



Volume 2, Number 9

May 2025

PQRTA Newsletter

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

You are Invited!

You are invited to join your retired PQRTA colleagues for our annual End-Of-Year luncheon. This year, we have secured the Parksville Legion, where we will be treated to a catered lunch!

Event: **Year-End PQRTA Luncheon JUNE 18, 2025**
Where: **Parksville Legion** 146 Hirst Ave W, Parksville, BC V9P 1K3
When: Doors open: 11:30
Lunch to be served at 12:30
Cost: **\$25 (members)**
Guests \$30

Please register at pqrtaevents@gmail.com or call 778-828-9975. Please provide your name and that of your guest (if applicable).

Registration opens May 28, 2025

Registration Deadline is June 11, 2025

Just for Fun

The **Village Eatery** was hopping with customers enjoying coffee and brekkie on Wednesday, April 30th. We had lots of fun just talking and getting to know each other better.

Feedback from attendees suggested two things: First, that we add a bit more structure and ask people to send an 'expression of intent to attend' Just-for-Fun events, and also that we consider an outing beyond Oceanside for our next Just-For-Fun activity.

With that in mind, I propose to plan a trip to the **Malahat SkyWalk** for **Wednesday May 28th**. The cost of \$45 will cover admission and transportation. Lunch is optional and would be extra*. The tower takes about 90 minutes to ascend and there are places to eat lunch near the top. I suggest that we plan to leave here at 10:00 a.m. to travel south together. We will climb the skywalk together and have lunch at the top*, returning to Oceanside early-mid afternoon.

Space will be limited to 6 participants. However, if you have a passenger vehicle and are willing to drive, that number can be expanded.

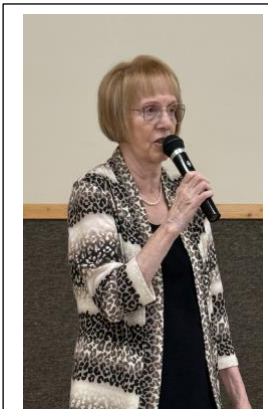
Register at pqrtaevents@gmail.com or call 778-828-9975 to indicate your intent to attend. Let me know if you are willing to drive your own vehicle and how many passengers you can take. Also please indicate if you have an annual pass, which would bring your cost to \$5 for transportation. Meet-up details upon registration. **Deadline for Registration is May 26th, 2025.**

ORES Corner.

Thank you to all the ORES donors. We have had a great response for Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship Fund and have collected enough this year to provide *three full* scholarships for our gradatess from Ballenas, Kwalicum Secondary and PASS! Watch this space to see the names and photos of our worthy recipients in the July newsletter, after the scholarships have been awarded.

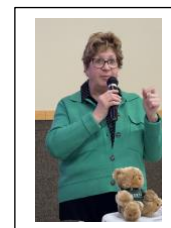
Thank You

...to all who joined us for the recent event (April 8) at Arrowsmith Hall. **Lisa Hansen** of Johnson Insurance gave all who attended lots of up-to-date information on BCRTA Insurance options, including Home, Auto, Extended Health care, and everybody's favourite topic, Travel Insurance. Participants learned about recent and upcoming changes to your insurance options.



Lisa was joined at the event by our current BCRTA President, **Caroline Malm**, who dazzled with her warmth and humour while bringing the participants up-to-the-minute information on Pensions and the BCRTA's Election Booklet. While the Federal election is now history, it was a timely reminder of issues affecting seniors and how each of us can take control of our own responses to the issues.

Judy took the mike to reassure the participants that the 'phishing' emails they may have received from her are, in fact scam emails and should be ignored. She also reminded members to contact office@bcrt.ca if they stop receiving Postscript as their membership status may need to be updated. Also a reminder to encourage any still-working colleagues you know who are considering retirement to sign



up for a BCRTA Pre-Retirement workshop. Sign-up details are easily found on the BCRTA website, bcrt.ca

On June 18, we will also be holding our AGM after the annual luncheon. Following opening remarks, we will have a bit of important business to take care of, including voting on a proposed amendment to our Registration Policy which was discussed and passed at March 31 2025 EC Meeting.

The PQRTA Executive Committee recommends to the membership that the registration policy be amended to read:

Motion: Moved Stewart/Seconded: Koropatnick

That PQRTA/BCRTA members register to attend a PQRTA sponsored event during the stated registration period.

If a member wishes to bring a paying guest (non-BCRTA member/non-teacher), they will:

- **provide the guest's name at the time of registration**
- **accompany the guest to check-in**
- **be responsible for the guest's behaviour at the event.**

Following this brief business, we will be inviting members who have been thinking of getting more involved to raise their hands and take the plunge. As many of you know, our executive has been reduced to a shadow of its former self for the past couple of years, with only 5 active members (formerly 10). While we do our best to provide an interesting and informative program of activities to keep our members up to date on BCRTA programs and initiatives, we have not been able to provide the scope of more social activities and experiences we have in the past, as our collective energy can only be spread so far. We would love to welcome new members of the executive to help us to expand our reach and provide more for the membership.

*If you have a few spare hours in your month and would like to help your fellow retired colleagues, please consider volunteering as a member of the PQRTA Executive. **All positions are open each year**, but we are most eager to hear from members who would like to assist with planning and preparing social events and activities (Programs Chair), keeping in contact with our Life Members (Sunshine Chair), managing and maintaining our ever-fluctuating membership list (Membership Chair), taking minutes and helping the President to stay organized at meetings (Secretary), or providing back-up in leadership today and into the future (Vice President). Please contact **Cathy VanHerwaarden** (partapastpresident@gmail.com) Past President and Nominations Chair, to discuss where you feel you can be most helpful.*

Please see the following page for a list of Executive positions and duties.

Summary of Duties for each Position on the PQRTA Executive

President:

Under the umbrella of the BCRTA Board, plans, directs, and oversees all events and the PQRTA Executive by planning and chairing meetings and representing PQRTA through attending events and correspondence as well as liaising with the M.A.TA. local

Vice-President:

Assists and supports the President as required and assumes President's duties if President is unable to attend an event

Past-President:

This role is only open to the individual who immediately precedes the current President to assist and advises the current President in performing her/his duties.

Treasurer:

Collects and distributes monies as required for the operation of PQRTA and makes a Treasurer's report at each Executive meeting; at the year end and BCRTA at year end.

Secretary:

Takes minutes at each executive meeting, shares draft minutes with the President and maintains approved minutes in the Secretary binder.

Communications Chair:

Maintains a current list of PQRTA members and contact information and serves as a general means of communication between the EC and the membership, through email, telephone, and/or mail; may create and publish a monthly newsletter.

Programs Chair:

Planning PQRTA events with the President and EC and managing registration. This includes speakers and workshops through the year and the three special events 'To Hell with the Bell' in September, a Winter luncheon in December, and the AGM/Luncheon in June; finding and booking venues and appropriate food; provide the to the Treasurer for collecting payments; provide event information to Communications Chair for member distribution; arranges for carpooling for events outside of the community.

Membership Chair:

Maintains an accurate and up-to-date list of members including contact information (received from BCRTA via the President); welcomes new members by welcoming and introducing new members at the 'THWTB' and other events.

Sunshine Chair:

Overall is responsible to maintain contact with Life Members by spring and birthday greetings as well as purchase and delivery of Christmas poinsettias and communicate with any other members to recognize life events.





Volunteers make the world go 'round at NIWRA!

If you have visited North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre, you will be familiar with our fantastic team of volunteers.

- Can you envision yourself being part of a cause that makes a world of difference to wild animals in need?
- Would you like more information on our volunteer positions and how you can join our team?

You Are Invited!

Join us at our **Volunteer Fair on Wednesday, May 7**, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to explore our volunteer opportunities. Meet our team leaders, enjoy some snacks, and take a guided tour of the Centre.

To register please call our Bear Den Gift Shop to register at 250-248-8534, ext. 3.

Register for free admission.

We look forward to meeting you

If your address, phone number or email address changes, please contact us at pqrtapresident@gmail.com OR BCRTA at office@bcrt.ca to update your contact information. Thank You

PQRTA Executive

Parksville Qualicum Retired Teachers' Association Executive consists of PQRTA Members who share a passion for supporting our fellow members and other seniors in the community.

Judy Stewart	President	pqrtapresident@gmail.com
Cathy Van Herwaarden:	Past President	pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com
Vacant	Vice President	
Vacant	Secretary	
Ellen Coates	Treasurer	eacoates@telus.net
Vacant	Programs Chair	
Vacant	Membership Chair	
Vacant	Sunshine Chair	
Stephanie Koropatnick	Communications Chair	pqrtacommunications@gmail.com
Sharon Cox-Gustavson	Heritage Chair	sharoncg@shaw.ca

The PQRTA Newsletter is created and distributed by Stephanie Koropatnick, PQRTA Communications Chair. Please send comments & suggestions to: pqrtacommunications@gmail.com