



PQRTA Newsletter

Volume 2, Number 6

January 2025

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

Happy New Year PQRTA... Welcome to 2025

We trust you are all happy and healthy and ready to begin a new year. Before we move forward, here's a quick look back at our super successful Yuletide Luncheon, held December 12 at the beautiful Black Goose Inn. The food was delicious, we raised \$450 for the Food Bank, and a terrific time was had by all, as can be seen by the smiling faces below. (Thanks to Cathy's new iPhone 16 for the awesome pics!)



2025 has arrived!

And now on to the new year. We are very excited to be hosting the new **Seniors' Advocate, Dan Levitt**, on **February 6th, 2025**. As we did last time when we hosted the former Seniors' Advocate, we will again be inviting members of our neighbouring BCRTA Chapters to join us, so it may be quite a big event. The event will be held at **Arrowsmith Hall, 1014 Ford Rd Parksville, BC**. This event will be free of charge for PQRTA and BCRTA members (Guests \$5 at the door) but seating will be limited, so make sure you register early to secure your seat!



To Register, email us at pqartaevents@gmail.com or call 778-828-9975. Just give us your name and the number of people in your party, and you will be registered.

Registration is open TODAY! (*Registration Closes Feb. 5*)

Also, we are working on details to host Lisa Hansen of Johnson Insurance later in the spring, to join us for a talk about the various forms of insurance available through our BCRTA insurance, including home, dental, extended health and travel insurance options.

Stay tuned for our announcement of date and details.

A belated Welcome to our new members Richard McArter and Virginia Brucker. So glad you could join us!

ORES Corner

Thanks to the generous donors who attended the Yuletide Luncheon on December 12th, our current ORES account stands at \$1045.00, which brings us closer to our goal for 2024/2025 of \$2500, but we still have a long way to go.

We are very much hoping to improve last year's total of \$1700, which only allowed us to confer two scholarships, one full \$1000 scholarship to Ballenas grad Jordyn Murphy, who plans to become a high school teacher, and a smaller amount to PASS graduate Rin Tiernes, who plans to become a Student Support Worker.

Our ongoing goal each year is to provide a minimum of two full \$1000 scholarships, one each to a Ballenas graduate and a KSS graduate, with a third award designated for a deserving PASS graduate. However, we need your help to achieve our goal. Although we have a few months left before the April 15th deadline, time is ticking. If every one of our 320 members gave just \$10 each, we would collect \$3200 for our local graduates! Remember that all donations will receive a tax receipt. The receipt, from S.D. #69 will be mailed to you in time to file your 2025 tax returns.

To make your donation to the Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship Fund, please make your cheque or Money Order payable to S.D. #69 and send it as follows:

- 1) Via Canada Post to: Cathy Van Herwaarden
Box #286
Coombs, B.C. V0R 1M0
- 2) eTransfer to: cathyvanh@gmail.com (Note: ORES)
- 3) Drop off at Cathy's home:
2061 Pierpont Road
Coombs, B.C. (Virginia Estates)

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

🍃🍃🍃🍃🍃.....A LITTLE HISTORY OF INTEREST.....🍃🍃🍃🍃🍃

Recently located, in my large box of memories, was the commemorative coin that I received from Coombs' French Creek School when I was in grade 5 in honour of Queen Elizabeth II coronation in 1953.

I took it to the morning coffee group at Goats on the Roof market in Coombs one morning. When I put it on the table, no one knew what it was except Ray Zboyousky, an 86-year-old man who grew up in Lake Cowichan. He spoke up immediately saying he remembered getting that coin at school and when he got home that day, with the special coin in his pocket, he was so excited that he straight away drilled a hole in it, put a chain through it, and wore it around his neck.

I replied to Ray, "I just kept mine in my treasure box for ever."

The Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Canada Commemorative Medallion was handed out to all school children in Canada when Queen Elizabeth was crowned Queen, in England, on June 2, 1953.



The front side magnificently portrays the young, crowned Queen Elizabeth II. On the other side the coin reads: Elizabeth II Regina Coronata MCMLIII

The third image compares the size of the 1953 coronation commemorative coin with a modern Canadian one-dollar loonie coin.

Submitted by Sharon Cox-Gustavson, PQRTA Heritage Chair

So here is a bit of fun for you: A Scavenger Hunt or 'TREASURE HUNT' challenge:

Locate one of the black-rimmed toonie (\$2) coins which were minted in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth's death date, September 8, 2022 (below left).

There was also a toonie minted in honour of her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 (below right).

(Fun fact: of all the British monarchs through history, only Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Victoria celebrated a Diamond Jubilee, commemorating 60 years of Royal duty.)



If you find one of these special coins, let us know. Send an email with your name and a photo or your 'treasure' to pqrtacommunications@gmail.com

january

2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	29	30	31		

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SIGN PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA - SILVER ALERT



Silver Alert is a system that will provide notification when a vulnerable adult with dementia or other cognitive impairment goes missing so they can be brought home safely.

Read more and sign petition here:
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-5196>

If your address, phone number or email address changes, please contact us at partapresident@gmail.com OR BCRTA at office@bcrt.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.

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Vacant

Vacant

Ellen Coates

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

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