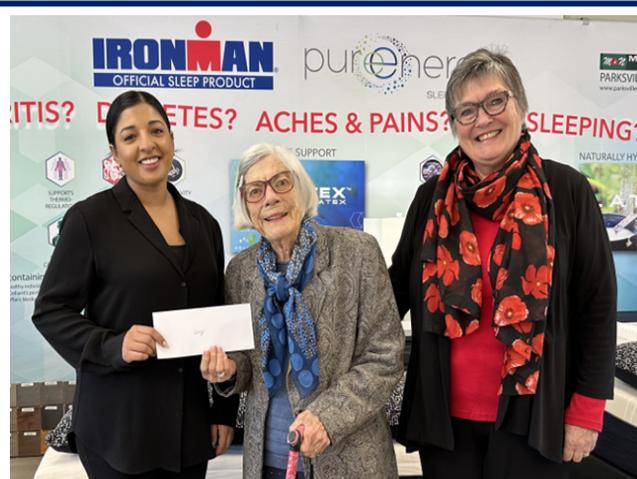
To avoid not achieving quorum at a future General Meeting or AGM, the following amendments have been put forward:

Constitution: Page 4, Part 4: Rules of Order, Amendment to read:

4.4 A quorum of the Executive is ~~two-thirds~~ **a majority** of its members; and of a General Meeting is 10% of the membership at the time.

4.5 (new) In the event of the failure of the quorum, the meeting shall be reconvened not less than fifteen (15) minutes after the original meeting. The number of members in attendance at such reconvened meeting shall constitute a quorum.

As required, this notice of motion was presented to membership at September's general meeting (THWTB) and is being printed here. We ask you to support the amendment vote on December 5th.



PQRTA Members Eva Hilborn and Cathy Van Herwaarden receive a donation cheque for \$1740 from Natasha Nagra (left) of M & N Mattresses on November 7th. Cathy Van taught Natasha in grade 3 at Qualicum elementary. Thank you to all who voted for Wonderful World of Books in the recent vote.

Welcome

As active teachers from SD 69 retire, and as retirees from elsewhere in the province and country discover how great it is to live in Oceanside, our numbers grow.

We are always delighted when you choose to join the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) and our local branch of Parksville Qualicum Teachers' Association (PQRTA).

This month, we say "Hello" to new members: Debbie Sabourin, Linda Weinberg, Dennis Klassen, Crystal Burgess, Elizabeth Thorne, Jennifer Dextras-Tyler, Victor Kuliska, Mandy Thirwell, Kate Knappet, Wendy Smith, Roo Whetstone, Kathryn Lindahl, Monica Bradbury and Deirdre Bjornson. Welcome to All.

Remember to let us know if you plan to attend the December Seasonal Luncheon

DECEMBER SEASONAL LUNCHEON



WHEN: Tuesday, December 5th, 11:30 to 1:30

WHERE: Eaglecrest Golf Course - 2035 Island Hwy W, Qualicum Beach, BC

WHAT: Good food, good company, good seasonal fun!

DEADLINE for Registration: Tuesday, November 28th

MENU:

- Turkey with all the trimmings
- Mashed Potato
- Vegetables
- 3 Cheese Tortellini
- Caesar Salad
- Rolls and Butter
- Pickles and Olives
- Dessert
- Coffee and Tea

COST:

\$25.00 for PQRTA members,
Half Price for Life Members (aged 90 plus),
\$32.00 for Guests

LET US KNOW:

Dietary restrictions?
Need a ride?

DONATIONS: Are appreciated for any or all of the following:

- MANNA Homeless Society
- SOS (Society of Organized Services)
- Salvation Army
- SD 69 Backpack Program
- Food Bank

HOW TO REGISTER:

Email Program Chairs Lisa Stepp and Jenn Coomes at partaprograms@gmail.com

OR Phone Past President Cathy Van Herwaarden at 250.248.0412

PQRTA has a long history of collecting for charitable causes at our December Seasonal Luncheon. Started over 20 years ago by Barb and Al Brett, who reasoned that a group of teachers who have retired here in beautiful Oceanside from all over the province would be keen to continue a long tradition of school-based food bank drive donations. Over the years, we have expanded to collections for other charitable causes and this year is no exception. When you attend this year's December Seasonal Luncheon on Dec 5th at Eaglecrest Golf Club, please consider donating to one or more of the following.

1. Manna Homeless Society:

<https://www.mannahomelessociety.com/>

At this time of year, the primary need is warm clothing: Socks, scarves, hats, gloves, coats, etc. Of course, monetary donations are always beneficial with income tax receipts provided. For a "wish list", please see:

<https://www.mannahomelessociety.com/wish-list/>

Bring items to our luncheon for collection or items can be dropped off at the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre (1240 Leffler Rd, Errington). At the far side of the parking lot, there is a special free-standing collection box for drop-offs. Or, contact Cathy Van Herwaarden to arrange pickup: pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com or 250.248.0412

Online, an Income Tax Deductible donation can be made to Manna Homeless Society, through "CanadaHelps":

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/manna-homeless-society/>

2. S O S (Society of Organized Services):

<https://sosd69.com/christmas/>

- Gifts for children/teens are the current goal
- Items should be new and unwrapped.
- Monetary donations will be used to provide grocery store gift certificates.

Bring toys for collection to our luncheon or take donation items to the S O S Administration Office: 245 Hirst Ave. W. in Parksville. Income Tax Receipts are mailed - please provide your name and mailing address.

Online, an Income Tax Deductible donation can be made to SOS, through CanadaHelps:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/16704>

3. Salvation Army Food Bank:

<https://parksvillesalvationarmy.ca>

Their primary goal at this time of year is providing food to the needy in the Parksville Qualicum area. Food donations are always welcome (canned protein, canned fruit, hot cereal, hot chocolate, peanut butter, etc.); but they can do far more with cash donations, as the grocery stores are very generous. Income Tax Receipts are mailed (please provide your name and postal address). To donate: <https://parksvillesalvationarmy.ca/donate/>

Thank you for considering a donation to one or more of these worthy local charities.



Many people donate to the Food Bank at this time of year. Here are some ideas to ensure your donations are really appreciated!

1. Recipients can rarely use Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. Recipients cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices and/or salt and pepper would be a real gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They appreciate fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked. I am glad I did. If you are helping a Family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. It does for me!

Article submitted by Cathy Van Herwaarden

Thanks to Cathy Van for these insights, gleaned from chatting with people visiting a Food Bank

In case you missed it...

Did you happen to see any of the speakers that were available at the BCRTA conference, online on October 19th? If not, be sure to check them out: <https://bcrt.ca/> On the left hand side of the webpage, under "Latest News", click on the speaker that interests you.

~Cathy Van particularly recommends "Land Acknowledgement and Reflection on Teaching in Canada's North" by Helene McGall.

~Judy Stewart suggests watching the "Volunteer BC" presentation, with Jocelyn Wong

~Stephanie Koropatnick found the "BC Investment Management Corporation" presentation with Rob Field to be a very enlightening and surprisingly easy-to-understand 'deep dive' into how our pension works.



The Future of French Creek Community School ~ Let Your Voice be Heard

School District 69 is seeking feedback from the public on the future of French Creek Community School. The school board is considering their options for the disposition of the former French Creek School property at 2350 Alberni Highway in Coombs. However, prior to making any final decision, the Board is asking for community input as to the best use for this land.

Since the 2014 closure of French Creek school, which is located across the bridge from the Goats on the Roof market in Coombs, it has been rented by many community groups for recreation activities and daycares with the school playground and grassy field still being used by the many visitors to the Coombs community.

What is your vision for the old French Creek School property? How would you like to see the property being used? Would you like to see the school preserved?

Written submissions are requested by November 30th.

Send your comments to Ron Amos, Secretary Treasurer

By Mail

School District 69 (Qualicum)
PO Box 430
Parksville, BC
V9P 2G5

By Email: ramos@sd69.bc.ca

Dropped off: School Board Office
2nd Floor
100 Jensen avenue, E.
Parksville

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS PETITION

For your consideration, in support of Volunteer Firefighters...deadline Dec. 10, 2023

Petition to the Government of Canada: e-4594 (Taxation)

Whereas:

- Volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;
- approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year;
- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year,
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower;
- Increasing this tax credit would help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

We, the undersigned, **citizens and residents of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

Click here for more information and to sign electronically:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Sign/e-4594>

*The PQRTA Newsletter is assembled and distributed by
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Please send comments & suggestions to:
pqrtacommunications@gmail.com*