



Volume 2, Number 10

June 2025

PQRTA Newsletter

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

The (Year) End is Near!

Remember to sign up to join your retired PQRTA colleagues for our annual End-Of-Year Luncheon on June 18 at the Parksville Legion, where we will be treated to a catered lunch!

Event: **Year-End PQRTA Luncheon**
Where: **Parksville Legion** 146 Hirst Ave W, Parksville
When: **June 18, 2025**
Doors open at 11:30
Lunch to be served at 12:30
Cost: **\$25 (for members)**
\$30 (for guests)
Payable at the door. Cash Preferred.

Luncheon Menu

BBQ chicken
3 choices of salad
Dinner roll
Coffee or Tea
Dessert

Please register at pqrtaevents@gmail.com or call 778-828-9975.

- Please provide your name and that of your guest (if applicable).
- Please let us know if you have any food allergies or sensitivities to pass on to the caterer.
- Please remember that if you register and are subsequently not able to come, you must let us know by June 11 or will be liable for the cost.

Registration Deadline is June 11, 2025

If you require transportation, please let us know when you register and a ride will be arranged for you.

Please welcome our new PQRTA Members:

**Byron Ayers,
Greg Meredith &
Karon Wilson**

At least two of these three retirees are from S.D. 69, so there is a good chance that some of you may know them!

ORES Corner

Thank you so much to all the ORES donors this year! We have had a great response for Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship Fund and have collected enough to provide **three full scholarships**, one for each our qualifying graduates from Ballenas, Qualicum and PASS! Watch this space to see the names and photos of our worthy recipients in next month's (July) newsletter, after the scholarships have been awarded.

Zone Meeting

On May 22, our President Judy Stewart hosted a BCRTA Zone Meeting with invited representatives from branches in the **North and Central Zone Vancouver Island Zone**, including Port Alberni (PARTA), Courtenay/Comox, (CCRTA), Campbell River (CRRTA), Port Hardy (NIRTA), Powell River (PRRTA) and of course PQRTA. We had lively discussions about our common issues, including triumphs and trials. We heard up-to-the minute BCRTA news from our 'Zone Directors' (and PQRTA members) Arnie and Stephanie. Highlights included hearing about an AGM with 83% attendance (in a tiny branch) all the different types of events held by each branch, and the commonalities we all share as island branches. Lots was learned and bridges and friendships were built.

On June 18, following our **Year-End Luncheon**, we will also be holding our **Annual General Meeting**. We will have a short agenda, with brief opening remarks, a bit of business to take care of, and will finish with elections for new members to the PQRTA Executive.

We wish to invite members who have been thinking of getting more involved to raise their hands and take the plunge and join the PQRTA Executive. As many of you know, our executive has been reduced to a skeleton of its required number of members 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 and 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 by contacting our Nominations Chair contact **Cathy VanHerwaarden** (pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com). If you have any questions about any of the position or how you could revise their duties, you can also contact Judy Stewart, at pqrtapresident@gmail.com.*

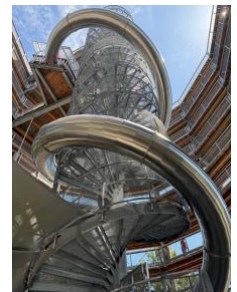
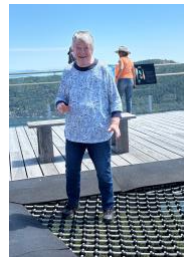
All positions are open each year, but we are most eager to hear from members who would like to assist with taking minutes and helping the Executive to stay organized at meetings (Secretary), keeping in contact with our Life Members (Sunshine Chair), providing back-up in leadership today and into the future (Vice President) or planning and preparing social events and activities (Programs Chair)

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

Just for Fun



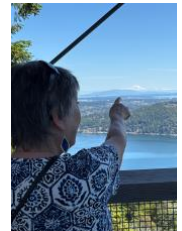
Cathy & Phyllis both display their nerve and balance skills on the recreation net suspended at the top!



The trip to the **Malahat SkyWalk** on **Wednesday May 28th** was a blast! The weather was spectacular and the scenery was beautiful. We all had so much fun. None of us had ever been to the Skywalk before so we enjoyed the thrill of being tourists on our own island. After the climb (which was much easier than I anticipated!) we grabbed lunch at nearby Mill Bay.. Yum!



Phyllis was a daredevil while best friend MaryAnn rested her achilles tendon



Look! I can see Mt. Baker from here!



We lucked out with the weather, with temperatures as high as 25 C and blue skies as far as the eye could see...which was very far indeed!



* * * * *

So this month, let's do something else I have never done before and go for **LUNCH** at the **Dinghy Dock Pub** on **Protection Island** on **Monday, June 23, 2025 at 12:00!**

If you would like to join us, please register at pqrtaevents@gmail.com (or call 778-828-9975) to indicate your intent to come and receive details of the day.

Deadline for Registration is June 18th, 2025 (So you can register at our Year-End Event/AGM)!

I will be leaving from Parksville at approximately 10:30. I can take 6 people with me in my passenger van. If you can drive and have room for passengers, please let me know, so we can take a larger group. Or, if you prefer to take your own car, you can meet us there.

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.T.A. local

Vice-President:

Assists and supports the President as required and assumes duties of the President if the 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 prepares a Treasurer's report at each Executive meeting and at the year-end, which is sent to 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:

Organizes PQRTA events with the President and Executive Committee. This includes securing speakers for workshops through the year as well as organizing the three annual special events: "To Hell with the Bell" in September, the Winter luncheon in December, and the AGM/Year-End Luncheon in June. Duties include finding and booking venues and appropriate food, providing event information to Communications Chair for member distribution, managing registration for events, providing a registration list to the Treasurer for collecting payments, and arranging for carpooling for events outside of the community if required. This role may be shared.

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.

Heritage Chair:

Takes the lead on a project related to the history of the Parksville Qualicum School District and area. Works with the executive to develop a project to be shared with the membership and public.

Did you Know?

That **RRH Smith**, the charitable arm of BCRTA, granted monies this year to CHES (\$2500) AND The Wonderful World of Books (\$1500)?

Save the Date

Labour Day falls early in 2025, so mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 2nd for our *To Hell with the Bell* event!





Velma Awiti

Velma Awiti
Holy Cross Emeralds Girls High School
P.O. BOX Private Bag,
Khuiserod.

19/10/2024.

Dear Parksville, Qualicum RTA,
How are you? Hope you are fine and the Almighty has blessed you with a gift of health.
First and foremost I would like to apologise that for real I have dropped in this exams but I promise to be serious with my studies.

This term our school has participated in community work games and sports. In community work we were specified at specific places to work like church, market, roads, homes and other places. Our class was responsible to pick around inside the church. We did that work together in peace.

In games and sports we had different games like volleyball, football and athletics. We were very happy as students performed their talents. Teachers also competed with other teachers in athletics.

This long holiday, I am planning to help my parents in some activities like house chores, collecting firewood and fetching water from the river. I also plan to sit down and read to improve on my grade.

Goodbye! God bless you.

Yours faithful

Velma Awiti

CHES Update

As this is our last issue of the school year, we are including items we didn't have room for before, including letters we received earlier this year from the girls we sponsor through the Canadian Harambee Education Scholarship fund (CHES)

SCOVIA LUTTA
HOLY CROSS EMERALD GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL,
P.O. BOX
PRIVATE BAG KHUISEROD,
19th OCTOBER, 2024.

Dear sponsor, Parksville Qualicum RTA
How are you? I hope you are fine you and your family. I am also fine and of good health. I would like to inform you that our school has improved in term of academics. It has employed many teachers to ensure that students succeed.

In our class we were sixty seven but three went to transfer because of some challenges and now we have remained sixty four students. Our school has a library that has many revision books which facilitated our learning. In games I participate in netball and basketball because they are my favourite games.

During the holiday I have planned to go and work hard so that new year and calling I improve more in my grades and marks. I will also work hard on subjects which are problems to me and which lower my grade and marks. I have also planned to take part in music activities in our church because I like singing and dancing.

My family is well and of good health and it is so thankful for your support. I would like to inform you that our principal has conducted new dormitory and bought other beds to ensure that we sleep comfortably.

I would like to thank you for your support and helping me to join in school that I have never imagined I will join. Thank you very much for supporting me.

Yours sincerely,
Scovia Lutta.

Scovia Lutta



If your address, phone number or email address changes, please contact us at partapresident@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
Cathy Van Herwaarden:
Vacant
Vacant
Ellen Coates
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant
Stephanie Koropatnick
Sharon Cox-Gustavson

President
Past President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Programs Chair
Membership Chair
Sunshine Chair
Communications Chair
Heritage Chair

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