



Volume 1, Number 8

May 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!



If your address, phone number or email address changes, please contact BCRTA (office@bcrt.ca) to update your contact information

## **PQRTA AGM      PQRTA AGM      PQRTA AGM      PQRTA AGM** **11:30 on June 4th @ Ricky's Restaurant, 1480 Huntley Road, Parksville**

It's that time of year when we gather to review PQRTA's accomplishments and make plans. Once again, this year, we will be holding our AGM in a new venue, which promises to offer us new opportunities for dining, meeting together and planning together.

When we gather at Ricky's Restaurant in south Parksville, we will focus our attention not only on visiting and catching up, but we will have the chance to address our shared goals and invite new people onto our Executive Team to help us in creating a stimulating and interesting program of activities and initiatives for our members for next year.

This is what the day will look like:

Doors Open	11:30
President's Report	12:00
Lunch is served	12:30
Elections and Other Business	1:30 ish
Door Prize Awarded	2:30

**Pre-registration is required. For menu choices see next page.**

**Our AGM Luncheon** is different in many ways this year! It will be a sit down/served meal with your choice of four options:

Your choice of:

- a) Fish and chips (2 piece)
  - b) Fettuccini w/ grilled chicken
  - c) Zorba the Greek wrap with soup
  - d) Fettucini Alfredo with side salad (vegetarian option)
- Included: drinks (tea, coffee or soda) and dessert

COST: Members: \$20 / Guests \$34/ Life Members \$10

**Registration opens on May 12.** Contact [jennifercoomes@icloud.com](mailto:jennifercoomes@icloud.com) to register. You need to provide the following information:

- a) Name:
- b) Status (Member/Guest/Life member)
- c) Your Menu choice: a, b, c or d

Payment can be cash (exact amount please) or cheque made out to PQRTA.  
**Registration closes May 30.**

## ELECTION OF Executive

Every year we hold the AGM to review the status of PQRTA and elections are held for the Executive Committee. For the purpose of the election, all positions will be considered vacant in order to allow any member to put their name forward for any position. New faces, new voices and new ideas are always welcome. The time commitment includes attending 3 to 6 meetings through the year in addition to assisting at PQRTA events when available.

If you are interested in putting your name forward for any position you may contact us prior to the AGM, or you can be nominated 'from the floor' at the meeting

### Position

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Communications Chair  
Heritage Chair  
Historian  
Programs Chair  
Membership Chair  
Sunshine Chair

### Current candidate(s)

Judy Stewart  
  
Ellen Coates  
Stephanie Koropatnick  
Sharon Cox-Gustavson  
  
Stephanie Koropatnick

Please Contact: [pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com](mailto:pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com) if you would like to be considered for a position on the executive. You can also be nominated 'from the floor'.  
new



Before you sign up for Canada's new Dental Plan, make sure you read this article in BCRTA Connections:

<https://bcrta.ca/canada-dental-care-plan-difficult-now-worse-later/>

Do you want to see what B.C.'s Seniors' Advocate is up to? Follow the link below for direct access to the Seniors' Advocate Newsletter and webpage:

<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/>

*Happy Spring (at long last!)*

## TRAVELS WITH ARNIE

The saying goes that a picture is worth a thousand words – and if you were able to attend Arnie Lambert's 'Travels with Arnie' presentation on April 8<sup>th</sup> you know that saying is true. Every photo in Arnie's slide presentation revealed new revelations about the African nation of Namibia that altered our understanding of a country we hear little about in the news and especially the impact education can make.

If you couldn't be there on April 8<sup>th</sup>, let me take a step back and explain why BCRTA's President and our own PQRTA member Arnie Lambert was showing us slides of his travels to Namibia. In August of last year Arnie, along with a congregation including 1st Vice President Caroline Malm and affiliated BCTF members, accepted an invitation from the Namibia National Teacher's Union (NANTU) to visit the country and work with NANTU to establish its own retired teacher's organization. NANTU's intent was for membership to include retired teachers *and* student teachers to help members prepare for both going into the classroom and for life in retirement.

The motto of NANTU 'Educate to Liberate' follows through from the children in the classroom right through to retirement in a young country that is still learning how to be independent after decades of conflict, all the while balancing the many needs of its different populations. English is the official language but there are seven different indigenous languages spoken by the students' families in addition to German, Afrikaans and Portuguese.

Namibia is rich in its ethnic backgrounds; with artisans offering many types of artworks, including carvings, jewellery and multicoloured clothing at the markets.

And of course there are the animals; Arnie shared photos of lions, giraffe, water buffalo, hyena, ostriches, elephants', zebra (pronounced Z'E'bra and not z'ee'bra as in North America).

Eventually, the slide show came to an end, the lights came back up and were once again in Parksville. Arnie rounded out his presentation with updates about the Federal Dental Program eligibility (or not) for retired teachers and BCRTA's advocacy as well as other updates about Johnson insurance offerings.

Judy Stewart



**33rd Annual**  
**Coombs Community Picnic**

**5:30 - 7:30pm**  
**Friday, June 7, 2024**

**COOMBS FAIRGROUNDS**  
1014 FORD RD, COOMBS, BC

**FREE hotdogs, hamburgers, cake & ice cream while supplies last**

**Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy a spot on the field.**

Children's Games      Educational Displays  
Coombs Memorabilia      Children's Railway  
Live Music      Farm Animals

ACRA      COOMBS FAIR      REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

### ORES Corner:

*Thank you for your generosity in contributing to the Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship. Altogether, we collected \$1700, which allowed us to confer two scholarships to Oceanside graduating students. In late April, the committee met to assess the 6 applications received. Each of the applicants indicated his or her intention to pursue education and training towards a career in the field of education.*

*The final decision was not easy, as every one of the candidates submitted an impressive application. In the end two candidates were selected and the scholarships will be bestowed upon those students at their Graduation Ceremonies in June. Names will be announced at To Hell with the Bell in September.*

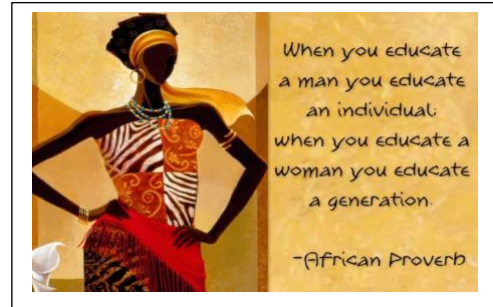
## Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES) Update:

Last November, we had two very generous donors who added greatly to our CHES collection and joyously allowed us to sponsor two females to attend school in Kenya.. Please see photos and letters from our sponsor students in this newsletter.

We are sure that these young women would love to hear from Canada. Please address the letters in a plain envelope (nothing too fancy), as follows:

Attached two letters from two students:

1. Scovia Lutta, Form 1 CHES Student  
c/o Holy Cross Emalindi Girls Secondary School  
P.O. Box Private Bag,  
Khwisero, KENYA
2. Velma Awiti, Form 1 CHES Student  
c/o Holy Cross Emalindi Girls Secondary School  
P.O. Box Private Bag,  
Khwisero, KENYA



Thanks for your continued support towards the education of these students.



## SCOVIA

Scovia Lutta  
FI EMA

SCOVIA LUTTA

My name is Scovia Lutta. I was born in Butere sub county in the year 2009 and I am 14 years old.

Our house is temporary because it is smeared at the wall using cow dung. The roof of our house are iron sheets and the floor is cemented. Timbers are the materials used to build the house.

We cook food using firewood and that firewood we fetch from the forest. We often go to the forest everyday. We always eat ugali which is made from corn flour and that is our staple food. We go to fetch water from the river which is 200m from home. We use jerrycans to carry water.

My responsibilities at home are washing utensils, washing clothes, collecting firewood, fetching water and sweeping the compound.

My family is made up of six people. My father who is Geoffrey Marai and he is a bodaboda rider. My mother who is Irene Marai and she is a greengrocer. Our first born is Melvin Olang'o and she is going in form four. Our second born is Alex Muryondo he is sixteen years old and he is going to form four. Third born is me and I want to join in form one and fourth born is Treza kenza she is twelve years old and she is in junior secondary.

My family speaks two languages, Kiswahili and Luhya which is the main.

I first attended Mayoni primary school from class one to three and later join Eshianini from class four to eight. I transferred from Mayoni because my father was unable to raise the school fees. My favourite subjects were English, Mathematics, Kiswahili and science. I participated in music and dramas. We were fifty in our class. We share desks because we were sitting three pupils per desk.

We were reporting at school at 6:00am and our classes starts at 8:00am. Between 6:00am and 8:00am we were reading papers and we leave school at 5:30pm. From class one to seven late lunch at home and in class eight I ate lunch in school. The food was Githeri which is a mixture of cooked corn and beans.

When I finish school I would like to be a surgeon since that is my dream. I would like to ask your name, your country that you come from and to know more about you and your family.

What I can say is that I am very glad for supporting me. I would like to thank you for your scholarship and I earnestly pray to God to bless you and your family. Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,  
SCOVIA LUTTA

# VELMA



VELMA AWITI  
I was born at vithiga at a small village known as Ebusiralo at 2010 June 20th. I live in a semi-permanent house which has three rooms. these are sitting room, kitchen room and bed room. Our house is made of cowdung and our roof has iron sheets. Our floor is smeared with cowdung from neighbour's cow. We cook our food using firewood. We collect the firewood from the forest. We collect the firewood everyday except on Sunday, the day that we go to church. Our supper we mainly eat ugali and kales. We fetch water from the river. Other responsibilities that I have at home are washing utensils, sweeping the house and cleaning the compound.

I have one brother and two sisters. My brother was born in 2013 and he has 10 years. My other sister is six years old and she is in grade two. Our lastborn sister has four years and she is in playgroup. My family always speak two languages: these are Kiswahili and Mbatanga.

I attended my primary school in 2013 at Ebusiralo primary school. I like science and social studies and those are my well performed subjects and they are constant. In school, I participated in athletics that are long running, up to the subcounty level. In our class we were fifty one students and we shared desks in our school. I began the school in 2013 and my holidays were April, August and December. Our classes started at 6:00 am and last at 6:00 pm. We ate lunch at school, when we were in class seven and eight. At class seven we ate

porridge and class eight we also ate porridge. I would like to be a lecturer when I grow up to help my parents and also to lift up my family.

Hello, how are you?  
What is your name?  
Where do you come from?  
Do you have a family?  
What is your hobby?  
What kind of food do you like eating?

I am happy to thank you for this scholarship. God bless you and give you long life for helping and supporting learners who are in need. My family and I we are proud of you. God bless you too. Thank you.

## PQRTA Executive

Parkville 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	pqrtapresident@gmail.com
Cathy Van Herwaarden:	Past President	pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com
Stephanie Koropatnick:	V.P./Communications	pqrtacommunicationschair@gmail.com
Jennifer Coomes:	Programs Co-Chair	pqrtaprograms@gmail.com
Lisa Stepp:	Programs Co-Chair	pqrtaprograms@gmail.com
Ellen Coates:	Treasurer	eacoates@telus.net
Val Dyer:	Secretary/Sunshine Chair	
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](mailto:pqrtacommunications@gmail.com)