

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

August 2025  
Issue No. 1

## CRTA Newsletter

### To Hell with the Bell Brunch

**Tuesday September 2, 2025**

**Burnaby Mountain Restaurant  
and Golf Course**

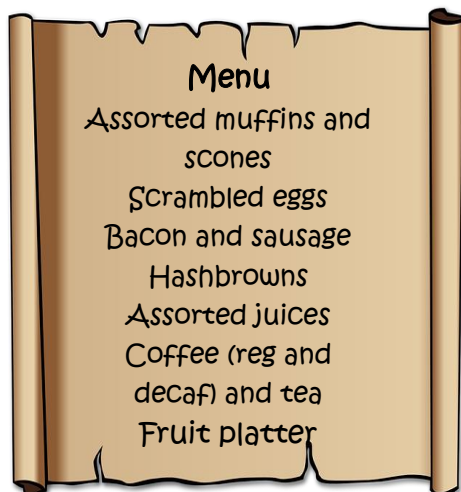
7600 Halifax St. Burnaby, B.C.

Doors open at **10am**

Tea & Coffee Available

If saving seats for others please ensure they arrive by **10:45am**

Brunch served: **11am**



Bar opens: **11am**



#### Directions

The restaurant is located at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course at the eastern end of Halifax Street.

From the Lougheed Highway, turn at Lake City Way, cross Broadway and continue on Arden Ave. and Burnwood, which follow around the golf course. At the four-way stop at Burnwood, turn left. The golf course is on the left just before Halifax St.

From Hastings St., turn at Kensington and continue to Halifax St. Turn left on Halifax and continue to Burnwood St. Turn left onto Burnwood and then right.

#### Ticket prices (per person) and Deadlines:

Members & Partners/Spouses:  
subsidized price: \$40.00

Friends (CRTA is not permitted to  
subsidize this price): \$52.00

**Deadline for receiving responses is **Monday August 25;**  
we are unable to accept payment at the door.**

#### Mark your calendar!

To Hell with the Bell Brunch – September 2, 2025

CRTA General Meetings:

- October 22, 2025
- February 4, 2026
- April 1, 2026
- June 3, 2026: AGM and free lunch  
\*All general meetings: doors open at **9:30am** and meetings begin at **10:00am** in the gym at Montgomery Centre
- December 3, 2025: Christmas Luncheon



**Payment methods:** cheque payable to CRTA **OR** eTransfer.

Payments need to arrive by **Monday, August 25th.**

1. **For cheques**, mail to: Howard Spence, 2288 Portage Ave, Coquitlam, V3K 2Z3.

Please mail cheques by **Thursday, August 21st.** Due to caterer's timelines, August 25th is a firm cut-off date

2. If you wish to make an **Interac e-transfer** and know how to do it, we are set up for auto-deposit. Just use this email address: [crtalunch@gmail.com](mailto:crtalunch@gmail.com) and provide the usual details, i.e. name(s) and phone number.

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association

CRTA 2025 –  
2026

## TABLE OFFICERS

<https://bcrt.ca/coquitlam/>

### **PRESIDENT**

Teresa Grandinetti  
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### **SECRETARY**

Jennifer Blenkinsop  
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### **TREASURER**

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## DIRECTORS

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### **BACK TO SCHOOL BRUNCH & LUNCHEONS**

Audrey Anthony  
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[louaud@telus.net](mailto:louaud@telus.net)

## **President's Report - submitted by Teresa Grandinetti**



The CRTA 2025 AGM was held on June 4th in the Montgomery Learning Centre Gym. Members attended a well-run meeting, listened to a wonderful musical presentation, and then enjoyed a delicious lunch.

The President's report gave a review of the activities of the past year and thanked CRTA EC members for all their efforts in ensuring that CRTA members are well looked after. **Howard Spence** presented the Treasurer's Report. The Association's finances are in good order.

The Executive Committee Elections gave the following results: **Teresa Grandinetti** - President, **Howard Spence** - Treasurer, **Jennifer Blenkinsop** - Secretary, and the following as Directors: **Caroline Malm, John Pope, Audrey Anthony, Fran Mitchell, Henry Thiessen, Vicki Stacey, Nick Magistrale, and Doug McSavaney**. The meeting elected **Teresa Grandinetti, Audrey Anthony, Doug McSavaney, John Pope, and Fran Mitchell**, Alternate, as CRTA delegates to the BCRTA AGM to be held September 25-27th at the Hilton Hotel in Richmond.

**Bergamasca Recorder Consort** presented an awesome musical journey through the centuries. The most fascinating part of the concert was watching the many different types of recorders being played - from a small sopranino, at less than 12 inches in length, to the very large contrabasses at over 7 feet tall!

The door prizes of stuffies and yummy chocolates were won by **Keith Evans, Lynn Sowerby, Cynthia Clerc, Denny Lowry, Gina Thorsteinsson, and Gwen Raycroft**.

The meeting adjourned and attending members socialized while enjoying bunwiches, salad, and dessert. Thank you to **CRTA EC members** for preparing the lunch!

*Teresa*



**The Coquitlam Teachers Association**

and

**CPVPA**

**the Coquitlam Principals and Vice-Principals Association**

request the pleasure of your company at our **Retirement Reception** in honour of retiring teachers and administrators on

**Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**4:00 to 6:00 PM**

Poco Inn and Suites, Poco Room 1545 Lougheed Highway, Port  
Coquitlam, BC

RSVP by September 11<sup>th</sup>

[kstewart@cta43.org](mailto:kstewart@cta43.org) or CTA Office (604) 936-9971

**CRTA members  
are invited!**

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association



## Presentations Report - submitted by Fran Mitchell

We've had a fantastic lineup of presentations at our General Meetings this past year, each one bringing something unique and enriching to our group.

We kicked things off in **October** with two knowledgeable speakers from **Fraser Health** who shared essential tips for every household on Advance Care Planning—information we can all benefit from having in place.

In **February**, we welcomed Jacquie and Sharon from **Crossroads Hospice** who gave us an inspiring overview of the wonderful services their Society offers to the community. It was a great reminder of the support that's available right here in our own backyard.

**April** brought us valuable updates when **BCRTA** President Caroline Malm and 1<sup>st</sup> VP Linda Watson gave us a clear and encouraging look at our Advantage Program and the financial health of our Teachers' Pension Fund. It was reassuring to learn that our funds are being managed with such care and expertise.

In **June**, to cap off the year on a joyful note, we were treated to a musical performance by the talented **Bergamasca Recorder Consort**. Their collection of recorders took us on a musical journey spanning over 500 years—from the Renaissance to the modern day—and even introduced us to some truly unusual (and fascinating!) instruments. It was both entertaining and enlightening!

I'm always on the lookout for fresh ideas and new voices. If you know someone who would make a great guest speaker—or if you have a talent you'd like to share—don't hesitate to reach out. I'd love to hear from you!



## Howard's Wonderful Wacky Word Games: Punny as Ever!

I have discovered a couple of ant problems around the house. On exploring options for getting rid of them, I have come across a couple of remedies.



One involves borax, which is deadly for ants. The other is a bit off the wall, but is very promising. I met a guy who works in the genetic engineering field. He has genetically modified a species of weevil that emits pheromones which are repulsive to ants. One weevil can cause a mass emigration of the ants – problem solved! He now leases the weevils on a monthly basis for ant control. I would need two of them, and the cost is very little. So I have decided to go with the lessor of the two weevils.

## An Amusing Anecdote - Thanks to Jennifer Blenkinsop

I had one English 10 class that met after lunch, during the time of **Sustained Silent Reading**, SSR. This was also during the time that students were beginning to indulge in some questionable substances at lunch time. Several of my students would return from lunch in a somewhat mellow mood.

As I walked around the class during SSR, I stopped by one student's desk and told him that his book was upside down. His immediate answer? "Don't worry...I'm on page 88".

## CRTA 2025– 2026 EXECUTIVE

### DIRECTORS cont'd

#### PHONING

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#### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Audrey Anthony

Teresa Grandinetti

Caroline Malm

#### FORMATTING

Howard Malm

# Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association



## Membership/Member Contact – submitted by Thomas John Pope:

Sign-up of new members was strong throughout the past 12 months. As of June 30th, membership totalled **819!** We look forward to welcoming many new District 43 retirees during 2025-2026.

Members are reminded that to contact the Branch, send an email message to our new address, [sd43.crt@gmail.com](mailto:sd43.crt@gmail.com), telephone 604.461.7355, or contact any member of the Executive Committee. We recommend that you add us to your email Contacts or designate us as a 'safe sender' with your Internet Service Provider (ISP) to avoid our messages being blocked.

## REMEMBERING THE “GOOD” OLD DAYS, OR NOT?!

Is there an incident from your early years of teaching that is always in your memory? Perhaps a moment from a teaching day that was completely unbelievable, start to finish? Or, that unforgettable student? Maybe a simple request for supplies to your principal that turned into a submission to the Federal Government? What was the amount of your first paycheque or what it did cost the students for a hot dog on Hot lunch Day?

A simple two to three sentence paragraph is all we need. Of course, you can always send us something longer, if you are so inclined. Do not worry if you are not a Nobel Prize author; we are willing to edit the submissions for the newsletter. The submissions can be either attributed or, if you wish, anonymous. Your stories will make interesting reading! Please send to [caroline@malm.ca](mailto:caroline@malm.ca)



## Join the CRTA Board & Make a Difference!

- Share your knowledge and experience
- Collaborate with fellow retired educators
- Help shape events for members
- Have a voice in decisions that matter
- Stay active in a community you care about
- Have fun!

**Contact Teresa for more information.**

## Thank You, Dale and Maria!

A heartfelt *thank you* to **Dale Linton, Sunshine/Welcome**, and **Maria Santone, Luncheons**, for your many years of dedicated service as CRTA Directors. Your kindness, care, and commitment have made a lasting impact on the CRTA. We are so grateful for everything you've contributed over the years. Although you have retired from the Board, you have volunteered to continue to be at the door with a warm welcome at our general meetings and luncheons, to thoughtfully send get well and sympathy cards, and to help at our Christmas Luncheon. As you move into this new chapter of service, we extend our warm wishes and appreciation.

*Merci beaucoup!*

## IN MEMORIAM



We regret to announce the passing of the following SD43 colleagues. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.



**Blake Handford:** December 9, 2024: Blake taught for over 30 years, including at Citadel Elementary School. He is survived by his wife, Helen, his two daughters, Sumiko and Midori, his grandchildren, extended family, and friends.

**Louise Grant:** May 14, 2025: Louise is survived by her husband Keith, sons, Keith Jr (Monica), Lawrence (Jessica) and Philip (Tina), grandsons Eric (Shaylee), Brandon, Oliver, Banner and Ryder, extended family and friends.

**Mary Jane Lucas:** July 5, 2025: Mary Jane taught at Alderson and Glenayre Elementary schools and was Principal at Rochester Elementary. She is survived by her husband Art, son Rob (Marta), grandchildren Lucas and Grace, extended family and friends.

**Maureen Dockendorf:** Suddenly on July 2, 2025.