

BRTA MATTERS

Volume 65 Newsletter of the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association September 2023

• Luncheon Guest Speaker

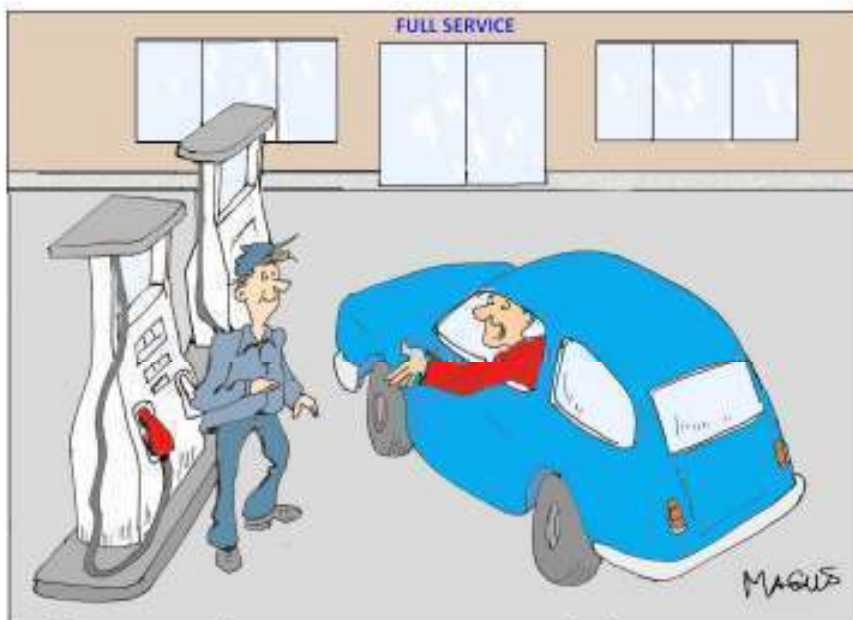
We have invited a guest speaker to attend our October luncheon to address the differences between the extended health benefit and dental plans for Green Shield and Johnson's. We've been hearing many concerns about our current Green Shield plan and thought it timely to have a knowledgeable guest speaker address the issues. Gerry Tiede (former ACER-CART president, BCRTA president and chair of the B.C. Teachers' Pension Plan) has agreed to join our luncheon and speak to us about the plans. He will also answer questions.

• Luncheon Invitation

We are pleased to announce that our next luncheon for 2023 will be held at the Burnaby golf course restaurant on Thursday, October 5th. Doors will open at 11 and lunch will be served at 12:00. You're invited to come early and visit with friends. The price for this luncheon will be \$35. The price for non-members is \$50.



*It's really important to know if you will be joining us for lunch. We would appreciate getting an email as soon as possible. Please email me at rmaierle@telus.net or Ilse Armanini at ilse_armanini@telus.net. If need be, you can phone me at 604-294-3570. We look forward to seeing you! You might also want to take the opportunity to invite some friends to join you for the luncheon. ••• *The more the merrier!**



By any chance, are you giving out any free samples today?



EXECUTIVE MEETINGS-Sept 14, Nov 16 (2024) Feb. 8, April 25, Oct. 10, Dec. 5

LUNCHEON DATES- Oct 5, Dec7 (Xmas Luncheon) (2024) February 29, April 25, October 10, December 5

BURNABY RTA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Rennie Maierle	President	294-3570	rmaierle@telus.net
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Jim Reid	Director	294-8049	jreid03@telus.net
Elizabeth Wilson	Director	522-2384	helliwily@gmail.com
Merv Magus	Cartoon and Picture		

No Longer With Us-Karen Plett, Arlene Clark, Ivo Castellarin, Albert Pocock, Viola Rotta, Evelyn Grimston, Dave Pollard, Donna Stainsby and Leanne Sjodin.

The R. R. Smith Memorial Foundation has had a wonderful year and engaged with charitable groups that make changes in developing countries. Some projects include sending books to schools in Guatemala and funding sewing classes for the project 'Victoria-Taiama.' When the girls complete their tailoring course they are able to take their machine home to start a business. Success abounds in many ways and your \$2 contribution helps young people! Donations are always welcome!

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association-Treasurer's Report-September, 2023

Balance as of March 31, 2023 \$6 903.97
Income-Luncheons \$1 790.00 Membership Fees \$10.00 Total \$1 800.00
Expenses-Burnaby Mountain Golf Club \$1 680.16
Newsletter-Printing \$70.17 Honorarium \$300.00
Total \$2 050.33 Balance as of August 31st, 2023 \$6 653.64

Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation

c/o Burnaby School District, 4054 Norfolk St, Burnaby, B.C, V5G 0C3

Yes, I would like to support the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation. I understand the money will be used to support graduating students in their future studies.

Enclosed is my cheque for \$25 \$50 \$100 other (A tax receipt will be issued)

Signature

Address

Name (Please Print)

City Province Postal Code

OpEd-A number of BRTA members have contacted me concerning the lack of transparency concerning the members of the BRTA Executive. If I am indicted and forced to testify, this is an accurate account of what I plan to say under oath. “These people are totally devoid of astringency and incapable of tergiversation and whose paramount goal in life is to disambiguate their dialogue, to avoid calumny and to seek veracity. They are not perfect and have admitted to some ultracrepidarianism, pleonasm by accretion and adscititious actions. One member (the President) is a picaroon inter alia and has been known to imbibe a wee drop of tincture for ‘medicinal purposes’ while being constantly on the qui vive for any signs of teetotalism which he considers tantamount to heresy and requiring instant avulsion. It is obvious that the members’ longevity is due to clean living, a clean body and a clean mind. They should easily survive to become venerable, hoary, antiquated, musty centenarians. I have never seen them take umbrage, feel dudgeon, raise their hackles, show animosity, rancor or acrimony or even display asperity.”

For the entire time I have known them, they have been my constant source of veneration and hero worship.

“Si hoc legere scis nimium eruditionis habes” (If you can read this, you’re overeducated)

Our Andante Choir-2023 What began as a Burnaby Retired Teachers' Choir has now become a singing community of 30+ retired teachers in their 50's to 90's, and friends, new acquaintances and family members. We will again be accompanied by the fabulous Dayle Piller. Our amazing correspondent, Dorothy Mills, will keep us organized. Marguerite Henderson is our esteemed treasurer.

This Fall we will meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1-3 at Deer Lake United Church starting on October 10, and then we will perform 5-6 concerts in November/December. Previously we have sung at Lougheed Mall, Edmonds Community Centre, the School for the Retired, many seniors' homes in Burnaby, the BRTA Christmas luncheon, the BTA retirement dinners and with a number of District and school-based student groups.

Our repertoire is varied with some traditional, rock, jazz, gospel, swing and calypso styles and including inspirational and sometimes humorous messages. As well there are melodic, harmonic and rhythmic considerations that provide new learning challenges.

We sing some unison, 2-part, SAB and mostly SATB arrangements. There are no auditions but some experience singing in a choir is helpful. Studies have shown the many benefits of singing in a choir, "increase respiratory function, improve overall health, heighten your immune system, improve brain function, increase confidence, give you more energy and improve postures and balance."

So, if you think that this would be a good fit for you, please RSVP Dorothy Mills at dmills@shaw.ca to join us.

Musically speaking-Gail MacDonald-Director of Andante. If you have any further musical queries, please feel free to contact me at:604-524-8716 or hgmactel@telus.net.



Quotes About Teachers and Children

The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.” Socrates

“The world of literature has everything in it, and it refuses to leave anything out. I have read like a man on fire my whole life because the genius of English teachers touched me with the dazzling beauty of language. Because of them I rode with Don Quixote and danced with Anna Karenina at a ball in St. Petersburg and lassoed a steer in "Lonesome Dove" and had nightmares about slavery in "Beloved" and walked the streets of Dublin in "Ulysses" and made up a hundred stories in the Arabian nights and saw my mother killed by a baseball in "A Prayer for Owen Meany." I've been in ten thousand cities and have introduced myself to a hundred thousand strangers in my exuberant reading career, all because I listened to my fabulous English teachers and soaked up every single thing those magnificent men and women had to give. I cherish and praise them and thank them for finding me when I was a boy and presenting me with the precious gift of the English language ” Pat Conroy

“The real heroes are the librarians and teachers who at no small risk to themselves refuse to lie down and play dead for censors.” Bruce Coville

“Once in a while our school has half days, and the teachers spend the afternoon 'in service,' which I think must be a group therapy for having to deal with us.” Neal Shusterman

“It's weird when you hear teachers call each other by their first names. It's like they're friends or something.” Brian Francis

“I now know that I was in the presence of the only angels we are ever likely to make the acquaintance of: teachers blessed with the love of small people who are trying to find their place in the world.” Ted Kooser

“I have this theory about teachers, and what separates the good ones from the bad: it's not that good teachers don't think about quitting; it's that they never look like they've already quit.” David Arnold

“When teachers doubt your potential, show them how wrong they truly are.” Antonio Hall

“The first people a dictator puts in jail are the writers, the teachers, the librarians - because these people are dangerous. They have enough vocabulary to recognize injustice and to speak out loudly about it. Let us have the courage to go on being dangerous people.” Madeleine L'Engle

“A leader is not born, teachers make one.” Vikram Verma

“I had never thought of school as fun before, but then, I'd never before had a hummingbird, a witch, or a maybe-immortal for teachers.” Laurence Yep

“If you look behind every exceptional person there is an exceptional teacher. When each of us thinks about what we can do in life, chances are we can do it because of a teacher.” Stephen Hawking

BURNABY SCHOOL BOARD

HONOURING NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

In addition to work happening throughout the year, many schools have been putting an extra focus on Indigenous learning during National Indigenous History Month. Some, such as Twelfth Avenue Elementary, have held special ceremonies. This weaving was created by Coast Salish artists Angela George and Caitlin Aleck. Their design was informed after months of connecting with students and staff, with aspects of the final weave addressing the community and its lands. The unveiling presentation and protocol was led by Elder Sam George and Les George from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Westridge Elementary hosted a ceremony to honour the work of students that resulted in the first-ever Reconciliation Crosswalk in Burnaby. The gathering was led by Coast Salish Elder Doctor Roberta Price and followed Indigenous Protocol. Younger students were present to witness, share the learnings, and carry the Reconciliation work forward. A ceremony at Burnaby North Secondary was led by Master Carver and Squamish Nation Elder Xwalacktun to wake up the Welcome Post. It will be installed at the new school. Students carved together with Elder Xwalacktun over many months as he shared stories and teachings. Burnaby South Secondary came together to enjoy bannock on National Indigenous Peoples Day. Students at Marlborough Elementary marked the day with a story walk in their outdoor classroom.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS CLOSE OUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

A District-wide event was held at Byrne Creek Community School in recognition of both Juneteenth and Canadian Emancipation Day. More than 100 Black students and friends came to mark the emancipation of slaves and abolishment of slavery across North America. Put on in partnership with the Ninandotoo Society, the celebrations included food, live music and performances, as well as sharing culture and learning. Student voice was elevated in a CBC Vancouver interview where the youth expressed excitement about celebrating with peers. Secondary athletics banquets – such as these at Byrne Creek Community School and Burnaby North Secondary – are among the year-end celebrations. The events, like these at Burnaby Mountain and Moscrop Secondary schools, are a way to thank athletes, coaches, volunteers and honour athletic achievement. Many elementary schools, including Brentwood Park, held Sports Days. Students at Brantford Elementary made giant team banners. Maywood Community School got creative with a camp theme. Marlborough Elementary students had fun at the many stations. Grade 7s at University Highlands Elementary came together with their families to open a time capsule and explore its artifacts. It was buried in 2015 when the students were in Kindergarten. Welcome to Kindergarten events, such as these at Inman and Stoney Creek, happen annually in June for students starting in the Fall. Grade 7 students marked their final days of elementary school at special leaving ceremonies, such as these at Kitchener, Brentwood Park and Brantford Elementary schools. Honouring Our Youth is a ceremony for Indigenous graduates that follows local protocol through the generosity of Elders and Knowledge Keepers. All eight high schools held graduation ceremonies at Simon Fraser University on top of Burnaby Mountain. Grade 12 students walked through the picturesque setting to join the awaiting crowd. Graduates also enjoyed evenings of celebration with their peers. All of the District's Valedictorians are featured in a special section of the Burnaby Now. As they ended their public-school experience in anticipation, reflection, and celebration, they shared their words of wisdom with the wider community.

Neologisms-these are the first attempts at Neologisms sent in by a BRTA member-clever eh?

Melancholy-a dog who likes fruit

Paradigms-twenty cents

Aboriginal-your first stomach muscle

Oxymoron-an idiot whose nose is too small to let in enough air

Bibliophile-loves protection when eating lobster

Pique-friend of Abu

Uncanny-no toilet

Wanton-Japanese soup

Guise-more than one guy

Lollygag-choking on a sweetie in England

Yearn-it's not mine

Tete-a-tete-two Asian holidays

Dispatch-where I grow my vegetables

Inspires-church built the wrong way

Snare-a weirdly shaped nose

Loosen-money for a pay toilet in Tokyo

Crumb-a crooked thumb

Anew-one wildebeest

Indispose-just sit the way you are

Pungent-We all groan at his jokes

Baste-where I was during the war

Gist-one moment

Forbid-after a three bid

Merchant-a sea shanty

Beget-an American ordering a French loaf of bread

Falsehood-pretending to be a mobster

Humbug-a faulty listening device

Question-an electron looking for a home

Shower-an exhibitionist

Consultation on Safe Long-Term Care

From [Health Canada](#)

Join in: how to participate Share your ideas online

Complete the [online questionnaire](#).

Send an email to ltc-sld@hc-sc.gc.ca to share your ideas or comments, or to request a printed version of the form to mail in.

Participate by mail

Send a letter with your ideas and input to the address in contact information below.

Who is the focus of this consultation

- Seniors.
- Persons with disabilities.
- Caregivers (family/friends).
- Health, social and community care and service providers or volunteers.
- Groups working with or representing older adults, persons with disabilities, Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and additional sexually and gender diverse (2SLGBTQI+) communities, newcomers, cultural communities, official language minority communities, Indigenous communities, etc.
- Researchers and academics.
- All other interested Canadians and organizations.

Related information

- [Development of a federal Safe Long-Term Care Act: Discussion Paper](#)
- [Mandate Letters](#)

Contact us

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[Online questionnaire](#) or email: ltc-sld@hc-sc.gc.ca