



Volume 3, Number 5

December 2025

# PQRTA Newsletter

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

## Wasn't that a Party?

The PQRTA **Yuletide Luncheon** held on December 3rd, 2025 was a resounding success. The Arrowsmith Golf Club was beautifully decorated, the food was delicious and everyone in attendance had a great time. \$425 was raised for the Food Bank with more food donations as well. President Judy conducted the proceedings with her usual grace and charm. Sadly our beloved Past President Cathy was unable to attend due to a bad cold, but Arnie, Past President of BCRTA was there to fill the void and provide us with some updates and news from BCRTA



Arnie made new-member Wendy feel welcome & Provided up-to-date Dogwood info for others



Some folks showed up in their Fancy Christmas sweaters!



Lots of Ladies Laughing!



Judy Stewart looking Festive



A few couples collaborating

## Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

Thank you to all who sent in your donations to CHES. Thanks to you, our two sponsored students Scovia Lutta and Velma Awiti will be able complete their 2025/26 school year in Kenya. As you know, our donations allow these two girls to continue to attend school by paying for their tuition, their room and board and providing them with the books and other materials they will need. This year, because of your generosity, we raised \$....extra, meaning Scovia and Velma may be able to afford a few extras to make their lives more comfortable.

Remember: You will receive an individual income tax receipt from the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES).

### ORES Corner

Turning to our ongoing efforts to support our local students, now is the time of year to consider our donations to ORES (Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship fund. If you would like to receive a tax receipt for 2025, please submit your donation by December xx.

Three ways to donate to ORES:

1) via eTransfer to [cathyvanh@gmail.com](mailto:cathyvanh@gmail.com) (Auto Deposit with note ORES)

2) Via Canada Post - Cheque or Money Order payable to SD #69  
Cathy Van Herwaarden  
Box 286  
Coombs, BC. V0R 1M0

3) Drop off at Cathy Van's home:  
2061 Pierpont Road  
Coombs, BC (Virginia Estates)  
250.248.0412 (Land) OR 250.954.7064 (Cell)

*Here are a few reminders of why we do this...*

Dear Ms. Stewart and the Oceanside Retired Educators,  
I am writing to thank you for the Oceanside Retired Educators Scholarship. I am both honoured and grateful to have been chosen as a recipient of this generous award.

As a future teacher, receiving this scholarship from retired educators is especially meaningful to me. I plan to study a Bachelor of Education at Vancouver Island University and eventually work as a caring and dedicated elementary school teacher. Your support not only eases the financial costs of my

education, meaning that I can fully focus on my education, but also serves as a reminder of the impact teachers make long after their time in the classroom.

Thank you once again for your kindness and encouragement. Your generosity has inspired me, and I hope to follow in your footsteps by giving back to students and making a difference in their lives, just as you have in mine.

Sincerely, Daisy McBride *Daisy McBride*

Dear PQRTA,  
Thank you so much for your generous Scholarship support. I plan to attend North Island College for Early Childhood Education thanks to your help.

Sincerely, *Peonix*



Dear Oceanside Retired Educators' Scholarship,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the Oceanside Retired Educators' Scholarship. I am very touched that you chose to invest in my future. Being a recipient of this scholarship makes me very proud, I am very grateful for the opportunities this scholarship will provide me. Receiving this scholarship will help to reduce my financial burdens and provide assistance for me as I continue my education at Vancouver Island University. Upon my completion of my degree, I plan on pursuing a career in teaching in either high school or elementary school.

Once again, thank you for your support,

Sincerely,

Andie-Mae McFadyen

### Just For Fun

We have done a number of enjoyable trips this year, but as the cold and wet weather sets in, I will be taking a Winter Break from December until March. During the downtime, I would love to hear from you if you have an suggestions for places to visit in the new year. Please share your ideas with me at [pqartacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:pqartacommunications@gmail.com). Have a great Holiday!

### Fudge and Scrubbies and Jar Grippers for TUMAINI FUND CANADA

Registered Charity with 100% of \$ to Orphans

Help Orphans in Tanzania to Escape  
Poverty through Education



#### Homemade Fudge Freezes Well

- 3" X 4" X 1" block = \$8
- Chocolate
  - Butterscotch
  - Peanut Butter
  - Chocolate Mint



#### Sparkle Scrubby 5"x5" = \$4

*When your dishes get  
grubby, just use this  
handy scrubby!*

Multiple Colours, Machine  
Washable, Hand Knit from  
100% polyester stays  
fresh! They don't get slimy  
or stinky! GUARANTEED!



#### Jar Grippers 6" = \$4

Multiple colours,  
Ideal on a variety of  
sized bottles and jars,  
Increase your grip and  
open jars more easily

**SALE: \$15 = fudge + scrubby + jar gripper**  
(Purchases 1 set of Exercise Books for 1 student)



Hostess Gifts,  
Stocking Stuffers,  
Christmas Presents  
Or "Just Because"

**PRE-  
ORDER  
NOW!**

Cathy Van Herwaarden: [cathyvanh@gmail.com](mailto:cathyvanh@gmail.com)  
OR 250.248.0412



At the recent Yuletide Luncheon, participants were asked to complete a short **survey** to provide feedback and ideas about future PQRTA events you would like to see. Please take a look at the suggestions below and tell us your preferences about what you would like to see us offer. Please send your responses to [pqrtacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:pqrtacommunications@gmail.com) by hitting the REPLY tab at the top of your email and write your top three choices in the body of the email. All responses received by December 15th will be eligible for a draw for a grocery store gift card.

Travel agent: We will ask a Travel agent to talk to us about seniors' travel, 'secret perks', and potential pitfalls to avoid.	
Pharmacist: We will ask a pharmacist to talk to us about prescriptions and how a pharmacist can help you with your well-being.	
Plan comparisons: Many of us have heard about our TPP and BCRTA Extended Health plans and remain undecided. We will have an opportunity for a more individualized consultation to help us make any changes to our current plans.	
Lawyer regarding End-of-Life paperwork: We will invite a lawyer to provide us with a detailed review of the documents you will require to be completed while you are still healthy, to ensure your loved ones have a clear understanding of your wishes when the time comes.	
Frauds and scams: We will invite an officer of the law to review the current trends in frauds and scams and provide information and advice on how to protect yourself and your home.	
Driver's update info: We will invite ICBC to provide an in-depth review of changes to driving regulations in BC and how they may affect you on the road.	

If your address, phone number or email address changes, please contact BCRTA ([office@bcrt.ca](mailto:office@bcrt.ca)) to update your contact information

### **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	<a href="mailto:pqrtapresident@gmail.com">pqrtapresident@gmail.com</a>
Cathy Van Herwaarden:	Past President	<a href="mailto:pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com">pqrtapastpresident@gmail.com</a>
Vacant	Vice President	
Stephanie Koropatnick	(Acting)Secretary	<a href="mailto:pqrtacommunications@gmail.com">pqrtacommunications@gmail.com</a>
Ellen Coates	Treasurer	
Whole Committee	Programs Chair	
Shelagh Cook	Sunshine Chair	<a href="mailto:pqrtasunshine@gmail.com">pqrtasunshine@gmail.com</a>
Stephanie Koropatnick	Communications Chair	<a href="mailto:pqrtacommunications@gmail.com">pqrtacommunications@gmail.com</a>
Sharon Cox-Gustavson	Heritage Chair	<a href="mailto:sharoncg@shaw.ca">sharoncg@shaw.ca</a>

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