



Volume 2, Number 5

December 2024

# PQRTA Newsletter

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

## **From the President**

As we wrap up the year and look forward to our Yuletide Luncheon on December 12, I wanted to take a moment to look back on everything we, as members of BCRTA and PQRTA have accomplished together.

Behind the scenes, BCRTA has worked to advocate for all retired teachers and seniors. PQRTA executive members worked to create local events for members to learn and connect. Our most popular event was the presentation by Isobel Mackenzie, the outgoing BC Seniors Advocate who provided an insightful overview of the work the Office of Seniors do on behalf of all BC seniors. We are also proud of our own Eva Hilborn as a recipient of King Charles Coronation Award in recognition of your outstanding volunteer service and relentless advocacy for early childhood education.

As retired teachers, we endorse education internationally and locally. In 2024 we again sponsored the ongoing education of two African students through CHES organization by raising \$1695 and in June our local scholarship through Oceanside Retired Educators Fund raised \$1700 to provide scholarships to two graduating SD #69 students aspiring to become future educators.

Our target for the June 2025 ORES scholarship is \$2500 to support three local students. Thank you to everyone who donated so far towards our 2025 goal. If you wish to use this last month to donate and receive a 2024 tax receipt, we appreciate your support. We will continue ORES fundraising again in January, but for now we pause to promote a timely and special cause.

In previous years, PQRTA used the Yuletide Luncheon venue to support local charitable organizations. Our members demonstrated their generosity by bringing food, cash, clothing, and other needed items distributed to specific charities. I learned that our tradition of doing this began long ago, thanks to the dedication and perseverance of Barb Brett, a former PQRTA Executive Member. Recently and sadly, we said farewell to Barb. Her passing is deeply felt, and we extend our sympathies to her family. This year, in memory of Barb, PQRTA is focussing our fundraising on the local food bank, an organization Barb was deeply passionate about. Your donations will honour her legacy by supporting a cause that makes a difference in our community. We understand that rising costs and fixed pensions can make giving challenging, but any amount donated to the food bank will help someone in need — perhaps even one of our own members. To donate at our Yuletide Luncheon, we ask that you bring a cheque made out to the Salvation Army Foodbank or cash that we will place in an envelope with your name and contact information so that you can receive your tax receipt.

 **LAST CALL FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE YULETIDE LUNCHEON** 

**DEADLINE is Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**COST: Members \$30, (Life Members \$15) Guests \$41**

Please pay at the door with exact change or cheque (payable to PQRTA)

Two ways to register

1. email: [pqrtaevents@gmail.com](mailto:pqrtaevents@gmail.com)
2. PHONE: 778-828-9975

Please provide: your full name, your meal option (turkey or vegan) and your membership status

**& Remember  
to wear a  
Name Tag**

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If you can't attend on December 12, we encourage you to support the food bank through other avenues or contribute in ways that align with your preferences, whether through financial donations or volunteering.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are pleased to announce that Dan Levitt, the current BC Seniors Advocate, will join us on February 6 to provide an update on seniors' issues. Time and location TBD. Look for updates in our January newsletter and information about other events in the works.

Thank you for being a part of the BCRTA and PQRTA community. We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.



### Sad News

We say Goodbye to longtime PQRTA member Barb Brett, who lost her battle with cancer in October. A member of the PQRTA executive and enthusiastic knitter of purple caps for infants, Barb is beloved both in Oceanside and in Dawson Creek, where she and husband Al Brett had their teaching careers. A celebration of life will be held in the springtime.



If your address, phone number or email address changes, please contact us at [partapresident@gmail.com](mailto:partapresident@gmail.com) OR BCRTA at [office@bcrta.ca](mailto:office@bcrta.ca) to update your contact information.

### Eva Hilborn has done it again. Our indomitable Life Member has been honoured by the King!

On November 12th, at the Qualicum Rotary Hall, Eva was presented with the **King Charles III Coronation Award** along with 4 other recipients.

The award was presented by our Member of Parliament, Gord Johns, who said:

*"Eva Hilborn, I am honoured to present you with this Medal in recognition of your outstanding volunteer service and relentless advocacy for early childhood education. Since your first days of primary school teaching, 70 years ago, to your founding of the charity, 'Wonderful World of Books' at age 92, you have made a difference in the lives of thousands of Canadian children. Thank you on behalf of families everywhere."*



**SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE    SAVE THE DATE**

**On February 6th, 2025**, PQRTA is hosting an afternoon with Dan Levitt, B.C. new Seniors' Advocate. Watch this space for details. In the meantime, you can participate in his latest initiative by completing his AGEISM Survey. See the link below:

<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/current-issues/ageism-survey/>

The survey is open from November 12 to December 13 and is open to all.

### **BCRTA Conference at your fingertips!**

You may have seen the November 13 issue of Connections in your inbox, but we are sharing it with you again so you can enjoy some of our favourite speakers from the BCRTA Conference that took place at the end of September in Vancouver. First we meet the new board of Directors below and on the next page, you can click to see the speakers and presenters we saw at the conference!



### **2024 AGM ELECTS NEW BOARD**

#### **Board of Directors left to right**

- Rosalind Kellett: Lower Mainland
- Margaret Sutton: Outside the Lower Mainland
- Cathy Macintosh Lambright: Outside the Lower Mainland
- Barb Mikulec: Lower Mainland
- Pat Thiessen: Lower Mainland
- David Denyer: 2nd VP & ACER-CART Rep
- Lorell Dennill: Outside the Lower Mainland
- Linda Watson: 1st VP
- Stephanie Koropatnick: Outside the Lower Mainland
- Tom Hastie: Lower Mainland
- Arnie Lambert: Past President
- Caroline Malm : President
- Gerry Tiede : Past-President of ACER-CART

Many of the in-person conference delegates found the presentation to your immediate right (**Estate Planning, What you Need to Know**), fascinating and useful. I, for one, learned many new things I thought I knew from Ms. Deprez.

You can also learn useful and interesting information from Gail Pirie if you choose to click on **Appraising Special Objects** (right). You can also access all the conference presentations if you click on any of the conference links on these two pages



### 2024 CONFERENCE PRESENTATION HILDE DEPREZ



Hilde Deprez



### 2024 CONFERENCE PRESENTATION GALE PIRIE



GALE PIRIE

Accredited Independent Appraiser



### PQRTA Executive

Parkville 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

Cathy Van Herwaarden:

Vacant

Vacant

Ellen Coates

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

Stephanie Koropatnick

Sharon Cox-Gustavson

President

Past President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Programs Chair

Membership Chair

Sunshine Chair

Communications Chair

Heritage Chair

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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](mailto:pqrtacommunications@gmail.com)