



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



THE TRUANT

Winter 2023

Co-President's Report

September has been a busy month for us at DRTA. We held a well-attended, successful, and fun-filled "No Bells" luncheon on Sept. 7th, at Sharkey's in Ladner on their beautiful riverside patio. The weather was very cooperative. Guest speakers included Caroline Malm, BCRTA First Vice-President, and Lisa Hansen from Johnson Insurance. Both of their presentations were well received.

Also in September, Annie Coblin, co-president, Angelika Hadley, VP, and Val Windsor, DRTA member, on behalf of DRTA attended the BCRTA Conference & AGM. Pat Thiesen was also in attendance but in her capacity as BCRTA Board Director. Due to the ongoing labour dispute, this year's BCRTA conference and AGM was held virtually.

We also managed to squeeze in a pop-up event in September for a Secret Garden tour, hosted by our own VP, Angelika Hedley. Stay tune for more pop-up events coming up.

As I am writing this we are well into the planning of our next DRTA annual Christmas luncheon. The luncheon will once again be held at Sharkey's in Ladner. Although it may a bit too chilly to take advantage of the riverside patio, we will be having our luncheon indoor this time. Looking forward to your attendance in this event.

Peter Yang, DRTA Co-President

DRTA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Date: Thursday December 14
Time: 11:30 to 2:00 (meal served at noon)
Place: Sharkey's Seafood Bar & Grille 4953
Chisholm St.,
at Ladner Government Harbour (inside dining room)

Menu choices: 1. Turkey Dinner
2. Seafood Pasta (in white sauce)
3. Vegetarian Pasta
4. Fish & Chips

Coffee, tea, or juice/soft drink is included in the subsidized cost.
Other beverages are available, and on your tab.

Cost (subsidized by DRTA): Members \$25 Non--members: \$35.
Payment in cash or cheque, payable to DRTA

Please RSVP with your food choice to Yvonne Chard (<mailto:drtaevents@gmail.com>)

RSVP deadline is November 30.

Delta RTA's Board for 2023 – 24

<u>Co-Presidents</u>	Annie Coblin (acoblin@hotmail.com) Peter Yang (py2010@telus.net)
<u>Vice-President</u>	Angelika Hedley (ahedley@telus.net)
<u>Secretary</u>	Suzan Egan-Olsen (seolsen@telus.net)
<u>Treasurer</u>	Lois Wilkinson (rlwilk@telus.net)
<u>Members-at-Large</u>	Yvonne Chard (drtaevents@gmail.com)

The Committees and Committee Chairs are:

<u>Social:</u>	Yvonne Chard
<u>Communications:</u>	Peter Yang
<u>Membership:</u>	Yvonne Chard
<u>Scholarships:</u>	Myrna Webster
<u>Heritage:</u>	Peter Scurr
<u>Outreach/Phoning:</u>	Joanne Thauli
<u>Truant Editor:</u>	Pat Thiesen (deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com)

"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:** _____

WHAT'S IN THIS EDITION?

BCRTA Update	.....	Page 4-5
DRTA Board Meeting Notes	.....	Page 4
DRTA Events Report	.....	Page 9 - 11
Fraud Prevention – Delta Police	.....	Page 6 - 8
Fun And Games	.....	Page 19 - 22
Fun and Games – Answers	.....	Page 24-25
In Memoriam	.....	Page 14
Luncheon Information	.....	Page 2
Membership Update	.....	Page 5
Members Write	.....	Page 15-18
President’s Report	.....	Page 1
Scholarship Support Request	.....	Page 3
Seasonal Reading Recommendations	.....	Page 12-13

DRTA Board Meeting – NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Another fruitful DRTA Board Meeting was held in the meeting room of the DTA office (many thanks for their continued generosity) with several decisions made: DRTA will no longer publish new members' names to align with a new BCRTA privacy policy; emphasizing the importance of reaching out to advertise DRTA events for all members like pop-up events such as a tour of the Delta Museum in early February and a Garden Tour in early April as well as discussing the details for this year’s planned Christmas luncheon on December 14th to be held at Sharkey's Restaurant in Ladner beginning at 11:30 am. \$25.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members and guests.



BCRTA
BC Retired Teachers' Association

News for November 2023 - The 2023 BCRTA Annual

General Meeting and Conference was forced to meet virtually due to the possibility of picket lines surrounding the proposed venue at the Hilton Hotel in Richmond. This was an opportunity to have all members join the Conference presentations on Friday, September 29th. Many throughout the province took the opportunity to learn about the fascinating adventures of Helene McCall, former Director of the BCRTA, and her teaching experiences in Canada’s Far North, the United Way’s *Better at Home* program, the BC Investment Corp.’s management of the public sector’s pension funds (includes the BC

Teachers' Pension Plan), housing issues from 2 perspectives and opportunities for volunteering here in BC.

The best parts of any BCRTA Conference are always the awards presented with video interviews of the unsuspecting winners. The PostScript awards in 3 categories. The winner for Best Art or Photograph was given to Rheta Steer for her wonderful collection of images of wild mushrooms from the Winter 2022 issue. Awarded for Best Travel Article was Lynda Grace Philippsen, for her piece "I Rented an Old Man" from the Fall 2022 issue. A very moving interview with Leslie Davidson about her Summer 2022 article titled "Dancing in Small Spaces", a memoir of her journey through illness with her husband, Lincoln, led to the announcement of her winning the Excellence Award for best personal article.

Congratulations went to Branches who had membership increases (based on % of current numbers), Delta RTA won for largest increase for a branch with more than 500 members. We welcome all our "newbies". Each section from the conference can be viewed at www.bcrt.ca

The AGM began Saturday morning. All nominees for Table officers and Directors were elected unanimously, the budget was approved and membership fees for 2024-25 ratified. New Directors with 2-year terms are Cathy Lambright from Terrace and Lori Dennill from Prince George.

To continue the work of the BCRTA, a mix of virtual and in-person meetings for Committees has been set up with all Board meetings gathering in-person in Vancouver.

Membership Update

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Delta Retired Teachers' Association is proud to have won a provincial trophy for having the highest percentage increase of new members this past year for all Branches with more than 500 members.

We enthusiastically WELCOME all our new members. Privacy regulations, unfortunately, prevent us from announcing your names in the Truant. We look forward to having you join us at our social events. You will receive occasional emails from us, and a digital copy of our newsletter called The Truant. We encourage you to join our Facebook account at [Delta RTA](#).



If you have any membership questions, please contact me at ycretired17@gmail.com
Yvonne Chard. Membership Chair.

Fraud Prevention – from the Delta Police Department

Identity crime is one of the fastest growing forms of criminal activity in Canada at this time. Identity crime involves the unauthorized gathering, trading or use of another person's personal information including credit card numbers, social insurance numbers, and drivers licence numbers, which are then used to facilitate other criminal activities.

In some cases, the victim's personal information is used to make fraudulent purchases on the victim's credit card. In other cases, the victim's information is used to open bank accounts, purchase cell phones, and obtain loans and mortgages.

These crimes can damage a person's credit rating and financial status and cause emotional suffering that is similar to victims of violent crimes. In some cases it may take years for the victims to recover their credit rating.

Prevention Tips

- Don't leave your wallet or purse unattended or even in your locked vehicle.
- Shred all bills, bank statements and any other documents that contain identity information prior to placing them in the trash.
- Regularly check your bank account and utility statement for any unusual activity
- Review your credit report to ensure there is no suspicious activity
- Check your mailbox daily to prevent theft of mail
- Arrange to pick up new cards such as credit cards at your bank rather than having them mailed to your home address
- Don't open any unknown emails or respond to unsolicited requests for personal information
- For more information on fraud and identity theft, see [Online Anti-Fraud Resources](#) or Elder Fraud Information.
- The Economic/Technical Crime Unit is available for community presentations on fraud awareness and prevention – call 604.946.4411.

ID Stolen? Now what?

If you have ever lost your wallet or had it stolen, it can be frustrating and costly to replace all your documents, not to mention how worrying it can be. To make the process of replacing your documents easier it can be a good idea to keep a list of your important card numbers somewhere safe so that you can easily refer to it when you need to replace your cards. Always remember though: never keep pin numbers/passwords with the card numbers.

What to do

If you suspect that you are a victim of identity crime, or have had your identification lost or stolen, you can take the following steps to help minimize the damage and prevent any further identity theft and fraud:

- Notify your Financial Institutions immediately to have them cancel your cards and re-issue them and put alerts on your accounts
- Contact the police department where the theft or loss occurred to file a report. Even if a police officer does not attend to take the report in person you will be provided with a file number which many agencies will require. Police departments map crime locations and statistics and use this information to identify suspects and trends.
- Contact consumer credit reporting agencies Equifax and TransUnion to alert them of the theft. These agencies will add a statement to your file to alert credit grantors that you may be a victim of fraudulent activity. This may mean that the next time you apply for credit you will be questioned more thoroughly as a precautionary measure. The credit grantor wants to make sure that you are, in fact, the person you say you are. You can also obtain free copies of your credit report which will list all accounts in your name. Contact them by phone toll free or obtain services through their websites:

[Trans Union Credit Bureau](https://www.transunion.ca): 1-800-663-9980

[Equifax Canada](https://www.equifax.ca): 1-800-465-7166

- If your driver's licence has been stolen, visit your driver licensing office to replace your old licence. You will need to bring some approved identification to have your licence replaced. Expect to pay a fee. For citizens of British Columbia you can contact ICBC for more information: [ICBC | Your licence](#)
- If your Social Insurance Card has been stolen you will need to apply for a new one. Your card number can be found on your income tax return. You cannot use copies of documents to apply for a new SIN card and must take original documents. Visit [Service Canada](#) for more information.
- If your BC Services or Care Card is lost or stolen you should report it immediately to Health Insurance BC. You can find out more information and how to replace your card at: [MSP – Your BC Services Card/CareCard](#). You will need two pieces of identification.
- If your passport is lost or stolen you should report it immediately to Passport Canada at 1.800.567.6868. Information on how to replace the document can be found at [Passport Canada](#)
- If you have had your British Columbia birth certificate stolen you can find more information on what you should do next at [Vital Statistics BC](#)

Cell phones – What to do if your cell phone is lost or stolen

Too many of us, our cell phones are more like small computers than phones. They are our photo albums, cameras, address books, diaries, games centres, banking centres, music storage and much more. The loss or theft of a cell phone can be costly and devastating due to the sheer amount of information we store on them.

For more information on fraud and identity theft, see Online Anti-Fraud Resources.

- Contact your wireless service provider immediately to flag and suspend your account
- Have your IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number written down or stored somewhere safe (you may access this number by typing *#06# into the keypad of your device or by looking on the back of your device behind the battery). If you know your IMEI number your wireless provider can add your phone to the National Blacklist Registry which means it will not be able to be activated
- Contact any banking institutions or change the passwords to any online banking and other online accounts that you access automatically from your phone
- [Report the theft to police.](#)

Have You Heard These? - from my grandkids

Q: What did the paper say to the pencil?

A: You have a good point.

Q: What did the pencil sharpener say to the pencil?

A: Stop going in circles and get to the point.

Q: What did one math book say to the other?

A: I have a lot of problems.

Q: If your reindeer lost his tail, where would you go to buy him a new one?

A: A retail store!

Q: What do mountains wear to keep warm?

A: Snowcaps.

Q: How are you supposed to talk in the apple library?

A: With your in-cider voice.

NO BELLS LUNCHEON (September 7th, 2023)-- **Angelika Hedley** (photos A. Hedley)

What a picture-perfect start to a new non-school year, under Sharkey's umbrellas on the sunbathed riverside patio! Nine well-spaced tables meant lots of meet – greet - mingle room. Conversations bubbled. It was a joy to sit beside my grade 5 and all-time favourite teacher, hearing about her family's summer reunion. New acquaintances at the next table became an impromptu book club sharing their current reads. Retirees in bliss! Sharkey's does all cooking in-house, and the food was fresh and delicious. We enjoyed a choice of Pub Burger, Fish & Chips, and Seafood or Beef Pasta, with vegetarian options available.



Caroline Malm (BCRTA 1st VP) gave a concise, yet thorough, overview of the benefits available to members, and Lisa Hansen encapsulated the changes to and details of the BCRTA Insurance packages with Johnson Insurance.

Ladner Harbour provided an idyllic background. People at my table hoped we'd come here again.





THE SECRET GARDEN POP UP - Angelika Hedley (photos A. Hedley)

In true South Delta fashion, rainy weather cleared as 4 intrepid retirees toured The Secret Garden in Tsawwassen on Sept. 27. The garden's genesis was on Sept. 11, 2001 when in dismay Brian Whitehouse began clearing the blackberries growing rampant in the laneway behind his house. Over time, and with huge help from wife Juvey, and volunteer labour/help from relatives and friends, the garden evolved onto its present beauty. Awe and peace reign. We were thrilled when Brian and Juvey came out to greet us, and then invited us into their private home garden. Juvey shared how she both overwintered and propagated the many succulents. We learned how she creates the stunning wall and container displays. Brian introduced Annie to a spotty dottie! This tour will be repeated in April, when The Secret Garden will display its amazing Spring self.





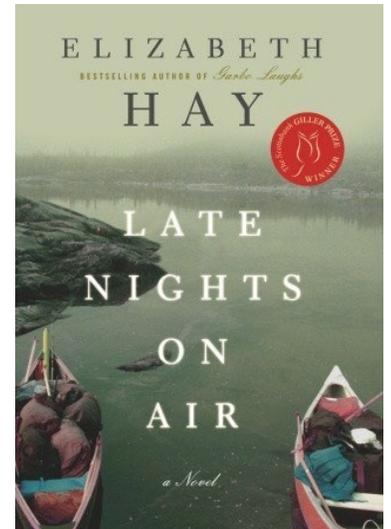
Recommended Reading for the Coming Season

from Val Windsor

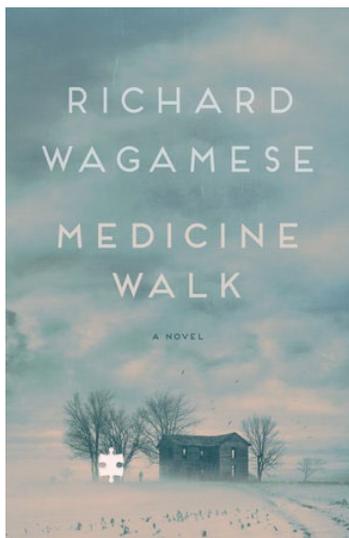
1) Late Nights on Air – Elizabeth Hay

Harry Boyd, a hard-bitten refugee from failure in Toronto television, has returned to a small radio station in the Canadian North. There, in Yellowknife, in the summer of 1975, he falls in love with a voice on air, though the real woman, Dido Paris, is both a surprise and even more than he imagined.

Dido and Harry are part of the cast of eccentric, utterly loveable characters, all transplants from elsewhere, who form an unlikely group at the station. Their loves and longings, their rivalries and entanglements, the stories of their pasts and what brought each of them to the North, form the centre.



2) Medicine Walk – Richard Wagamese



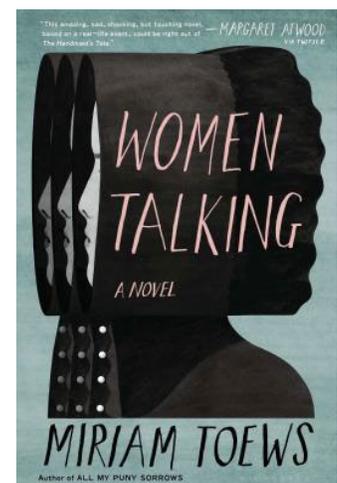
Franklin Starlight is called to visit his father, Eldon. He's sixteen years old and has had the most fleeting of relationships with the man. The rare moments they've shared haunt and trouble Frank, but he answers the call, a son's duty to a father. He finds Eldon decimated after years of drinking, dying of liver failure in a small-town flophouse. Eldon asks his son to take him into the mountains, so he may be buried in the traditional Ojibway manner.

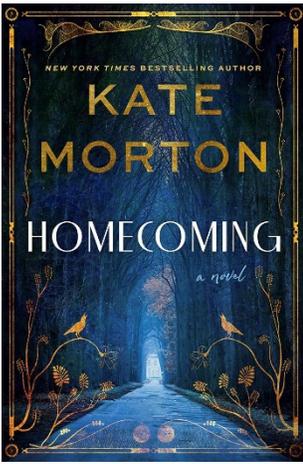
A novel about love, friendship, courage, and the idea that the land has within it powers of healing, *Medicine Walk* reveals the ultimate goodness of its characters and offers a deeply moving and redemptive conclusion.

From Suzan Egan-Olsen

1) "Women Talking" by Miriam Toews

A masterpiece. Based on real events and told through the 'minutes' of the women's all-female symposium, Toews's masterful novel uses wry, politically engaged humour to relate this tale of women claiming their own power to decide.



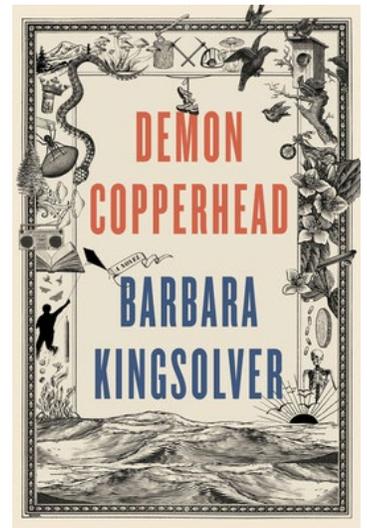


2) "Homecoming" by Kate Morton

While dealing with a sad subject, you will fall in love with the characters and share with them the sometimes-difficult relationships between females: mother-daughter, aunt, grandmother and friends. Set in Australia, I kept forgetting, and wondered a few times why they complained so much about the sweltering heat in winter. Although involving great tragedy and family secrets, Kate Morton sensitively and sympathetically places women where they fit in historically. A must read for book clubs.

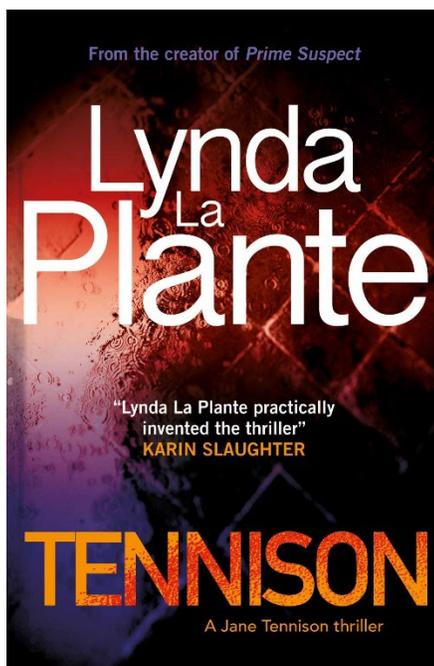
3) "Demon Copperhead: by Barbara Kingsolver

A Pulitzer Prize remake of David Copperfield that my book club is reading is in honour of Charles Dickens, and it does not disappoint. It is a very meaty read, as is "Demon". Absolutely charming and engaging from the first page. I couldn't put it down. It is epic in its scope, set in America's hard-pressed rural South. It is an angry, powerful book seething with love and outrage for a community too often stereotyped and ignored.



from Pat Thiesen

"Tennison" by Lynda La Plante



From the creator of the British TV series, *Prime Suspect*, author La Plante begins Jane Tennison's story back in the earliest days of her career with the police. The series showcases her trials and tribulations as she solves some of the world's top mysteries. Book One, *Tennison*, begins when as a probationary police officer, Jane Tennison is working at Hackney police station. She's immediately confronted with horrific crimes, the realities of the area's problems with drugs and gangs, in addition to the institutional sexism of the police force in the 1970s. Her first case takes her to arenas she never imagined in her privileged up-bringing - the autopsy suite, the squats and squalid estates of London and the corrupt operational practices of her colleagues.

In Memoriam



Helen Matson – October 4, 1935 – July 20, 2023

Helen began her teaching career in Delta and Burnaby, eventually moving north to Atlin to teach in the town where she was born. While there, she met her husband Ted - they wed in 1961, eventually settling in Tsawwassen, where they raised their two sons, Thor and Mark, while Helen taught at Cliff Drive Elementary until her retirement.



Leonard Shane

– January 28, 1943 – August 9, 2023

Len was educated at the University of Winnipeg and moved to Vancouver more than 45 years ago and raised his family in the Lower Mainland. Len shared his love for the world full of colour and beauty in his paintings.



Remembrance Day 2022



Mary Louise (ML) Owen

– February 17, 1945 – August 28, 2023

As a primary teacher in District #37 (Delta) for over 30 years, ML taught at several schools, including Ladner, Hawthorne, Cliff Drive and Neilson Grove. She truly loved teaching her students how to square dance, to create their own autobiographies and on leaving her class each one knowing the basics of arithmetic calculations.

Another Remembrance come and gone

I reflect on the importance of remembering important historical events, so that, God forbid, they do not repeat themselves. That, sadly, cannot be said of conflicts, racism, wars and openly expressed hatred. In fact, result of very effective transmission devices that communicate with great speed, we can watch live feeds of Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, as examples.

Remembrance Day itself, is an easy occasion to observe. We honour our fallen soldiers from so many armed conflicts with ceremonies, rituals, prayers, poppies, wreaths, special music and songs, planes flying over cenotaphs all over the world. Each country has its own contribution to mark since its institution in November of 1917, originally conceived as a day where women who had lost husbands, sons, brothers and nephews could ask nations to cherish their memories. I would also like to mention the passing of Lyle Gatley and Dave Norcott, two former Delta teachers who passed away this year.

Suzan E-O.

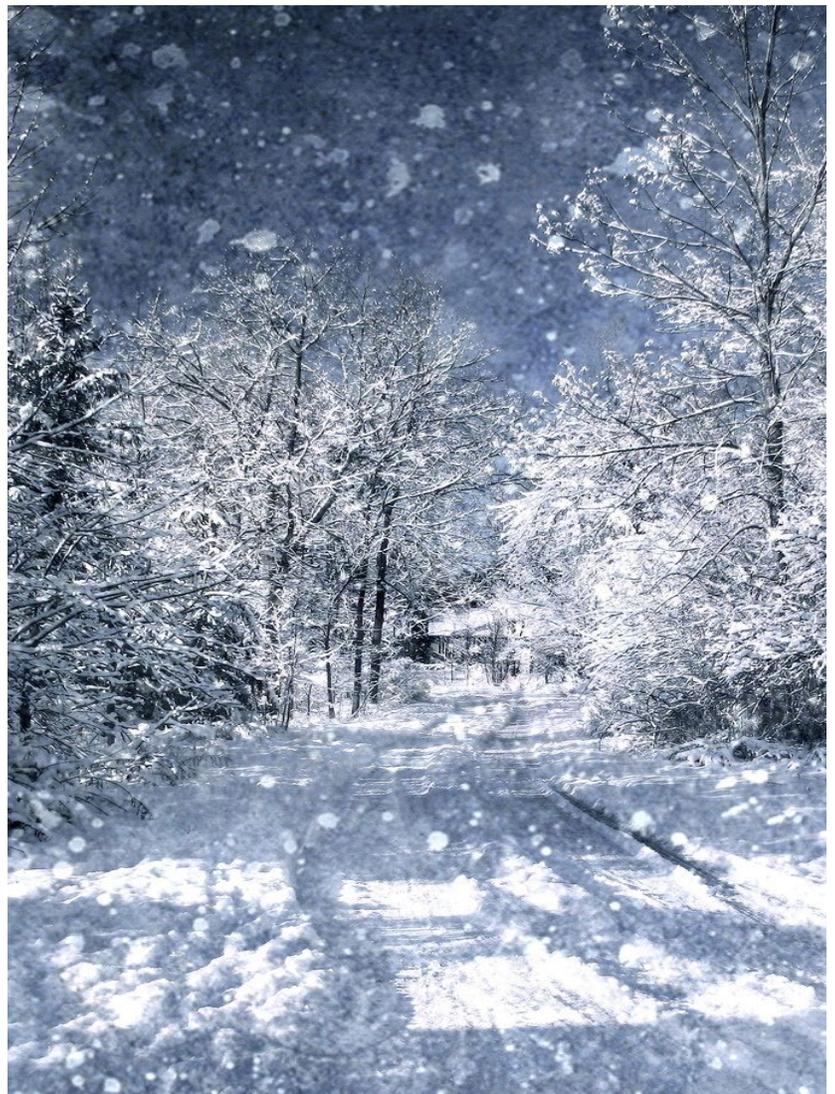
Falling Snow Anonymous

See the pretty snowflakes
Falling from the sky;
On the wall and housetops
Soft and thick they lie.

On the window ledges.
On the branches bare;
Now how fast they gather,
Filling all the air.

Look into the garden,
Where the grass was green;
Covered by the snowflakes,
Not a blade is seen.

Now the bare black bushes
All look soft and white,
Every twig is laden, --
What a pretty sight!



THE "QUEST" FOR 100

No, this isn't an item about longevity - "everyone knows" that those who retire from working in schools plan on living to at least 100, and never, ever, "lose" their keys or glasses, or wonder why they are in a particular room!

This article is actually about visiting 100 or more countries/remote territories. There are about 185 countries on earth, although that can change slightly from time to time. The Century Club (travelerscenturyclub.org) though, lists 330, based on the idea that some parts, if more than 200 miles from the country itself, should be listed separately - thus Canada is "2", since PEI is shown separately (why? I don't know, so didn't count it as part of the 100. Many feel Newfoundland should count too, but not so, since it's attached to Labrador)

The "collecting" of the countries didn't start out that way - my wife, Louise, and I, simply enjoyed travelling. We visited some places for hours, others for months. The rules state that you have to get off the plane, train, or ship and touch the land itself. We took one lengthy cruise which stopped at 14 countries, and the complications of that travel were massive: we lost 1 place due to violence; another came back on the list at the last moment following many warnings; some gentlemen carrying very large machine guns joined us as security for a few days while 10 navies watched our progress; and we practised lying on the floor in the centre of the vessel just in case of pirates! Better than Monday mornings when working? Oh, yes. That voyage took us to 99, and, unfortunately, happened just before the pandemic, so getting #100 has taken years.

The closest place that qualifies as #100 (that we haven't been to) is St. Pierre et Miguelon, French possessions just off the coast of Newfoundland. So to get there requires the planning of a circuitous route - I mean, we could fly there, claim it as done, and fly home - but where's the fun and adventure in that? We'd never made it to "the rock" in 4 attempts, and both wanted to see L'Anse aux Meadows, the Viking settlement in northern Newfoundland, so booked a suitable trip a year ago - unfortunately, it had to be cancelled shortly before departure! We tried again this year (it operates only once a year), and discovered a couple of things - booking close to departure can be cheaper, sometimes by thousands of dollars. We flew a few weeks ago on Westjet's very plain business class (everyone knows retired education types are filthy rich) to Toronto, stayed in an hotel within the airport (mediocre Marriott, but the downtown places were \$500 - 1500/night, as opposed to \$200), then caught the train within the terminals to the train into the city to Union Station to the train to Montreal. (Some of you may know that I like trains). We'd never done the fancy cars on Via Rail's speedy runs, and enjoyed the experience thoroughly. Good food included and free booze, which was a bit of a waste, as neither of us are big drinkers. We had a few days in Montreal, then boarded the Seabourn Quest, along with the 400 passengers and 300 crew, so it's high end (endless free

booze, tips included, no extra-charge fancy restaurants, the cabins are suites, stunning service, and the trivia prizes are worth more than 10 cents!) We followed Hurricane Lee, so the first 5 days were rough going up the St. Lawrence. Regrettably, the seas prevented our docking anywhere near L'Anse au Meadows, as we'd need to use the lifeboats to get ashore there. St. John's was closing the touristy stuff for the winter which surprised us, until we spotted the icebergs floating in the harbour. A very large cruise ship moored next to us was in for repairs, having had a passenger die during the hurricane, and 17 needed to be hospitalized, so we stopped grumbling about a missed port. I'd wanted to do the "kiss the cod" ceremony, which involves drinking some screech, and kissing a cod, which our granddaughters felt was the most disgusting thing they'd evvvver heard of, so I had to do it! It was a Saturday evening in St. John's, and the pubs weren't doing it that night, as they were expecting a rough night of drunkenness - the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary were already out in force. I thought I was out of luck, but we went on a Puffin tour the next morning, and they did a "screech ceremony" on board - drink screech, kiss the back end of a Puffin, put on the bright yellow sou'wester fisherman's hat, sing "*I'se the B'y*" to the cheers of the passengers, and thus gain "honourary Newfie" status. A giggle of grandchildren here are now suitably disgusted, but want the hat for Hallowe'en!

The next morning saw us docked in French territory, where not everyone speaks English, and they accept only euros. We disembarked, touched the soil, and jumped up and down - "We did it! We did it", which confirmed our insanity to the others around. We were known by many others by this point in the voyage, as we'd been winning the trivia contests - (What timepiece has the greatest number of moving parts? - answer to come) Some of my former colleagues will agree that my head contains a lot of absolutely useless info. The ship laid on shuttle buses to the village of St. Pierre, where it was Monday morning, normally a day when all the shops are closed. The locals knew we were coming, so stayed closed - how very Gallic. Our French was used little, and we still have the euros. Loved it! Answer: An hourglass!

Other ports preceded Quebec City, where 3 ships containing 5,000 passengers had arrived. Many of the passengers wanted to get from the old town to the upper area near the Chateau Frontenac, and there's now a funicular! It was, of course, ... closed. How Gallic?!. Nevertheless, we got up there and hired a caleche, the horse-drawn carriage which tours the area - the last time we were there, we hadn't been able to afford it. It was great. Eventually, it was time to return to the ship, and we'd heard the funicular was now running, but when we got there, it had broken down.

It was a lovely trip, and we've been home for some days now, with good memories of our 100th country/territory.

Andrew Preddy

As I now take my 11-year-old chihuahua rescue out for thrice daily walks and meanders, I am struck by how nature is a metaphor for thoughts, feelings and ponderings. As annuals die and trees shed their leaves, so do threads in my mind. Certain ideas connected to events are laid to rest forever, others will emerge in the spring as the garden responds to warmer temperatures and more sun. I wonder what colour of geraniums I will plant, how many, and will the new perennials I planted a short while ago, come back?

The Christmas season will welcome a few poinsettias in my condo as well as many ornaments that resemble winter greenery. The neighbourhood will be flooded with attempts to bring some light to the winter darkness, in which very little can grow. Underfoot lies inches of much needed precipitation for the return of spring. All is well in my family, my children's lives and in my dearest friends, sadly I pray for peace in other war-torn parts of the world, how truly blessed we all are to live in this magnificent country.

I want my garden to reflect the contentment of my life in retirement, filled with so many worthwhile activities and organizations, peopled with amazing individuals, each one a beautiful flower.

Suzan Egan-Olsen

Learning about Gardening from the Experts at the Van Dusen Gardens

VanDusen Botanical Garden is dedicated to increasing the awareness and appreciation of the Plant Kingdom through public education and training in botany, horticulture, ecology, garden design and related fields.

Master Gardener Program

For information about the Vancouver Master Gardener program, please visit their website.

<https://mgabc.org/article/vancouver-basic-training>

The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association is pleased to provide bursaries for older adults (+55) in financial need.

Bursaries are available on a limited basis for all adult education programs, including Speaker Series and guided tours. Please fill out the form that corresponds to your interest and submit it by email to learn@vandusen.org. You can also reach out for more support at 604.718.5898.

Hours of Operation - VanDusen Botanical Garden is open 7 days a week, except for Christmas Day - November through February 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - thanks to Joanne Thauli



Fun and Games Pages

A Winter Trivia Quiz

1. What is the ancient stone monument that's aligned with the winter solstice sunset?
2. The Winter Palace is located in what city?
3. A winter 1983 shortage of which toy led to a rash of retail riots?
4. According to tradition, what insect in the town of Vermilion predicts the winter weather?
5. In what year was the snowmobile first patented?
6. What animal is known for turning white during the winter for camouflage?
7. Which country is credited with inventing the sauna, a popular winter activity?
8. What fruit is traditionally associated with Christmas and winter holidays?
9. In North America, which bird is known to stick around in snowy winters instead of migrating?
10. In what city is the world's largest skating rink located?



Make a Chain - Reaction

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. Alabama, Book, Change, Colour, Exact, Mobile, Swatch
2. Ancient, Apple, Candy, Cotton, Egyptian, Money, Seed
3. Base, Beef, Camp, Flash, Ground, Light, Touch
4. Arrow, Care, Count, Giver, Head, Sheep, Skin
5. Business, Cold, Expense, Family, Feet, First, Stop
6. Attack, Ear, Loan, Museum, Rabbit, Shark, Wax
7. Christmas, Good, Lily, News, Paper, Tiger, White
8. Butter, Circus, Finger, Peanut, Puppet, Section, String
9. Back, Bell, Door, Get, Hop, Out, Stage
10. Bear, Brother, Gee, Kid, Paw, Print, Whiz

Riddle Me This 1

- 1) What has many keys but can't open a single lock?
- 2) What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?
- 3) What word of five letters has one left when two are removed?

Alphabetical Run – Clothing

How many articles of clothing can you name in 2 minutes?

A _____

N _____

B _____

O _____

C _____

P _____

D _____

Q _____

E _____

R _____

F _____

S _____

G _____

T _____

H _____

U _____

I _____

V _____

J _____

W _____

K _____

X _____

L _____

Y _____

M _____

Z _____



Word Chains - Create a chain to connect the first word to the last by changing only one letter at a time. (e.g. Change Cup to Tea - CUP, CAP, TAP, TAN, TEN, TEA)

1. Change HAIR to BALD (4 steps)
2. Change FIRE to DAMP (4 steps)
3. Change TOTE to BAGS (4 steps)
4. Change FORE to LOCK (5 steps)
5. Change SAND to FLEA (5 steps)
6. Change HAIR to CARE (6 steps)
7. Change KEEP to SAKE (6 steps)
8. Change MEAN to NICE (7 steps)
9. Change LOCK to STEP (7 steps)
10. Change PROM to DATE (8 steps)

Strike Out

	A	B	C	D
1	CREEK	AROUSE	KEEN	SHOOT
2	FINAL	START	ELSE	INDIAN
3	STREETS	LAPEL	LOVE	SLEEP
4	PLACE	ANIMAL	CHAISE	RISE
5	PULP	CLASP	IRES	ARIA
6	COOL	PIECES	RIVER	IS
7	RAISED	SIRE	SILVER	CONIC
8	BLIND	AROMA	UKRAINE	AGATE
9	TABLET	FROWN	MAKE	UPRAISE
10	OBVIATE	CHARM	OLEO	ON

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.

1. STRIKE OUT all words that have 4 different vowels.
2. STRIKE OUT all words that begin and end with the same vowel.
3. STRIKE OUT all words in Column B that have only one vowel.
4. STRIKE OUT all words immediately above or below seven-letter words.
5. STRIKE OUT all words that have double vowels.
6. STRIKE OUT all words that are anagrams of ERIS.
7. STRIKE OUT all words that begin or end with the same consonant.
8. STRIKE OUT all six-letter words that contain 3 vowels and 3 consonants.

Your Quote: _____.



Riddle Me This 2

- a) What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in 1,000 years?
- b) What common English verb becomes its own past tense by rearranging its letters?
- c) What burns the most calories and requires no effort in doing so?

Math Minute or 2 - What do you still remember?

- a) Complete the sequence 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, _____, _____, _____ .
- b) If $x^3 = 125$, what does x equal? _____
- c) Gramps has 7 coins in his pocket worth 65 cents. How many different ways could he have that money using only nickels, dimes and quarters? _____
- d) If a square has an area of 64 square centimetres, What is its perimeter? _____
- e) Insert parenthesis () to make the equation true. $5 \times 3 - 4 + 10 = 1$ _____
- f) Seven more than three times a number is 25. What is the number? _____
- g) If the last month was October, what month will it be 21 months from now? _____
- h) The sum of 3 consecutive whole numbers is 108. What are the numbers? _____
- i) What are the x and y intercepts of the line $2x - 3y + 6 = 0$? $X =$ _____; $y =$ _____
- j) Jack is 5 years older than Mary. In four years the sum of their age is 33 years old. What are their ages?

Crypto-Quote

This quote has been encoded using single letter substitution. Each letter of the alphabet has been replaced by a different letter.

REIHJB GOKK HVM RVNB OQ GB GIOM QVY ZVNB VMEBY WBYZVH

VY ZVNB VMEBY MONB. GB IYB MEB VHBZ GB'SB PBBH GIOMOHJ

QVY. GB IYB MEB REIHJB MEIM GB ZBBL. – PIYIRL VPINI



Christmas Joy

Featuring the Delta Community Choir,
Delta Chamber Choir & Delta Children's Choir

Friday, December 1 7:30pm
Saturday, December 2 2:00 & 7:00pm



Cedar Park Church
5300 44th Avenue, Ladner, BC

Tickets \$25. Students \$20. Children 10 and Under Free

Tickets available online at www.deltachoral.ca
For questions or assistance with tickets, email info@deltachoral.ca

Fun and Games Pages - Answers

Winter Trivia

1. Stonehenge
2. St. Petersburg, Russia
3. Cabbage Patch Kids
4. Woolly Bear Caterpillar
5. 1927
6. Arctic Fox
7. Finland
8. Oranges, esp. Mandarin oranges
9. The Cardinal
10. Ottawa

Chain Reaction Answers

1. Exact, Change, Colour, Swatch, Book, Mobile, Alabama
2. Ancient, Egyptian, Cotton, Candy, Apple, Seed, Money
3. Flash, Light, Touch, Base, Camp, Ground, Beef
4. Arrow, Head, Count, Sheep, Skin, Care, Giver
5. Stop, Cold, Feet, First, Family, Business, Expense
6. Rabbit, Ear, Wax, Museum, Loan, Shark, Attack
7. Good, News, Paper, Tiger, Lily, White, Christmas
8. Circus, Peanut, Butter, Finger, Puppet, String, Section
9. Get, Out, Back, Stage, Door, Bell, Hop
10. Gee, Whiz, Kid, Brother, Bear, Paw, Print

Possible Clothing Answers – Some of these are a bit of a stretch as clothing, but wearables

Ascot, Blouse, Coat, Denims, Ear Warmers, Flannel shirt, Gym shorts, Hoodie, Indian Sari, Jeans, Kimono, Leotard, Mini Skirt, Nightgown, Overalls, Poncho, Quilted Vest, Raincoat, Sweater, Tank Top, Uniform, Vest, Wedding Gown, X-Ray Glasses, Yoga Pants, Zipper Jacket

Riddle Me This 1

1. Piano
2. Silence
3. Stone

Word Chains

1. Hair, hall, ball, bald
2. Fire, dire, dime, dame, damp
3. Tote, tots, togs, tags, bags
4. Fore, fare, face, lace, lack, lock
5. Sand, send, fend, feed, fled, flea
6. Hair, Hail, mail, mall, male, mare, care
7. Cane, lane, land, lend, lead, load, toad
8. Mean, meat, melt, malt, male, mile, mice, nice
9. Lock, sock, soak, soar, star, stat, stet, step
10. Prom, prop, crop, coop, coos, cots, dots, dote, date

Strike Out Quote – Love is blind.

Riddle Me This 2 a) the letter “m” b) eat c) sleep

Math Minute or 2

a) 8, 13, 21 b) 5 c) 3 possible combinations d) 32 centimetres

e) $(5 \times 3) - (4 + 10) = 1$ f) 6 g) August h) 35, 36, 37

i) $x = -3$, and $y = 2$ j) Mary is 10 and Jack is 15 years old.

Crypto-Quote

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. – Barack Obama

**“May you be blessed
With the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love.”**

