



# Delta Retired Teachers' Association

## Newsletter

# THE TRUANT

November 2025

May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility.

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## ***DRTA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON***



### **MUSICAL PRESENTATION: OPERA AND BROADWAY SHOW (A Duet Featuring Tenor Gustavo Herrera)**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 2  
**Time:** 11:30 (12:15 lunch; 1:00 Performance)  
**Place:** Sharkey's Seafood Bar & Grille  
4953 Chisholm Street, Ladner

**Menu choices:** 1. Turkey Plate  
2. Fish & Chips (cod)  
3. Pasta (seafood; chicken chorizo or vegetarian)

Non-alcoholic punch, coffee, tea, or juice/soft drinks are included in the subsidized cost. Other beverages are available at your own cost.

**Cost :** Members \$25 Non-Members \$30

New members and those age 80+ will have their first lunch free.

Invite a guest to help us reach 35 for exclusive use of venue.

Payment in CASH ONLY, no cheques

Please RSVP with your food choice to Yvonne Chard  
([drtaevents@gmail.com](mailto:drtaevents@gmail.com)) You will receive a confirmation.

**RSVP deadline is November 25**

**Prizes to be won**



## ***President's Message***

The DRTA welcomed September with our DRTA No Bell Luncheon. We gathered for some good conversations, a delicious meal and learned about BCRTA travel offers from the former BCRTA President, Gerry Tiede. We also elected two more members, Trish McCullough and Susan Yao, to our Board. As usual, many won door prizes.

At the end of September, the three Delta Delegates (Val Windsor, Carryl Koe and I) attended the BCRTA Conference and AGM. Pat Thiesen attended as a BCRTA Board Director. She completed six years of dedicated service on the BCRTA Board. Thank you, Pat, for all you have done for retired teachers in the province, and for continuing to support us at the DRTA in your many roles.

In early October, DRTA treated a group of members to a Print-making event on Galiano Island with our very own Peter Scurr and Kit Grauer who were gracious co-hosts and engaging (and patient) teachers. A group of members got to enjoy a wonderful and unique learning experience in a beautiful setting. It was a hit!

Our upcoming event is our Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 2, at Sharkey's. This year's musical presentation is The Opera and Broadway Show (performed by a duet featuring Tenor Gustavo Herrera). A poster with more details will be sent out soon. Mark your calendars for this luncheon with special entertainment! Also mark May 13, 2026 for our DRTA Luncheon and AGM.

As we used to say to our students "Don't stop trying," the DRTA is taking a second run with the Bus Tour to Victoria. It will be on April 8 or 15, 2026. *Enjoy the Journey* Tour



Company will help organize the trip. A poster, with details including the cost (members will receive a \$50 DRTA subsidy) and possible venues in the Inner Harbour for you to visit, will be sent out in January. Invite a friend or two, and sign up to help us meet the required minimum of 15 for the trip to go ahead.

I hope to see you at these events. It's a great way to reconnect with friends, old and new, while engaging in some fun activities.

Annie Coblin, President

## **Your Delta Retired Teachers' Association Board for 2025-26**

<b>President</b>	Annie Coblin	drtacountact@gmail.com
<b>Vice-President</b>	Pat Thiesen	
<b>Secretary</b>	Val Windsor	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lois Wilkinson	
<b>Past President</b>	Peter Yang	
<b>Members-at-Large</b>	Yvonne Chard	
	Suzan Egan-Olsen	
	Susan Yao	
	Trish McCullough	
<b>Truant Editor</b>	Pat Thiesen	deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com

### **DRTA Committees and Committee Chairs**

Social:	Yvonne Chard
Communications:	Carryl Koe
Membership:	Pat Thiesen
Heritage:	Peter Scurr
Christmas Outreach:	Debbie Wheatley

### **DRTA Board Meeting, October 23rd**

- To increase membership, the DRTA will contact the DTA and the School District about adding a link/information to the BCRTA website in their newsletters.
- A report on the BCRTA Conference and AGM at the end of September was provided.
- DRTA Vice-President, Pat Thiesen finished six years of dedicated service on the BCRTA Board as a Director.
- The Print-making workshop on Galiano Island in early October co-hosted by members Peter Scurr and Kit Grauer was a hit with the members who attended!
- The next luncheon is Tuesday, December 2 at Sharkey's restaurant at 11:30am. A poster with details will be sent out at the end of October.
- A Bus Tour to Victoria is being planned for either April 8 or 15, 2026. Enjoy the Journey Tour Company is organizing it. Lunch will be included in the cost (members get a DRTA \$50 subsidy). A poster with details, including possible venues to visit, will be out in January.
- The DRTA Luncheon and AGM will be on May 13, 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Val Windsor, DRTA Secretary

## **Membership Report**



HOORAY!!! The Delta Retired Teachers' Association membership numbers remain strong. As of August 1, 2025, the DRTA has 568 members including 26 Life Members (those over 90 years of age) with 19 new members who have joined us this year. Among our "newbies" are Jan Eastman, Trish McCullough, Jaye Sawatsky, Debbie Wheatley, Susan Yao, Hugh Burke, Eva Boyd, Louise Preddy, Erin Rohwer, Carolyn Northcott and Kit Grauer. (Members names used with permission.) We hope they will join us at our December Luncheon at Sharkey's in Ladner on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Christmas Phoning Committee: Need Volunteers**

The Christmas Phoning Committee will begin calling all members of the BCRTA/DRTA who have been involved with us for 20 or more years to wish them all the best as we greet the holiday season and a new year. If you would like to help Debbie Wheatley and her crew with contacting these special members, please contact Pat Thiesen (deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com) so she can pass on your info to Debbie. There are more than 100 such members who may like to hear from you.

### **Change of Address or Circumstance or E-mail Service Provider**

Email or other change of address? Here's what we need from you ...

Email or call the BCRTA office: [office@bcrtta.com](mailto:office@bcrtta.com)      Phone: 604.871.2260

and/or

Email Membership Chair (Pat Thiesen): [deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com)

## **“RETIRED TEACHERS OF DELTA” Scholarship Fund**

If you would like to support the Retired Teachers of Delta Scholarship Fund, please read the following and use it when donating money to the Fund.

**Deadline for submissions**, with our thanks, is **January 16, 2026.**

Enclosed is my cheque for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your cheque to:

Delta School District,  
4585 Harvest Dr.,  
Delta BC V4K 5B4          c/o Finance Department

Please indicate on your cheque that it is for the **Retired Teachers of Delta Scholarship Fund.**  
A tax receipt will be issued to you by the Delta School Board for donations of \$25.00 or more.

### **Letter from Scholarship Recipient**

November 7, 2025

Hello Ms. Coblin,

My name is Makena Johnson and I am so grateful to be the recipient of the Retired Teachers of Delta Scholarship. I am attending Simon Fraser University in the pursuit of a French major. My dream is to be a French immersion teacher in a high school. I love learning the language and being a teacher is a way to form meaningful relationships with people, which is very important to me. Thank you again for your support and helping me accomplish my dreams. It means a lot to me.

Sincerely,

Makena Johnson



## ***An Awesome Day – The DRTA Trip to GALIANO ISLAND***



***Getting There and Back***



***The Print Shop***



***View from the Print Shop Deck***



***Instructions on Inking Technique***



***History Lesson about the Print Shop***





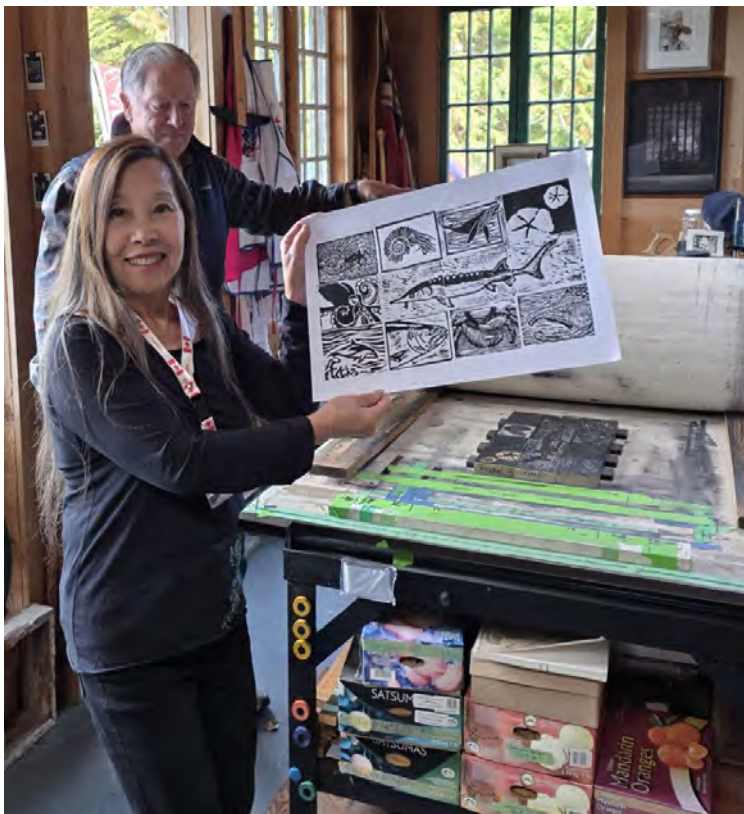
*Careful, not too much*



*Cranking the Roller*



*Lifting it off, oh so carefully!*



*Didn't we do well?*





**The Paradise Care Home (aka Peter and Kit's Galiano abode – just across the road)**



*Relaxing after Work*



*There's time for "Selfies"*



*Fabulous Lunch*



*Conversations Abound*





***The DRTA "Print Makers of 2025"***



## ***Fall***

***They're coming down in showers,  
The leaves all gold and red;  
They're covering the little flowers,  
And tucking them in bed  
They've spread a fairy carpet  
All up and down the street;  
And when we skip along to school,  
they rustle 'neath our feet.***

by Winifred C. Marshall

## Our Members Write

### **Retirement: What Now?**

In 1990 at Simon Fraser University where I did my professional development training to become a teacher, we were tasked with making a visual representation of our life's journey thus far. I still have mine: there's me as a little fish swimming from birth to kindergarten, up through school, university and work, love and marriage. Next step: become a teacher! I drew myself as a fish wearing a mortarboard and a cape.

Now I have swum through the fish ladder of my professional life, here I am, spawned, exhausted and presumed ready for immediate decay (or perhaps about to be snapped up in the jaws of some bear or eagle). Years ago, while watching fish spawning up in Alaska, I heard tourists exclaim, "How sad! How tragic!" as they bemoaned salmon ending this way.

"It's not tragic!" I spoke none too quietly. "It is the circle of life!"

(I was a biology major, if that is not obvious.)

"We are but placeholders for those who come after us," I offer with love and lucidity.

My time here is limited, afterlife or no. Whether my atoms disperse rapidly or slowly, my current awareness will someday cease to exist. So how do I square this with the exquisite privilege that I can now sleep in pretty much any day of the week?

A part of me whispers, "What now, Susan? What now?"

What is my identity now that I am no longer working? What is my purpose? And sure, I just might want to do some occasional teaching: I like using my skills and rising to new challenges. I like the connections, fast or slow, easy or less than. I have always learned about myself as much as about the students and the adults in the building.

But is there more of that?

Last week I had a late-night phone call with my adult daughter. She seemed down. Her days off are not the same as most people and it had been a while since we were together.

"How's about I come over Friday? We can play cards and go somewhere for dinner!"

We invited my own mother to join us too. Our purpose that day: play cards with two women we adore! This was a privilege of retirement and an opportunity for connection.

I also had a lovely day of connection, art and friendship as one of my first experiences with the Delta Retired Teachers' Association. In early October, seventeen or so teachers walked or drove onto the 10:25 am sailing from Tsawwassen to Galiano Island. Once ashore, we were



met by Kit Grauer and Peter Scurr, two retired Delta art teachers, who piloted us the short walk to their *Galiano Relief Retreat* (with some confusing signage also identifying it as the *Paradise Care Home*).

We learned the basics of relief printmaking and made some of our own. We rolled ink until we heard just the right sound—a distinctive and satisfying *click*! Each of us took turns cranking the wheel of the printing press and lifting off the paper prints. We feasted on beer-basted chicken, ham, various salads and other goodies. We shared stories and we asked questions. I identified the ringing sound of the raven for my friend Marianne.

We left in the early evening, each of us clutching our own numbered print and—fittingly—the connections, memories and ideas etching our collective minds. It was a wonderful initiation into retirement.

Susan Burns Yao

## Addressing Issues to Prevent Falling – Do It Now!



Outside of falling in love or things falling into place, falling is something we want to avoid, especially as we age. In Canada, most older adults — over 92% — live in the community, meaning they live in their own private dwelling or in a residence specifically for older adults such as a retirement community. Risks that increase the chances of experiencing a fall include having a previous history of falls, living with one or more chronic diseases, sensory issues, limited mobility, taking certain medications, engaging in unsafe behaviours like rushing, and environmental factors.

### The Bottom Line

- Globally, more than 680 thousand people die from falling every year, while millions more require medical care.
- Environmental hazards, such as poor lighting and walking surfaces, are responsible for 30% to 50% of falls experienced by older adults. Find ways to eliminate them for you in your home.
- Take an Environmental program so you know what fall-hazards to remove in your home to lower the potential of falling yourself or your loved one especially those older adults who are at high risk of falling.
- Consult with your healthcare team about your risk of falls and what environmental strategies may be best for you.

From McMaster Aging Portal Research, published June 2024

## In Memoriam



**Brant Mitchell** 24 March, 1939 – 20 March, 2025

A gentle man with a ready smile and a laugh, he was easy to be around. A lifelong learner and teacher by trade, he taught in Delta his whole career. He enthusiastically took students on nature walks to the forest across from South Delta Secondary and even to Tsawwassen beach at low tide to show them some critter or type of moss. In addition to teaching, he loved music—so much so that he joined the school concert band so that he could make music with the students on Monday afternoons.

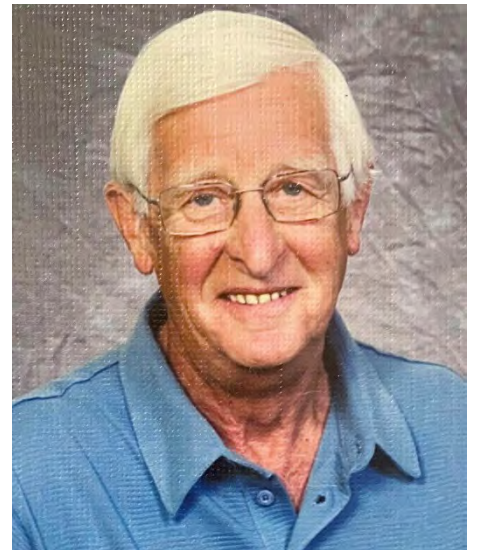
But the most joy he had was living his life with Susan. They were two peas in a pod, never far from each other. They travelled far and wide in retirement. They were always chatting away and having a laugh. The Celebration of his Life was held on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Menno Wiebe**

February 9, 1937 - October 5, 2025

Menno was a teacher and began his career in Prince George and then later joined the Delta school district. When he retired, Menno organized a team of volunteers to teach ESL to teachers in St. Petersburg, Russia. Menno loved gardening and was part of the Tunneltown Senior Men's Curling Team. He enjoyed the game and the camaraderie that came from being part of the team.

A Celebration of his life will be November 15, 2025 at 11:30 am at South Delta Baptist Church.







## **BCRTA REPORT**

**September to November 2025**

Beginning on the afternoon of September 25th, the final meeting of the 2024-25 Board of Directors met in Richmond's Hilton Hotel to begin the BCRTA's annual 3-day Conference and General Meeting. Following registration and visiting with one another, the delegates were treated

to a unique and joyous musical interlude by a troupe of Métis dancers and fiddlers. The weekend was off to a great start.

The Conference began early Friday morning with a talk from Devona Putland from a small town in Saskatchewan, whose talk on Sustaining Age Friendly Programs in your communities was insightful and encouraging for those realizing our communities can do more for all seniors living near-by. Crawford Killian spoke about Education from the Stone Age to AI. He looked back to the pedagogy that kept our ancient ancestors alive for many thousands of years, the functions of education in evolving societies, and the uncertain promise of artificial intelligence. The final speaker, Vicki Robinson, long-time BC educator and a Past-President of the Abbotsford District Teachers Association, and who committed decades to supporting people in crisis and grief, provided unique insights on what everyone should know when facing life's final chapter. She covered the "musts" of preparation, such as palliative care and hospice and addressed concerns we all have concerning MAID. All appreciated her depth of knowledge and compassion for those who are needing to deal with these issues.

Friday evening, following dinner, is always highly anticipated as attendees are informed of the winners of the annual PostScript Awards. Members of the Communications Committee had secretly voted on which magazine contributions were award-worthy. As editor of the magazine, Tim Anderson presented the videos of his conversations with the unaware article winners. The photo award went to Tom Skinner for his series of Autumn shots from the Fall 2024 issue. The Best Travel article was awarded to DRTA member, Janey Harper, for her amazing tale of bicycling in South America in the Summer 2024 magazine. The most highly prized "Sheila Gair" award went to another DRTA member, Gerald Soon, for his article "The Paper Trail" which can also be found in the Summer 2024 edition.

The BCRTA AGM began Saturday morning following the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation's AGM. The delegates were pleased with the positive comments following the Financial Audit conducted by MNP of Maple Ridge. The fees for 2026-27 were approved at \$59 for the year.

## ***BCRTA REPORT, continued***

At the AGM - The Leadership elections resulted with:

PRESIDENT: **Caroline Malm** returning for her second year

1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: **Linda Watson** was acclaimed

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: **David Denyer** returning for his second year and will continue to be our ACER-CART representative.

PAST-PRESIDENT: **Arnie Lambert** continues in that role

**Gerry Tiede** remains a member of the board by virtue of his current position as Past President of ACER-CART.

The Directors from Inside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley are:

- **Laurence Greeff** – new 2-year term;
- **Rosalind Kellett** – new 2-year term; with
- **Barb Mikulec** – 1 year remaining; and
- **Tom Hastie** – 1 year remaining.

The Directors from Outside the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley are:

- **Lori Dennill** – new 2-year term;
- **Elizabeth Mackenzie** – new 2-year term; with
- **Stephanie Koropatnick** – 1 year remaining; and
- **Cathy Macintosh Lambright** – 1 year remaining.

The first In-person Committee meetings were held during the last week of October in Vancouver. Reviewing committee goals for the year and assigning specific tasks to the committee members were discussed. The next meetings will be conducted on ZOOM.

The Board is looking forward to hosting the ACER/CART Conference and AGM later next Spring. More information will be published soon.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Thiesen



## Recommended Reading for those Rainy Winter Evenings

### 1. **Good Grief** – Sara Goodman Confino

Two years ago, Barbara's husband passed away and she was suddenly a single mom. Her own mother moved in to help with the children, but now Barbara is ready to start fully living again without her mom in the house.

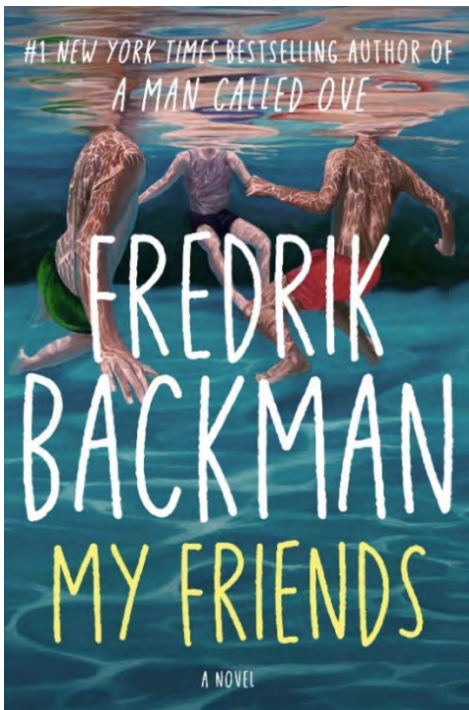
Then, her mother-in-law, Ruth, arrives without warning, carrying suitcases in tow. While she means well, she's abrasive and inflexible. Barbara would love to turn her away she could start the new life she was finally looking forward but Ruth is a widow herself and still grieving the loss of her son.

However, Barbara starts to lose patience as the days turn into weeks. She needs a plan to get Ruth out of her house. Luckily, inspiration strikes! She just needs to find Ruth a suitor and marry her off...

While this novel does explore the aftermath of grief and how different people handle it, it does so without being too heavy and with a focus on hope and moving forward. There is also plenty to discuss outside of grief, especially around Barbara's work at a hospital and women's roles in the workplace in the 1960s.



so  
to,



### 2. **My Friends** - Fredrik Backman

If you enjoyed reading "A Man Called Ove" you will most definitely find in this book a good read. Bestselling author Backman returns with an unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later.

Most people don't even notice them—three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. Most people think it's just a depiction of the sea. But Louisa, an aspiring artist herself, knows otherwise, and she is determined to find out the story of these three enigmatic figures. She embarks on a surprise-filled cross-country journey to learn how the painting came to

be and to decide what to do with it when it is unexpectedly gifted to her. The closer she gets to the painting's birthplace, the more nervous she becomes about what she'll find.

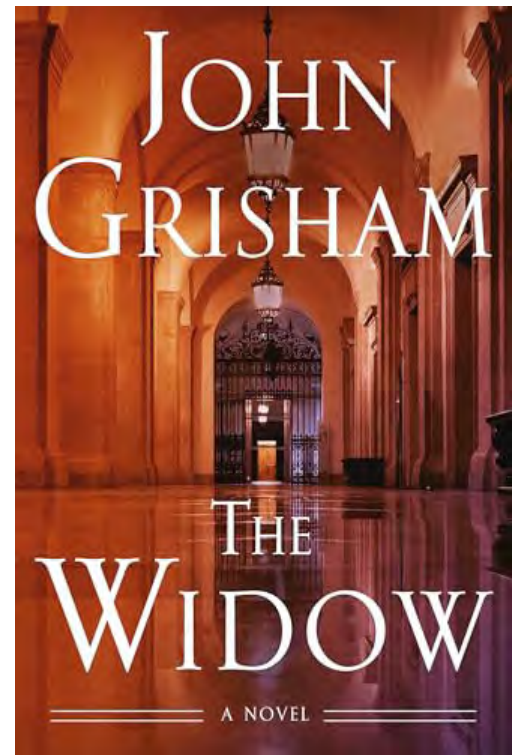
### 3. ***The Widow*** – John Grisham

John Grisham is an acclaimed master of the legal thriller. Now, he's written his first-ever whodunit.

Simon Latch is a lawyer in rural Virginia, making just enough to pay his bills while his marriage slowly falls apart. Then into his office walks Eleanor Barnett, an elderly widow in need of a new will. Apparently, her husband left her a small fortune, and no one knows about it.

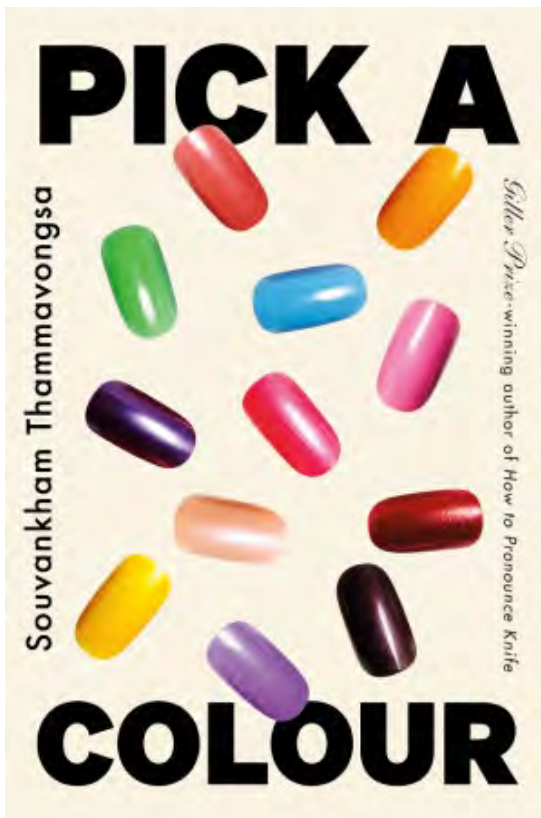
Once he hooks the richest client of his career, Simon works quietly to keep her wealth under the radar. But soon her story begins to crack. When she is hospitalized after a car accident, Simon realizes that nothing is as it seems, and he finds himself on trial for a crime he swears he didn't commit.

(It is also available as a well-narrated audiobook.)



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### 4. ***Pick a Color*** - Souvankham Thammavongsa



Ning is a retired boxer, but to the customers who visit her nail salon, she is just another worker named Susan. On this summer's day, much like any other, the Susans buff and clip and polish and tweeze. They listen and smile and nod. But beneath this superficial veneer, Ning is a woman of rigorous intellect and profound complexity. A woman enthralled by the intricacy and rhythms of her work, but also haunted by memories of paths not taken and opportunities lost. A woman navigating the complex power dynamics among her fellow Susans, whose greatest fears and desires lie just behind the gossip they exchange.

Told over a single day, with razor-sharp precision and wit, *Pick a Colour* confirms this Canadian author's place as a premier chronicler of the immigrant experience, in its myriad, complex, and slyly subversive forms.



## ***Ten Great Audio Books to Enjoy while Tree Decorating or Busily Baking Special Holiday Treats***

- The Impossible Fortune - Richard Osman
- Bits and Pieces – Whoopi Goldberg
- Listen for the Lie – Amy Tintera
- The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece - Tom Hanks
- The Ten Thousand Doors of January – Alix E. Harrow
- Thank you for Listening – Julia Whelan
- How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music – various readers
- A Promised Land – Barack Obama
- Be Ready When the Luck Happens – Ina Garten, and
- Shakespeare: The Man Who Pays the Rent – Judy Dench



*South Delta Secondary Alumni met for Brunch at L'Aroma's Sky Cafe at the Boundary Bay Airport on Tuesday, October 21st. Do you recognize them?*

## The Fun and Games Pages

### A. Trivia for Everyone

1. What do you call a group of porcupines?
2. What was the first vegetable ever to be grown in space?
3. What is the meaning of “fn” on your computer keyboard?
4. On average, which grows faster: Fingernails or toenails?
5. What is the most expensive spice in the world by weight?
6. Which bone are babies born without?
7. The Egyptian god, Anubis, had the head of a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What is the name of the fourth book in the Harry Potter series?
9. What fashion fad did the 1983 film “Flashdance” make popular?
10. How many eyes does a bee have?



**B. Follow the Directions**

Follow the instructions to discover the surprise answer.

1. Print the "SWEATER SHOPPER" omitting the space.
2. Change the second consonant to an N.
3. Insert a K between the first and second vowels.
4. Delete the first 2 E's.
5. Reverse the order of the last 7 letters.
6. Insert a C between the T and the R.
7. Switch the eighth and ninth letters.
8. Change the last vowel to an I.
9. Delete the first and last letters.
10. Move the 4<sup>th</sup> consonant to the right of the 3<sup>rd</sup> vowel.
11. Change the first vowel to an I.
12. Delete the first R.
13. Move the second vowel to the right of the H.
14. Delete the fifth consonant.
15. Change the H to a K.
16. Move the 4<sup>th</sup> consonant to the last position.
17. Reverse the order of the first 2 letters.

## SWEATERSHOPPER

[illegible]



### c. Initial Reaction

Using the crossword style clues, give the 2-word answer (the first begins with F and the second begins with S). For example, Clue – they have elastic in their corners; Answer – Fitted Sheets

#### CLUE

1. Elvis Stojko or Karen Magnussen
2. Clothes designer's event
3. Prominent Hollywood player
4. Sight, smell, etc.
5. Seasonal inoculation
6. Woody Guthrie, e.g.
7. Grocery
8. Realtor's sign
9. Ottoman
10. "Shotgun" caller's wish
11. Just allotment
12. Healthy dessert
13. TV with no tube
14. UFO, e.g.
15. Dalmatian's hangout, stereotypically

#### RESPONSE

F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____
F _____	S _____



## **D. Can you Name the Christmas Song?**

{Borrowed from Abbotsford RTA, with thanks}

1. The apartment of two Psychiatrists
2. Sir Lancelot with laryngitis
3. A brown, shaggy animal has had his shnoz in the booze
4. Oh, member of the Round Table with missing areas
5. We are Kong, Lear and Nat Cole
6. Natal celebration devoid of colour, rather albino, as a hallucinatory phenomenon for me
7. Two hundred and eighty-eight Yuletide hours
8. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
9. The smog-less bewitching hour arrived
10. Parent was observed osculating a red-coated unshaven teamster
11. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals
12. Have hitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal in their belief
13. Jubilance to this orb
14. Leave and do an elevated broadcast
15. Stepping on the pad cover
16. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
17. Present me naught but dual incisors for this festive Yuletide
18. Do you perceive the same longitudinal pressure which stimulates my auditory sense organs?
19. That exiguous hamlet south of the holy city
20. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
21. A joyful song relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing when struck
22. A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
23. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild, male humans
24. Tranquility upon the terrestrial sphere
25. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully

## **E. Age-old Riddle about St. Ives**

As I was going to St. Ives,  
I met a man with seven wives,  
Each wife had seven sacks,  
Each sack had seven cats,  
Each cat had seven kits:  
Kits, cats, sacks, and wives,

How many were there going to St. Ives?

**F. Missing Sign** Add the missing operation ( + , - , x , and / ) to each calculation to make it correct (suggest you don't follow the order of operations rules)

$$5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \quad 1 =$$

Sample  $5 + 432 - 1 = 49$  **X** BUT  $5 + 43 + 2 - 1 = 49$  **✓**

( $5 + 432 - 1$  does not equal 49, but  $5 + 43 + 2 - 1$  does equal 49)

a)  $5 \quad 4 - 3 \quad 2 \quad 1 = 23$

b)  $5 \quad 4 \quad 3 + 2 + 1 = 21$

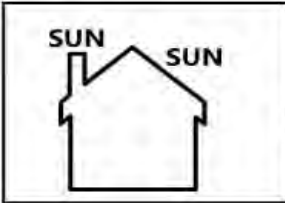
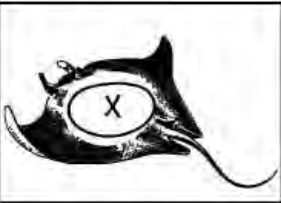
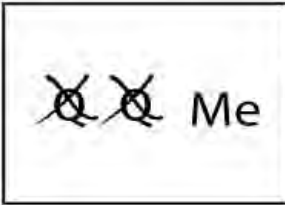
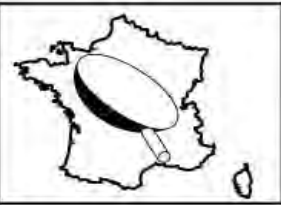




c)  $5 \times 4 + 3 \quad 2 \quad 1 = 51$

d)  $5 - 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \times 1 = 33$

e)  $5 \times 4 \quad 3 + 2 \quad 1 = 50$

f)  $5 \quad 4 \times 3 \quad 2 + 1 = 161$

**G. Rebus Puzzles** – Some are hard, some not so –

	A	B	C
1			<b>HOUSE</b>
2			<b>MPARDE</b>
3			
4		<b>storm</b> <b>TH</b>	<b>WEEK</b> 



## December Colouring Page



## Fun and Games Answers

**A. Trivia** 1. A Prickle 2. A Potato 3. Function 4. Fingernails 5. Saffron 6. Patella or knee cap 7. Jackal 8. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire 9. Legwarmers 10. Five

**B. Follow the Directions** – Knit Picker

**C. Initial Reaction** 1. Figure Skater 2. Fashion Show 3. Film Star 4. Five Senses 5. Flu Shot 6. Folk Singer 7. Food Store 8. For Sale 9. Foot Stool 10. Front Seat 11. Fair Share 12. Fruit Salad 13. Flat Screen 14. Flying Saucer 15. Fire Station

**D. Name the Christmas Song** 1. Nutcracker Suite 2. Silent Night 3. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer 4. Oh, Holy Night 5. We Three Kings 6. I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas 7. Twelve Days of Christmas 8. Jingle Bell Rock 9. It Came Upon A Midnight Clear 10. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus 11. Frosty the Snowman 12. Oh Come All Ye Faithful 13. Joy to the World 14. Go Tell It On the Mountain 15. Up On the Housetop 16. Silver Bells 17. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth 18. Do You Hear What I Hear? 19. Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem 20. Little Drummer Boy 21. Carol of the Bells 22. Noel 23. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen 24. Peace On Earth 25. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**E. Age-old Riddle about St. Ives** There are two possible correct answers. If the group I met were coming *from* St. Ives, then the answer is just one, me. But if they too were going the same way as me, the answer is 2,802 – one man, seven wives, 49 sacks, 343 cats, 2401 kittens and me.

**F. Missing Signs**

a) $54 - 32 + 1 = 23$	b) $54 / 3 + 2 + 1 = 21$
c) $5 \times 4 + 32 - 1 = 51$	d) $5 - 4 \times 32 + 1 = 33$
e) $5 + 43 + 2 \times 1 = 50$	f) $54 \times 3 - 2 + 1 = 161$

**G. Rebus Puzzles**

A 1 – Sunroof

B 1 - X-ray

C 1 - Doghouse

A 2 - Excuse me

B 2 - French fries

C 2 - Pardon me

A 3 – Mousetrap

B 3 – Turnip

C 3 - Phone numbers

A 4 – Uproar

B 4 – Thunderstorm

C 4 - Weekend

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## SPECIAL INVITATION

Dear Potential Guest,

Gray Elementary is having a “Read the Day Away” Day on Friday, January 16th,, 2026. On this special day, students in classes throughout the school will spend the day doing literacy-based activities, primarily reading. To encourage continued student engagement in reading and to make the day even more memorable and unique, we would like to invite guest readers to come to the school to read stories to students.

We would like to extend this invite to you, and would be very grateful for your support and involvement during our “Read the Day Away” activities. If you would be willing to participate by reading a story to a class or two or by talking about your experiences with books and/or writing to a group of 20-30 students at a time, we’d be very pleased to have you join us on Jan. 16th. Should you choose to join us, you could either bring your own favourite books from home, or I can provide a selection of suitable books you could pick from.

Please let me know if you wish to participate in Gray’s “Read the Day Away” Day. Activities will be happening the entire day, so please let me know the time of the day you are able to visit, as well as the age group you would most like to visit. I’d be happy to help answer any question you may have.

Sincerely,

Kim Watson kwatson@deltaschools.ca

School phone: 604-594-2474

**Letter from the Editor:** Please send me your suggestions, personal writings, photos from your travels, up-coming events, things you would like to see included in the **TRUANT**. This is more than just a Newsletter; it’s a method to help connect DRTA members. I’d love to hear from you. Pat

***deltaretiredteachers@gmail.com***



Delta  
**Choral  
Society**

# Ring in the Season

**Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 7:30pm**  
**Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025 2:00pm**

South Delta Baptist Church  
1988 56<sup>th</sup> St., Tsawwassen

**Tickets online at**  
**[www.deltachoral.ca](http://www.deltachoral.ca)**  
**or at the door**

*Four choirs sharing uplifting songs !*

*Let the magic of Christmas begin !*

Adults \$30  
Seniors \$25  
Students \$15  
Children 10 and Under FREE

