



NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA BRANCH OF THE
B C RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



THE TRUANT

Spring 2023

Come and join us for Lunch on May 3, 2023

The Delta Retired Teachers Association is hosting its Spring Luncheon and AGM at the Britannia Brewing Company Restaurant, right in the heart of Ladner.

Our special guest is Delta Police Constable Leisa Shaefer from the Tsawwassen Community Police Office who will talk about community safety and other seniors' concerns following the AGM.

For the luncheon, there are 5 menu options from which to select. The subsidized price for DRTA members is \$20 which includes the GST and gratuities. (\$25 for guests.)



If you would like to join us, please contact Yvonne Chard at drtaevents@gmail.com by **Thursday, April 27th**.

DRTA Spring Brunch

Wednesday, May 3rd
Britannia Brewery Restaurant

4821 Delta St. in Downtown Ladner

Doors open at 11:30 am – Table Service at 12:00 noon
\$20.00 for DRTA Members. \$25.00 for Guests
Pay at the door via cheque (to “DRTA”) or
Cash (exact change, please).

The luncheon options available on May 3rd are:

1. **Prairie Ranchers Beef Burger** – (6 oz. grass-fed beef patty, butter lettuce, tomato, dill pickle, American cheese, house special sauce, brioche bun, with fries or greens)
2. **Crab and Chili Spaghettini** – (Rock Crab, garlic, lemon, chili, crab butter, roasted cherry tomatoes)
3. **Ladner Power Bowl** – (Hummus, fermented red cabbage, pickled beets, kale, avocado, pumpkin seeds, pearl barley, puffed wild rice, lemon vinaigrette)
4. **Cobb Salad** – (Chicken Breast, iceberg lettuce, bacon, onion, egg, grape tomatoes, avocado, house blue cheese dressing)
5. **Fish & Chips** – Deckhand lager-battered Vancouver Island Rockfish, fries, house tartar sauce, cabbage slaw)

Following the meal, the 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held to elect a new Delta Retired Teachers Association Executive Board.

DRTA Elections - Declared Candidates (all positions may be shared)

President – Annie Coblin; Peter Yang (agree to share the role)

Vice President – _____

Treasurer – Lois Wilkinson

Secretary – _____

Members - at – Large – Yvonne Chard;
- Angelika Hedley;
- _____
- _____

A Member-at-large is an introductory learning position on the DRTA executive to and to help with the decision making at executive meetings, vote on motions and to assist with committee work.

DRTA Committees (strictly Voluntary) include: - Communications (The Truant, E-mail announcements and Facebook), Heritage (Delta Schools' histories), Membership (inc. Outreach), Social (Planning Activities and Events), and Scholarship (selection of recipients).

2023 BCRTA Conference and AGM (September 28 – 30) Delegates – 3

- President(s) - _____ ; _____
- Delegate – Nominated - Val Windsor

N.B. – Pat Thiesen will be attending as a BCRTA Director.

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Grandfathers

Grandfathers are a special breed
Of kinfolk, all their own.
They love you and hug you,
And spoil you to death.
And then, they send you home.

Coming for LUNCH??? drtaevents@gmail.com **by Thu. April 27. 2023**

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

From Annie – There is good news regarding the Delta District Retirement Event. This year, the District will be inviting past retirees (teaching and supporting staff) who, due to the pandemic in 2020, 2021, 2022, missed their in-person festivities. Invitations will be mailed out to them in the next few weeks. The DRTA has offered to assist in contacting our members, but your help would be appreciated if you can spread the news. Mark your calendars and be there for this special, bigger-than-ever retirement event.

Delta District Retirement Event

Thursday, June 15, 2023

4 pm – 6 pm

South Delta Secondary, Equinox Theatre

I attended the virtual BCRTA Super Zone meeting in February as the DRTA delegate. The meeting was conducted by BCRTA 1st Vice-President and Director Pat Thiesen. It was an excellent gathering to share information with other Branches from the entire province. Each Branch was asked to send in what's working or not working as we emerge from COVID. Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions for the DRTA or the BCRTA. They will definitely be forwarded.

I hope to see you at our up-coming Luncheon/AGM on May 3rd. Please consider putting your name forward for a Board position, or to join a committee, or begin a new committee based on your interests. Or just come for some socializing. What better way to catch up with former colleagues than over a meal with a glass of brew or cup of coffee. *Annie Coblin*

From Peter – We have launched a new e-mail address for members to contact the DRTA board if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. Please use drtacountact@gmail.com As one of the purposes of the DRTA is to help members stay connected with their peers through local information updates and social events, we have created a Facebook page to gain a useful social media presence. For those who wish to join, go to Delta RTA on Facebook.

It is vitally important that we have your most updated e-mail address. When you change to a different address, please send your information to

drtacountact@gmail.com

Peter Yang

“Retired Teachers of Delta” Scholarship Fund

I would like to support the Retired Teachers of Delta Scholarship Fund,

I understand the money will be used to support graduating students in their future studies.

(A tax receipt will be issued by the Delta School District for donations of \$25.00 or more.

Deadline for submissions, with our thanks: Jan. 24, 2024. Send the following information to
c/o Finance Department, Delta School District, 4585 Harvest Dr, Delta BC. V4K 5B4

Enclosed is my cheque for _____

Signature: _____

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

DRTA Board Meeting – MARCH 2023

The DRTA Board met on March 2 at Lois Wilkinson’s home. In attendance were Annie Coblin, Peter Yang, Pat Thiesen, Lois Wilkinson, Peter Scurr, Yvonne Chard, and Margaret Jensen. Apologies from Angelika Hedley.

We discussed our budget, which continues to be healthy. Our Expenditures to December have closely matched our Receipts. The main expenditures involved the October and December Luncheons.

The B.C. Retired Teachers’ Association’s Super Zone Meeting, attended by Co-President Annie Coblin and Past President Pat Thiesen, was a great opportunity for sharing between Branches. Among the topics discussed were the petition, available on the BCRTA website at:

<https://bcrt.ca/pharmacarenow/> This deals with Pharmacare Now, an attempt to get the federal government to take some action regarding universal prescription drug coverage. Also discussed was Bill C-228, now with the Senate, which is aimed at prioritizing workers’ pensions in the case of bankruptcy. (The Bill has successfully been ratified by the Senate.) We discussed the December Luncheon at the new Casino, attended by 27 members, and are exploring venues for a May Luncheon/AGM. Stay tuned! We are also discussing alternative opportunities to get together, and more information will be coming your way about this. And please remember to keep your e-mail address up-to-date with the DRTA. If you have changed it, please let us know. Stay in the loop!

DRTA Board Meeting – APRIL 2023

Your DRTA Board met on April 6. In attendance were Annie Coblin, Peter Yang, Yvonne Chard, Pat Thiesen and Margaret Jensen.

Our main topic of discussion was the May 3 AGM/Luncheon. The venue is Britannia Brewing in Ladner, we will conduct elections for next year's Board, and the speaker will be Constable Leisa Schaefer, Tsawwassen District Liaison Officer who will speak to issues directly affecting seniors. There will be Door Prizes and a great lunch, so we encourage members to attend! Also, please ensure that we have your current contact information. If you have made changes to your e-mail address, let us know at: drtcontact@gmail.com
Hope to see you at the Luncheon!

Submitted by Margaret Jensen, DRTA Secretary

More Celebrating New Retirees

**The Delta Teachers Association (DTA) is hosting
The retirement celebrations for several of its members on
Monday, June 19th 2023
At Tsawwassen Springs Golf Course
Contact the DTA office (604) 946-0391 for more information**

How to Get Regular Visits from Your Grandchildren

A couple of older ladies were talking about their grandchildren. "I send gifts, greeting cards, and cheques to my grandchildren," one complains, "and still they barely visit me!"

The second one replies, "Oh, I also send cheques to my grandchildren and they visit me all the time!"

"You are so fortunate to have more grateful grandchildren than my own," said the first one sadly.

The second smiled: "No, my grandchildren are as grateful as yours."

"So what do you do differently? Are your cheques bigger than mine?" asked the first one, surprised.

"No," chuckled the other one, "I just don't sign mine."



DRTA's Newest Members

Holly Egan

Cheryl Edge

Donna Emond

Randall Gibbons

Rhea Gunning

Michele Nielsen

Janet Worrall

W e l c o m e !



Report from the BCRTA

The first Board of Directors meeting of the new year was held via Zoom on Monday, February 13th. It was a very productive meeting leading to decisions supporting the BCTF in their efforts to ensure adequate funding for BC's public schools and expressing concerns with funding of private schools. Also, the Board expressed to the BCTF agreement that every classroom have a qualified teacher by noting the impact on all students, particularly the most vulnerable. Concurrent with the BCTF AGM during Spring Break, an information table was set up to acquaint delegates with the BCRTA, its membership eligibility and advantage programmes. Many active teachers/delegates took the opportunity to visit us at the table, to chat with Johnson's Insurance representatives and to learn about our association.

BCRTA has sent letters to BC's Federal Senators urging them to pass Bill C-228 which will help protect pensions, like ours, which are "defined benefits" pensions. Good news! Bill C-228 is awaiting Royal Assent. Well done!

All branches and members are asked to participate in the call for a national universal Pharmacare programme in Canada. It has been promised over the last 3 federal elections campaigns and strongly recommended by a federal Advisory Council chaired by Dr. Eric Hoskins back in 2019. Yet no action has been taken. The BCRTA has set up a campaign to allow you to reach your own Member of Parliament, your local MLA and Ministers of Health

with a message of your support for a national Pharmacare programme. Make your voice heard today. Use this special, easy-to-use form <https://bcрта.ca/pharmacarenow> . It will automatically generate (from your Postal Code) those people who will receive the call to get Pharmacare legislation.

The BCRTA continues to support the Seniors Advocate and her work to improve the lives of those of us over the age of 60. Currently, interviews are being conducted for those seniors residing in Long Term Care facilities throughout the province. The OSA is asking for volunteer interviewers. Check the website for more information <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca>

All committees and the Board of Directors met in person in Vancouver from April 17 to 19. Watch for information about what is planned for the next few months when it comes out in "Connections" in your e-mail inbox or on the BCRTA website.

If you are interested in getting involved with the provincial body, consider joining one of the committees. Contact Laurie at the office (604 871-2260) or e-mail office@bcрта.ca to request an application form.



Boundary Bay April 2023 by Peter Scurr

Tricks to Help You Read More Books

My philosophy for life in general, which absolutely applies to reading, is that is that you make time for things you really care about. If you like reading a little bit here or there but aren't really that passionate about it, that's totally fine! I'm not judging you even the tiniest bit for that, because we are all different and that's wonderful. I'm not here to recruit readers.

But if reading is something that you truly enjoy, something that relaxes you, transports you, or makes you feel like your real self, then making time for that should be a priority. For these kinds of people, reading is one of the best ways to practice self-care. So if you identify as a bookworm and want more books in your life, here are five practical tips for helping you work more reading time into your daily routine:

Read more than one book at a time

Have you ever felt like reading but the book you've been enjoying doesn't fit your current mood? Maybe you don't want to read an intense thriller or a nonfiction book with a heavy topic right before bed, or maybe you're not in the mood for chick lit on a dark, stormy afternoon. If you have more than one book in progress you will always have something you are 'in the mood for' at your fingertips. This doesn't work for everyone, but it definitely helps me read more. One 'rule' that I usually follow to make this flow smoothly is to make sure your books aren't too similar to each other in tone, subject, or genre. This

helps eliminate confusion when you switch back and forth.

Try an audiobook

You can listen in many situations that aren't conducive to reading with your actual eyeballs. Examples of times when you will frequently find me listening to an audiobook are when I'm driving, exercising, or doing brainless chores like dishes or laundry. Switching up your method of consumption can also sometimes help you get through a book you might have trouble with on paper. I've recently realized that although I enjoy reading classics, I really, really enjoy listening to many of them. They seem more accessible when you have them read to you instead of digesting them yourself.

Join a book club or reading challenge

Accountability can help you make time for a book you want to read but feel selfish taking the time for when there are other things you could be doing. But remember what I said earlier about reading being a form of self-care? If you know this to be true for yourself, consider joining a book club or just pairing up with a friend to read a book that interests you both. You'll read that book because you know someone is counting on you for discussion, and you'll be glad you did. If you don't want to read a title just because others are, reading

challenges are a low-key way to maintain some freedom of choice but also feel some accountability, especially if you declare your commitment to finish it to someone. And checking off boxes as you go down the list is so satisfying!

Read with your Grandkids

Reading advanced books to younger children is fun for you, but it's also good for them! Hearing books read aloud that are a notch or two above their current reading level helps children accelerate their vocabulary and grammar skills. Many children are capable of comprehending and enjoying stories that are more complicated than what they can currently read for themselves. This results in quality parent/child time by giving you something to bond over and discuss, while giving your child a boost academically, and giving you an excuse to pick up a great story. Win/win/win.

Read First.

You've probably had the experience of thinking, "I'll just do a few quick things and then I'll read for 30 minutes before I head to bed." But suddenly it's 11:00 o'clock and you spent the evening on the computer and not reading your book. After dinner, make that the time to read, tidy up the dishes before heading to bed because you've prioritized reading – not every night, but more than you did before as reading is now one of life's joys.

Leave your phone in another room.

This was a game changer for me. It usually takes me about 5-10 minutes to get rally immersed in a book, so if my phone is right next to me, it's easy for me to pick it up after a few pages and then get sucked into things I really don't want to spend time on. If my phone is in the kitchen while I read in bed, I usually get drawn into the book much faster and read for a longer period of time. If we walk to the neighbourhood park, I'll bring my book and make sure my phone is on silent (not left at home as there might just be some emergency when the phone is needed) so that I sit on the bench and read rather than scroll through Instagram and watch the excitement in the park.

Be a quitter.

Don't be afraid to stop reading a book you aren't enjoying. This doesn't necessarily increase your reading time, but it does help you use your existing time more efficiently. There are too many great books out there to waste time on bad ones!

So to recap, don't feel guilty about making time for something that is important to you. Reading is a wonderful way to learn, decompress, escape, connect, or all of the above. If you want to read more I hope you are able to implement at least one of the tips in this post to increase your reading time today. And remember, every little bit counts. Reading even ten extra minutes a day adds up to almost sixty-one hours of reading time at the end of a year! How many books could you read in sixty-one hours.

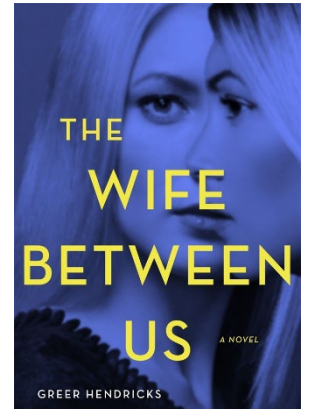


Summer Reading Recommendations

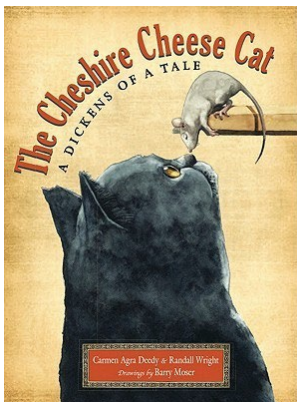
From Truant Editor, Pat Thiesen

1. The Wife Between Us – Greer Hendricks

This is a book about assumptions, and we all know where they can take us. The story is a tense, psychological thriller that makes an impact on you, the reader. It dissects the anatomy and complexities of a marriage, the lies, the secrets, the manipulations, and betrayals.

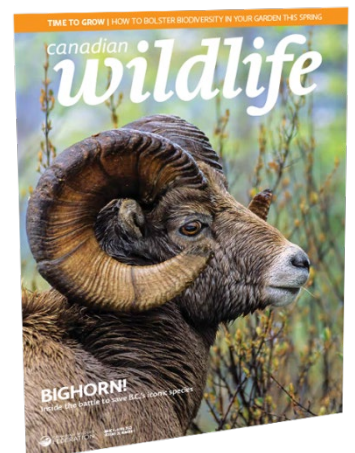


2. The Cheshire Cheese Cat – Carmen Agra Deedy and Randall Wright



(Subtitled *A Dickens of a Tale*) This is simply a delightful read. Imagine a cat who doesn't like to chase, capture and eat mice but would rather eat cheese – special Cheshire Cheddar Cheese. Our hero, Skilley, overhears that a particular public house in olde London is looking for a new mousing cat. He devises a plan to get the job despite his aversion to eating mice. A thoroughly enjoyable read with unforeseen conflict for Skilley and his housemates.

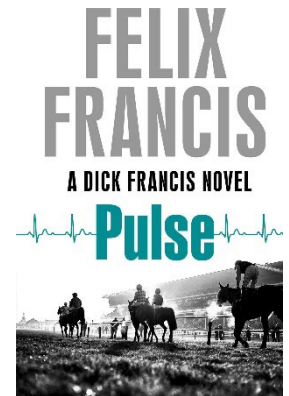
3. The Canadian Wildlife Magazine – As a contributing donor the CWF, I receive an informative magazine every 2 to 3 months. I was especially pleased to receive this latest edition. The lead article was about Saving BC's Bighorn Sheep from a nasty (read deadly) bacterium, commonly known as Movi, which gets transferred from immune farm sheep to the wild Bighorn variety. Included in the magazine are excellent photographs from all over Canada with information on conservation, preservation and just plain old appreciation of the wildlife here in Canada. Copies may be available in your local library.



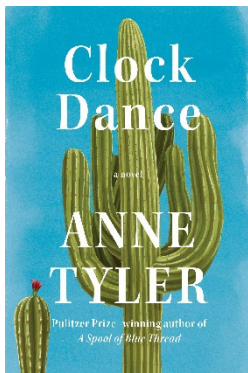
From Truant's Former Editor, Sheila Gair

1. **Pulse** – Dick Francis with Felix Francis

A female lead character, Dr. Chris Rankin, has always struggled with depression, anorexia, and panic attacks. She is called in to investigate the unknown malady of an unconscious man found in a lavatory cubicle at the Cheltenham Racecourse. His death sends her into a spiral of guilt and depression. Once she's released from the local psychiatric hospital, Rankin continues her investigation. This is an efficient, steadily absorbing suspense novel guaranteed to draw in even fans who can't stand horses.



2. **Clock Dance** – Anne Tyler

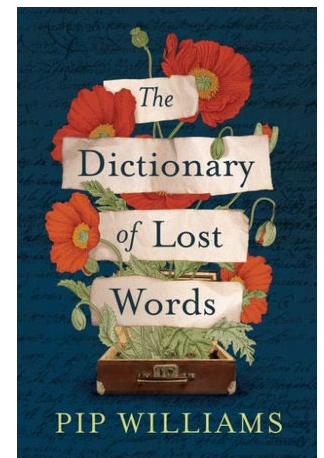


Clock Dance is Tyler's 22nd novel, and it runs with well-calibrated efficiency; it pulls you right in and keeps on ticking. Like many Tyler novels, it spans decades in the life of its sympathetic main character. It is also filled with Tyler's wry perspective on appealingly quirky, so-called ordinary people. It's a bittersweet novel of hope and regret, fulfillment and renewal. *Clock Dance* brings us the everyday life of a woman who decides it's never too late to change direction, and choose your own path.

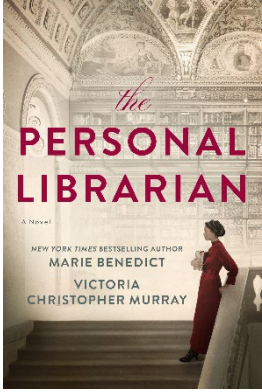
From School Board Chair, Val Windsor

1. **The Dictionary of Lost Words** – Pip Williams

The story takes place during the height of the women's suffrage movement. Esme, a motherless child, grows up with her father and his fellow lexicographers who are collecting words for the first complete edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. As she grows up, Esme realizes their words do not reflect those used by women and common folk but only used and defined by aristocratic men. She decides to gather her own words. Esme shows bravery unlike most girls of her time as she fights to have her words and definitions included in the dictionary that will apply to most people rather than the elites.



2. The Personal Librarian – Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray



Belle da Costa Greene is a woman who becomes the personal librarian to J.P. Morgan, the American financier and Wall Street investment banker around the turn of the last century. Belle was hired to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for Morgan's newly built Pierpont Morgan Library, but she carries a secret that could destroy her career and reputation. She is a light-skinned Black woman and Belle da Costa Greene is not her real name. The racist world that Belle lived in had accepted her white identity but she was constantly alert for those who would expose her. Her secret came at a price.

Other Good Reads

1. To Share with young Grandkids

- i) It's So Quiet: A Not-Quite-Going-To-Bed Book by Sherri Dusker Rinker
- ii) Where's My Cat? By Seymour Chwast

2. To Share with Pre-Teens

- i) The Castle in the Mist by Amy Ephron
- ii) Mermaid Scales and the Town of Sand by Yoko Komori

3. Biographies/Memoirs

- i) The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man by Paul Newman
- ii) Educated by Tara Westover

4. Fantasy

- i) Fairy Tale by Stephen King
- ii) The Way of Kings by Brandon Sanderson

5. Science Fiction

- i) Not Alone by Sarah K. Jackson
- ii) Sea of Tranquility by Emily St. John Mandel

6. Mystery

- i) The Housemaid by Freida McFadden
- ii) All the Devils are Here by Louise Penny

7. Contemporary Fiction

- i) Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin
- ii) Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

8. Non-Fiction

- i) Atlas of the Heart by Brené Brown
- ii) In Love by Amy Bloom

Fraser Health – Seniors Community Connectors

Here is a valuable resource if you are an older adult living in the Fraser Health region. A senior community connector's role is to connect older adults to innovative services in their community to support health and social well-being. A local seniors community connector meets with you to help develop a personal wellness plan to support your healthy aging journey. They will connect you with available community resources and liaise with your family practitioner for additional support.

Seniors community connectors help connect you to services including, but not limited to:

1. Social activities and programs
2. Physical activity and exercise programs
3. Meal delivery and nutrition programs
4. Family and caregiver supports

Seniors community connectors also help participants access:

1. Transportation support
2. Language or translation support
3. Emotional support
4. Culturally appropriate programming



How to access our services

1. Speak to your **health care provider, or**
2. **Call 2-1-1** about how you can be referred to this service.
3. Visit the Pathways BC website (<https://pathwaysbc.ca>), select your community, and search “Seniors Community Connector”.

Locations

You can visit the Fraser Health Seniors Community website for your own community.

Locally

- South Delta – Kinvillage West Court (5410 10th Ave, (604) 943-0155

- Surrey –
1. DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society (DCRS) (13455 – 76 Ave. Surrey)
 2. Brella Community Services, South Surrey (15008 – 26 Ave.)
 3. Surrey North Delta Home Health office (1500- 13401 108th Ave. Surrey)

In Memoriam

Kim Alexander Young



May 2, '42. The numbers rolled off Kim's tongue, even as his neurological disease took increasing control. February 18, 2023. That date will forever be in our hearts.

Kim lived every day to the fullest. He loved learning and leading learning - 17 years in Richmond School District as a teacher and a principal, 17 years in Delta School District as an assistant superintendent, and 15 years leading professional development for the BC School Superintendents' Association. Another passion was track and field. More than 55 years ago, he joined Richmond Kajaks as a coach

and, with equal commitment, coached school and club athletes and Olympians. A member of the Achilles International Track and Field Society, he was meet director of the Harry Jerome International Track Classic and the Indoor Jerome for many years. Kim's lifelong dedication to education and sport was based on a belief: Excellence for All. Kim was a passionate and accomplished Whistler skier, cyclist, sailor, and traveler.

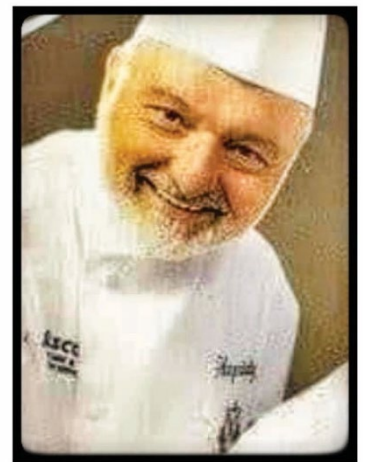
He was admired, deeply respected, and cherished by many friends. Kim's children, Ryan and Gaby, and his wife, Faye, were his anchor and greatest loves. He is well remembered and sorely missed. Many thanks to Mount St. Joseph's Hospital and the staff at St Jude's Care Home for embracing Kim and us as family. His last month was filled with growth and opportunity.

A Celebration of Life was held in Richmond BC on April 1, 2023.

Julius Pokomandy –

On April 7, 2023 the world bid “vizontlátásra” to a legendary chef, colleague, teacher, and friend - Julius Pokomandy.

From his humble beginnings in rural Hungary, Julius made his way to Canada as a young man with only a few precious valuables sewn into his jacket lining. He reportedly studied English with great “intensity” he sailed across the Atlantic and then selected Canada as the shortest immigration line, only to be greeted with a “Bienvenue” upon entry! Those that knew and loved Julius, certainly benefitted from his choice.



Over his 37-year teaching career, countless students in South Delta were fortunate to learn from this gregarious, bald-headed Hungarian. He demanded passion and involvement with food as he taught them to “taste it and touch it”. In his ever-popular Culinary Arts classes at SDSS, students learned all the basics – everything from nutrition and the “mother sauces” to knife handling and food safety. Countless students took what they learned from Mr. Pokomandy and grew it from there – whether making assembly line fast food, taking restaurant jobs throughout their post-secondary years, working in remote work camps, toiling in industrial kitchens, or simply preparing great meals for their families.

While teaching students was his forte, Julius was fiercely proud of his professional associations and saw many positive changes in the food service industry over the years. He remained actively involved in a number of national organizations: Past President of the Canadian Culinary Federation, Past President of the Canadian Federation of Chefs and Cooks, a Life Member of the BC Chefs’ Association, and an Honorary Member of the BC Chef Instructors Association. And his legacy lives on as the B.C. Chefs’ Association presents the ‘Julius Pokomandy Award’ each year to a deserving candidate.

In mid-life, Julius was a fortunate recipient of a liver transplant and became a proud spokesperson for the BC Transplant Society. This marked a transformative period in Julius’ life for which he was eternally grateful.

Julius will be missed but fondly remembered by family, friends, colleagues, and students alike. May he rest in peace while memories of his larger-than-life personality, quick wit, and generous spirit live on.



Sid Samphire

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sid Samphire. Sid went into hospital on the evening of April 10th with a brain bleed. Unfortunately, he was unable to recover. He died without pain and discomfort. The family was able to say good-bye and spend time with him before his passing. He passed at 12:28 early morning, April 12th. A celebration of his life is planned for August 12th. We hope some of you will be available to join us.

Lise Streit (née Gagnon)

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Lise Streit (née Gagnon), born in Ville de la Baie, Quebec, November 25, 1944. Surrounded by family, she passed away peacefully on April 15, 2023, at 78.

Lise was a beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, and grandmother, who touched the lives of everyone who knew her. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Ludwig, their sons Christian (Kelly Isbister) and Peter (Suzanne Streit), grandchildren Sébastien, Monet, Nicolas, and Elodie, and her brother Pierre-Michel, sisters Marcelle, Camille, Hélène, and Christiane.

Lise was a lifelong learner and teacher of over 35 years, having taught elementary French Immersion for 21 years with the Delta School District.

Known for her love of life and strong determination, she will be sadly missed, but we take comfort in knowing she is at peace. A vigil of her life was held on April 25, 2023.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

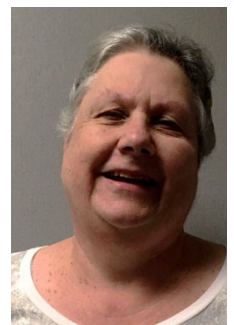
I made my decision to retire from teaching after several significant events in my life: a 2 week stint on the picket line outside the school where I had taught for more than 30 consecutive years, been assigned a class in which half the students had some form of special provincial designation and a rookie administrator.

But my decision to retire from the leadership of the DRTA has not been a sudden or easy one. I have been slowly, and in many ways, reluctantly, easing myself out. This year as Past-President expires at the end of June and one of the new Board coming in will take over the Membership responsibilities. When Sheila Gair retired as the Truant Editor, she gave me her blessing and told me “to run with it”

and I did just that. I realize that finding someone else to take on the job as editor of the Truant may need some time. If any of our more than 525 members would like to explore the idea of starting off slowly as a regular contributor and working with me over the coming year, with the possibility of later becoming Editor, please let me know. deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com

It has been a very rewarding experience but I feel the Truant needs a new voice to match the new leadership of the DRTA. My last Truant will be the Spring 2024 issue.

Pat Thiesen



Fun and Games – To Keep Your Minds Sharp

A. Trivia Quiz

1. What did Leonardo da Vinci invent to check humidity while he worked on the Last Supper fresco?
2. When did Let's Make a Deal first air in the US?
3. What breed of dog did Winston Churchill favour?
4. Which auto company introduced the first “pony” car? What was it called?
5. Bob Keeshan played what beloved children’s TV character?
6. What country first introduced Daylight Saving Time?
7. What was Katharine Hepburn's first movie?
8. What is a paradiddle?
9. Canoeing has been part of the Olympics since when?
10. The average child will get how many colds each year?

B. Make a Chain

From each list, create a chain of connected words. For example, if given **chain, key, reaction and room**, reorganize them to room key, key chain, and chain reaction.

1. Bank, Down, Face, River, Sperm, Watch, Whale
2. Beauty, Choke, Hold, Mary, Over, Queen, Sleeping
3. Board, Certified, Cloth, Drop, Instant, Mail, Message
4. Book, Colouring, Drive, Food, Lost, Soul, Through
5. Bill, Fold, Fresh, Kill, Laundry, List, Price
6. Acting, Comb, Fake, Moustache, Over, Science, Weird
7. Chaser, Crab, Grass, Log, Rolling, Skirt, Stone
8. Burn, Calories, Copy, Die, Hard, Right, Side
9. Base, Data, Drive, Home, Line, Manager, Office
10. Bar, Dive, Fly, High, Ladies, Night, Sky

C. Letter at a Time

As you go from one word to the other in as few steps as possible, change just one letter at a time. (COAT to SHOE: COAT, COOT, SOOT, SHOT, SHOE)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. SOFT → ROCK (4 steps) | 2. MEAN → WELL (4) | 3. MANY → FOLD (5) |
| 4. KING → FISH (5) | 5. GAME → BOYS (5) | 6. CANE → TOAD (6) |
| 7. TWIN → BEDS (6) | 8. GETS → OVER (7) | 9. OPEN → SEAS (8) (Page 18) |

D. Strike Out

	A	B	C	D
1	THINGS	WIRE	BEAUTY	NOON
2	SWALLOW	WIN	BASIC	TRY
3	CAPTAIN	FATEFUL	PEPPER	ARE
4	SELDOM	EPEE	WREN	SHALL
5	HEN	WHAT	DEED	BUZZARD
6	POPULAR	LYRE	BUBBLE	WIN
7	IDEA	TRY	THEY	BABOON
8	THERE	REDDER	CHIMP	LULL
9	SEEM	GORILLA	CAPTAIN	CROW
10	EVE	MIRE	ALOE	ROTATOR

Strike out words in the table according to the instructions. When you are finished, the words that remain in the table will spell out a quote when you read from left to right, top to bottom.

- A. STRIKE OUT all words that contain at least 3 different vowels.
- B. STRIKE OUT all words in Column B that rhyme with tire.
- C. STRIKE OUT all words that appear twice.
- D. STRIKE OUT all types of bird.
- E. STRIKE OUT all words that read the same forward and backward.
- F. STRIKE OUT all words that contain the same letter 3 times.
- G. STRIKE OUT all types of monkey and ape.
- H. STRIKE OUT all five-letter words.

Your Quote: _____

E. Jokes to fill in the Space

1. What can you put in a bucket to make it weigh less?
2. What type of cheese is made backwards?
3. What do you lose the moment you share it?
4. Two people are born at the same moment, but they don't have the same birthdays. How?
5. What five-letter word stays the same when you take away the first, third, and last letter?

F. Match the Plurals for these Animals When in a Group

From this collection, find the right word used to identify the animals below. Please note, there are other words that may also be associated with these groups of animals. Not all words in the box will be used.

Bale Bramble Cackle Caravan Charm Choir Circus Cloud Coalition Conspiracy Crowd
Dazzle Flock Generation Journey Kaleidoscope Kettle Mockery Murder Muster Pack
Pandemonium Parliament Pine Pod Prickle Pride Procession Quiver Raft Rookery
School Scold Skein Sleuth Sneer Spittle Sting Talon Thunder Troop Wing

Bats _____

Giraffes _____

Parrots _____

Bears _____

Hedgehogs _____

Ravens _____

Butterflies _____

Hummingbirds _____

Storks _____

Camels _____

Hyenas _____

Turtles _____

Cobras _____

Jays _____

Vipers _____

Crows _____

Lions _____

Vultures _____

Elephants _____

Monkeys _____

Zebras _____

Fish _____

Otters _____

Geese _____

Owls _____

For those groups you didn't match, what animals fit with them?



Grandma

- * A little bit **PARENT**
- * A little bit **TEACHER**
- * A little bit **BEST FRIEND**
- * A little bit **PARTNER – IN – CRIME**

Answers

A. Trivia

1. The hygrometer.
2. In 1963.
3. Miniature Poodle
4. Ford's Mustang
5. Captain Kangaroo
6. Germany
7. A Bill of Divorcement.
8. A type of drum roll
9. Since 1936
10. 6 to 8

B. Make a Chain –

1. Sperm, Whale, Watch, Face, Down, River, Bank
2. Choke, Hold, Over, Sleeping, Beauty, Queen, Mary
3. Instant, Message, Board, Certified, Mail, Drop, Cloth
4. Lost, Soul, Food, Colouring, Book, Drive, Through
5. Fresh, Kill, Bill, Fold, Laundry, List, Price
6. Fake, Moustache, Comb, Over, Acting, Weird, Science
7. Log, Rolling, Stone, Crab, Grass, Skirt, Chaser
8. Die, Hard, Copy, Right, Side, Burn, Calories
9. Data, Base, Line, Drive, Home, Office, Manager
10. Ladies, Night, Sky, High, Dive, Bar, Fly

C. Letter at a Time – Possible Answers, others also possible

1. SOFT, SOOT, ROOT, ROOK, ROCK
2. MEAN, DEAN, DEAL, DELL, WELL
3. MANY, MANE, MALE, MOLE, MOLD, FOLD
4. KING, WING, WINE, WISE, WISH, FISH
5. GAME, DAME, DAMS, DAYS, BAYS, BOYS
6. CANE, LANE, LAND, LEND, LEAD, LOAD, TOAD
7. TWIN, THIN, THEN, TEEN, BEEN, BEES, BEDS
8. GETS, BETS, BEES, BYES, EYES, EVES, EVER, OVER
9. OPEN, OVEN, EVEN, EVES, EYES, DYES, DEES, SEES, SEAS

D. Strike Out – Things are seldom what they seem.

E. Jokes 1. A Hole 2. Edam 3. A Secret 4. Not in the same time zone 5. Empty

F. Match the Plurals

Bats - Cloud; Bears – Sleuth; Butterflies – Kaleidoscope; Camels – Caravan; Cobras – Quiver;
Crows – Murder; Elephants – Pod; Fish - School; Geese - Skein; Giraffes – Journey;
Hedgehogs – Prickle; Hummingbirds – Charm; Hyenas - Cackle; Jays - Party; Lions – Pride;
Monkeys – Troop; Otters – Raft; Owls – Parliament; Parrots – Pandemonium; Ravens –
Conspiracy; Storks – Muster; Turtles – Bale; Vipers – Generation; Vultures – Kettle; Zebras -
Dazzle

How Can I Help the DRTA?

I'd like to help the Delta Retired Teachers Association by joining one of these committees

Heritage

Membership

Christmas Outreach to Life Members

Social

Luncheon Planning

Events and Field Trips

Communications

Truant Newsletter

Facebook (and Website)

E-mail

Scholarship

My Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

My e-mail address _____

Complete the form and send to drtcontact@gmail.com