

PostScript

WINTER 2023



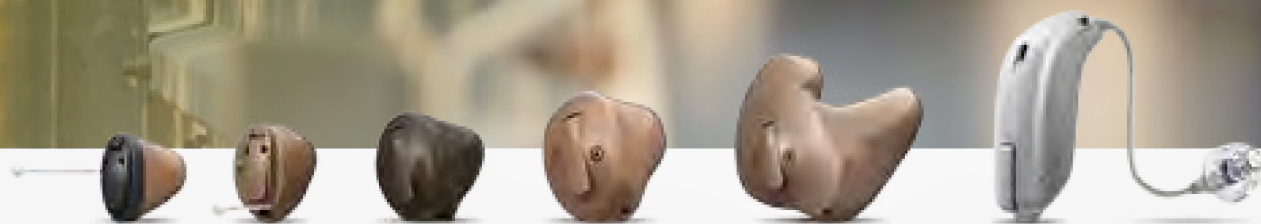
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Winter at Fairy Creek, Vancouver Island
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PostScript welcomes photography submissions from members for our cover and for articles. Printing requires high resolution images at least 300 pixels per inch in printed format (3000 pixels wide by 3600 pixels high).

Submission guidelines at bcрта.ca/postscript-submissions

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Give some thought to this scenario. You invite all your friends to the biggest party of the year. You arrange for food that will keep them happy for several days, and line up some entertainment. You make connections with a number of knowledgeable people you know your friends will enjoy. And then, just when you're getting ready to roll out the carpet, you get the news: the venue is unavailable, and there is no time to find another.

That was the situation BCRTA found ourselves in when a hotel labour dispute meant we could not hold our 2023 AGM in person. So we scrambled! Scratching out the original details on all our invitations, we invited people to log in instead of driving in. Some of our speakers were able to come down to our office and sit in front of the camera, others zoomed in from wherever they were. And the 2023 Conference and AGM went ahead successfully. Our plan all along was to record the presentations and they are now featured on our website for viewing. Visit bcрта.ca/conference to experience it for yourself.

The **PostScript Awards** continue to be a favorite segment for conference attendees. Much like the articles from our members, interviews with award winners turn out to be very worthwhile – informative, entertaining, and sometimes touching. If you haven't seen the video interviews with award winners **Leslie Davidson, Lynda Grace Philippsen** and **Rheta Steer**, please check them out.

Ever send a postcard from your hometown? We're hoping you will, and in this issue we check the mailbag to see what has come in so far. Join the fun!

Also close to home, in this issue we see BCRTA members making a mark in their communities by preserving the history of their regions and profession. There is also a look back to see the progress of women amongst the ranks of educators, thanks to BCRTA's own **Heritage Committee** and their celebration of 50 years of the Status of Women.

We know West Coast gardens are a wonderful summer destination, but consider a more Zen approach when cold fronts prevail. We feature here the Japanese garden of **Dale Leopkey** on Texada island, and then highlight a number of other winter gardens that you can explore around BC.

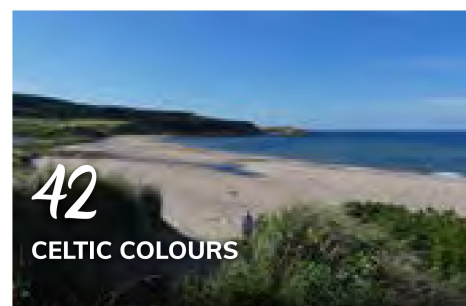
Whatever you are up to these hibernal days, BCRTA's PostScript will keep our doors open to you. Here's a standing invitation to join us to learn, to grow, and to enjoy our shared journey.

Wishing you the best of the season,

The Editor
postscript@bcрта.ca

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NEW BEGINNINGS WITH OLD FRIENDS

Winter is coming, and this year the gray skies and temperatures will be more of a shock to me and 1st Vice-President *Caroline Malm*. I am writing this prior to our departure, but by the time this issue of PostScript is in your hands, we will have returned from a historic trip to Namibia on behalf of BCRTA.



Image by iStockPhoto

Flashback to 1989, when Namibia had just gained independence, and teachers in Namibia were working to establish their union, the Namibian National Teachers' Union (NANTU). Many BCRTA members will recall the international solidarity work of the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) in helping with the development of NANTU. A number of BCTF members, including *Larry Kuehn*, *Don Reader*, and *Sheila Pither*, who later became BCRTA members, were active in assisting NANTU in this foundational work.

Now, some thirty years later, those NANTU teachers are retiring, and late last year the Secretary General of NANTU, *Loide Shaanika*, reached out to the BCTF requesting advice to help realize their long-time goal of establishing a retired teachers' association. In response to NANTU's request, the BCTF's International Solidarity program invited leadership of BCRTA to participate in a delegation to travel to Namibia. There we will meet with NANTU's leadership and have a chance to visit schools and speak with teachers. BCTF has generously funded the whole project.

The BCTF and BCRTA joint one-week delegation has the following objectives:

- To better understand the context within which the Namibian retired teachers' association will be formed,
- To facilitate discussions with NANTU leadership related to the association's membership structure, governance model and key services,
- To identify technical and/or support needs that the BCTF and BCRTA can help with during the 2023-2024 school year, and
- To renew partnership for the ongoing relationship between NANTU and the BCTF.



I am now packing for the trip, but as you read this Caroline and I will be back in BC and working with BCRTA Directors and staff and the BCTF committee to achieve the objectives of the project. Despite the distances that separate us, there are common values and concerns that connect us with our colleagues in Namibia. In one sense we are being asked to participate as experts but, as you well know, stretching experiences like this have much to teach us, too. So I am also hopeful that an additional outcome for the BCRTA will be to build a cooperative relationship with NANTU and their new retiree organization. We will be the better for it.

If this collaboration provides a spark of inspiration for you as it does for me, you will want to follow news about our new work with NANTU. Check out the BCRTA website and the Spring 2024 issue of PostScript for further updates and photos of our meetings with our Namibian colleagues.

ARNIE LAMBERT is President of BCRTA

NANTU - A PROFILE

"Educate to Liberate"

"NANTU envisages a quality education system to which all Namibians have equal access, derive benefit from and which functions in educational policy and regulatory environment in which the teachers can develop their full potential and perform and deliver to a maximum in the interest of the personal and professional advancement and growth of all Namibia."

Mission

"NANTU is a national democratic, autonomous, non-sexist, non-racial teachers' union catering for the professional, social and economic needs of its members and influencing and enhancing the education system."

Membership

18,000 active teachers across Namibia - about 75% of workforce.

Source: www.nantu-namibia.org/about/

PostScript Letters

Galapagos - Be Sure to Get the Right Tour

Julie Jeanneau was fortunate to have the wonderful Galapagos experience featured in PostScript Fall 2023.

My husband and I and two close friends made the trip in 2017. Upon arrival, we were driven to our ship for lunch, then returned to land and Darwin Centre where we watched and heard multiple sea tortoises mating. Our guide was silent so thinking I was confused, I asked if he were a guide and if so, perhaps he could tell us a bit about what we were seeing. No, he would not. We boarded the bus and reversed our route but this time, stopped at a village where we were told to get out and contribute to the local economy.

The second day another guide took us to an island where we would see land iguanas and sea iguanas. "There are two kinds of iguanas," she said. "There are land iguanas and sea iguanas. Sea iguanas are black while land iguanas are coloured." We saw 1 sea and 2 land. No further commentary.

And so it went. We were actually taken to an island "where there are no animals!"

Soon it became apparent to everyone that of the three guides, only one was very knowledgeable about animals and the islands. Thus came the jockeying to get on the tenders so as to learn as much as possible. The worst guide could clearly see that she was being avoided and spent one afternoon with her head in her hands, letting her folks crowd into #1's territory.

We joke today that we are the only people we know who didn't see animals in the Galapagos! It is only a bit of exaggeration as on the last morning of our trip, we were taken to a place where we saw schools of manta rays and sea turtles beneath our tender. Oh, and at least two blue footed boobies! Delighted for those who had great experiences but just so you know, it's not always so great!

Terry and Geoff Watt

Memories of World-changing Events

I found "Days of Magic" by Christina Schenkel-Goldt (PostScript Summer 2023) both informative and heart-wrenching.

When I was a young girl, we too had a summer cottage by the beach. In the late 30's and into the 40's we would drive down the very steep and narrow winding road which clung to the rocky mountainside. We often spent our weekends and holidays on that side of the island.

Often I would be up at 5:30 AM to join local friends – the blue ocean at that time of day was as smooth as glass, and the sun was a golden ball. We searched for the large glass balls that floated in to our beach all the way from the Orient.

One early Sunday morning as our group were sharing buns and hot chocolate on the beach we heard a loud roaring, which gradually increased. A large group of planes appeared overhead, flying quite low. The planes had large red circles on the wings. All of us children jumped excitedly and waved our arms.

These planes were on their way to bomb Pearl Harbour, creating much death and destruction. Thousands lost their lives.

Our life on the islands changed drastically with the declaration of war. Fortunately the war never returned to our shores, except for sightings of submarines.

But that early Sunday morning on December 7th 1941 is firmly entrenched in my memory now 82 years later. A most unusual "worldly experience" for a group of young children and one truly never to be forgotten.

Pam Cochrane
Kelowna

Write us at postscript@bcrta.ca

An Invitation to Toot Your Own Horn

In the fall of 2022, I wrote an article for Postscript called "Thank You, Mr. Turner". The article had two main messages; the first one was take the time to thank the people from your past who have given you a special gift. In this case, it was Kerry Turner, who had been my husband Ross' band teacher in a Burnaby high school 50 years ago. Kerry gave Ross a life-long love of the saxophone.

The second message was an encouragement to all of you former band members and band instrument players to join a community band. Dust that instrument off. Maybe you need to buy a new one. Start playing again - you will have a grand time playing music with a band once again!

Following the publication of last fall's article, Kerry Turner got in touch with us; we have not only renewed our friendship but we got to make music together! Kerry came to our community on Kootenay Lake to play his saxophone in the Many Bays Community Band for our Canada Day celebration on July 1st this summer. He got to sit and play beside his former saxophone student, Ross. Try wiping the smiles off everyone's faces!!

After many years of enjoying the beautiful Kootenay Lake area, we are re-locating to Vancouver and plans are afoot to have a new community band - so here is your chance. Get your band instrument out, clean it up, have it checked, play some notes. It doesn't matter if you are rusty... it is like riding a bike - it will come back with practice.

This new band will be called: Simply Band because the band charts will not be difficult. The music will be chosen because the piece is fun to play (Cantina Band from Star Wars movie) or because it is beautiful. (The Wishing Well - by R. Gallante)

Feel free to ask more about this band by emailing: simplybandvan@gmail.com. It would be great if I could write another article next year with a picture of a new concert band... with YOU in it!

Deberah Shears
(retired 2005 from VSB)

Conference Kudos and Membership Delight

I wanted to thank you all for the conference. It was fabulous! I have just recently retired and joined the association and am so glad I did. So many benefits: PostScript magazine, conference, opportunities for travel insurance and a great deal of information whenever I ask.

Thank you to the organizers, presenters and fellow retired teachers who posed questions. I gained a fair amount of information, sometimes through tears or a little laugh.

With appreciation,

Darcy Fedorak

Editor: Thanks very much for your kind words, Darcy. Below are a number of comments from conference attendees in response to this year's PostScript Awards.

Plaudits for the 2023 PostScript Awards

- "Dancing in Small Spaces" - such a great story
- Particularly enjoyed the interview with the writer of "Renting an Old Man"
- PostScript is an amazing magazine.
- Really well done!
- Very touching! I went back and read or reread these articles. I am so happy when I see the Postscript magazine in my mailbox -it is a highlight!
- Well done.....each interview was interesting and insightful.
- The interviews were skillfully done. Amazing work!
- I loved the surprise reactions!
- There were some highly emotional responses from the recipients, stories were wonderful!
- Tim has a style I find easy to listen to.
- Wonderful interviews. Very helpful and enriching. Thank you.
- Those were wonderful presentations! It was interesting to hear how the winners were selected and to hear each recipient's response to their submission. I particularly liked the last one given to Leslie Davidson. Her article was very informative as well as being heartwarming. Dave was not the only one touched by Leslie's response.
- Tim does a good job of getting to the heart of the subject.
- Always my favourite!



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How Things Have CHANGED!

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE BCTF STATUS OF WOMEN PROGRAM

BY THE BCRTA HERITAGE COMMITTEE

The BCTF Status of Women program was created in 1973 in response to a long history of women facing unequal treatment and marginalization in the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and in their employment situations. Women have made up the majority of BC teachers since the beginning of the BCTF in 1917 but were mostly excluded from leadership, as well as from administration of the school system. A long history of struggle produced change, particularly after the creation of the Status of Women program.

In the early years of the 20th Century, women were expected to leave teaching if they got married. Most started teaching after Grade 11. After 30 weeks of teacher training, most ended up in one-room schools in one of the approximately 700

one-school districts. Only unmarried women could expect to pursue a lifetime career in teaching. That didn't change until World War II when many men left to serve in the military, leading to a teacher shortage. Married women were welcomed into the profession and many stayed after the war in a rapidly expanding school system that was frequently short of staff.

Women also faced discrimination in pay, with separate pay scales for women and men, and lower salaries for women. The rationale was that men were career bread-earners for families, and women were just temporarily teaching. This began to change in 1947 when the hundreds of school districts were consolidated into 75. All teachers became automatic members of the BCTF and the BCTF



This commemorative quilt is on display at the BCTF building.

gained a bargaining system that covered all teachers. The first contracts in the new school districts had single salary scales based purely on the level of qualifications and years of experience. A few legacy contracts still had separate gender-based scales, but those were eliminated by the early 1950s.

Although some things had improved, women were still not welcome in leadership positions either in the education system or the BCTF. They still had no maternity leave and were forced to quit teaching and lose their jobs when they were pregnant.

After the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada reported in 1970, the BCTF followed its call for changes in society by creating a Task Force on the Status of Women to examine the issues in BC education and the BCTF. When the Task Force reported to the 1973 Annual General Meeting, it pointed out that women had been largely excluded from school administration—only 2 women were secondary administrators and only 10 percent of elementary administrators were women, with most of them being “head teachers” of small schools, not principals. At that point, women had been presidents of the BCTF for only three of its first 56 years. One woman was elected to the BCTF executive that year, following a pattern of either no women or only one woman on the executive at a time.

When the report of the Task Force on the Status of Women was made to the 1973 AGM, it was met with laughter, sexist comments, and rudeness from some of the predominantly male AGM delegates. Nevertheless, its recommendations were adopted.

Some quotes from the Task Force report give a sense of the context of the time:

THE PROBLEM AS IT EXISTS

Although over 53% of the BCTF membership is female, we see reluctance on the part of female teachers to strive for higher positions and to demonstrate a willingness to accept responsibility for the government of the Federation. Our organization is the weaker because the majority of our membership is female, passively accepting a non-decision-making role. This lack of involvement on the part of female teachers extends to all levels of education.

In the past it has been suggested that women do not become involved because they do not seek positions of leadership and heavy responsibility. The obvious and most important question then is ‘why’?

Women have been defined traditionally through their biological functions—sexual and reproductive. As teachers, we are part of an education system which supports and maintains this status quo by inculcating values that perpetuate rigid role differences. Children are taught society’s concept of what is masculine and feminine. Prescribed textbooks and other school literature provide socially acceptable models which stress qualities of independence and leadership for boys and dependence and passivity for girls.

“Girls need special help in overcoming these pressures of society. Early in their lives they must be shown the implications of educational choices, the wide options from which they can choose, and the way that custom has created divisions of work between men and women. This help should come from their families, teachers, and guidance counsellors.” (Page 181, Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada.)

It is no wonder then that female teachers being products of this same educational system should tend to underestimate their human potential and ability to act on it. Many women are afraid of not conforming to the subordinate role assigned to them by tradition.

When the report of the Task Force on the Status of Women was made to the 1973 AGM, it was met with laughter, sexist comments, and rudeness...

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Some examples from the 46 recommendations in the Report:

Recommendation 5 that all contractual clauses of local associations which do not allow a woman to work until full term must be deleted.

Recommendation 9 that the requirement for female teachers to produce their marriage certificates be eliminated.

Recommendation 10 that local associations discuss with school boards and district superintendents present policies and practices in regard to hiring teachers, with a view that there be equal opportunity for appointment regardless of sex, marital status or dependents.

Recommendation 20 that all BCTF and local association publications use both pronouns, 'he' and 'she' (he/she) when previously the pronoun he has been used in reference to a teacher at any level.

Perhaps the most significant recommendations were to create a Status of Women Program with a dedicated staff person and for each local to designate a member as the local Status of Women contact to work with the provincial program. This created a grass-roots network that became a force for change.

The results were impressive; they included awareness raising, classroom resource development, and changes to BCTF policies. At bi-annual zone meetings, local S/W contacts had the opportunity to discuss theory and practice of non-sexist teaching, find support, raise their issues and concerns, share their successes, explore ideas, and build their skills to advocate for equality. Importantly, the network provided support for the local contacts when they frequently faced hostility from those rejecting change.

The participation of women in all levels of leadership in the Federation was successfully promoted over the decades. Women presidents

have led the Federation through crucial times—Elsie McMurphy in 1987 when the Social Credit government tried to destroy the BCTF, Jinny Sims in the strike in 2005, Irene Lanzinger who later became the first woman president of the BC Federation of Labour, and many more. Women have been elected local presidents and been powerful advocates for members. The current BCTF executive has 9 women and 3 men, which is more reflective of the gender makeup of the current membership.

Women now fill administrative positions in the schools, districts, and at the ministry.

The priorities of the Federation expanded with gains made in maternity benefits and reduced pension inequities, placing a priority of class size and composition improvements in collective bargaining, support for reproductive rights, and making a broad range of social justice issues a legitimate agenda for the BCTF.

After twenty-five years, the Status of Women became an Action Group within the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice, one of the seven Social Justice Action Groups that pursue a wide range of social justice objectives. The Status of Women program was a major catalyst for the development of the BCTF into a social justice union. A video interview is available with three early leaders of the program, Linda Shuto, Gale Tyler, and Jane Turner.

Sources include:

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/16900/20210709045032/https://bctf.ca/history/rooms/StatusOfWomen.aspx>

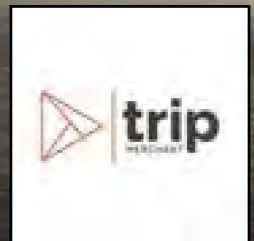
LARRY KUEHN was a leader in the BC Teachers' Federation for many years. In 2018, he was winner of the G.A. Fergusson Award, the highest honour within the Federation. He prepared this article with the assistance of the BCRTA Heritage Committee: Margaret Sutton, Stephanie Koropatnick, Carol Baird-Krul, and Ros Kellett.

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THE SCHOOL INSPECTOR

BY VERN GIESBRECHT

“The school inspector! What other person engenders such trepidation in the minds of teachers?

“Usually there was no forewarning as to when the inspector might arrive. Perhaps he might appear when all was in chaos, when the teacher had no lesson plan or was feeling so miserable with a head cold that a usually sparkling presentation was reduced to a dull monotone.

“Some first-year teachers suffered nightmares, such as the one in which a tall man, clad in black, loomed through the schoolhouse door and was struck by a flying dart. The teacher, meanwhile, clad only in her scanty underwear, tried feebly to maintain order in a roomful of pupils gone berserk!”

This excerpt from the book *Floating Schools and Frozen Inkwells: The One-room Schools of British Columbia* by Joan Adams and Becky Thomas, illustrates rather dramatically the ambivalent attitudes of public-school teachers during the 100 years (1856 to 1958) that inspectors criss-crossed the province to assess educational progress in mostly rural, mostly small schools.

118 men and just one woman served as school inspectors in BC during this period. After 1958, inspections were carried out by superintendents, directors of instruction, principals, and department heads.

The first inspector was an Anglican clergyman, Rev. Edward Cridge, whose first annual report dealt with only two schools on Vancouver Island, Victoria



Rev. Edward Cridge (1817–1913)
Image courtesy of BC Museum and Archives

and Craigflower. Rev. Cridge lamented “the lack of accuracy and grounding in the elementary parts” at the Victoria school, which had 17 students – all boys. He was slightly more complimentary in his comments on the Mayflower school (11 girls, 10 boys), noting that the students “were fairly grounded in the elementary parts.”

The lone female inspector was Margaret Strong, former principal of New Westminster’s Girls School (which actually had 133 boys enrolled along with 354 girls.) Her term as inspector in New Westminster lasted only four years, from 1911 to 1915, because she resigned following a dispute with the provincial inspector over “the placement and advancement of pupils in the district’s various schools and classrooms.”

As more schools were built in BC, more inspectors were hired, but they were hard-pressed to adequately serve all the schools in such a large province. One of the early inspectors, John Jessop, stated in his report for 1872 that he had travelled “1,200 miles by steamer, 425 by canoe, 540 by stage, 1,255 by horseback, and 184 by foot. I was able to make 84 school visits, 20 more than in the previous year.”

Jessop’s punishing workload was not out of the ordinary; inspectors were sometimes expected to visit between 50 and 90 schools a year. In 1937, for instance, there were only 22 inspectors for 1,182 schools.

A common complaint from many teachers over the decades was that over-worked inspectors made cursory and unhelpful visits to their schools and had little idea of the hardships faced by teachers, especially those who taught multiple grades in one-room schools.

One writer felt that inspectors in the pre-World War 1 period were often too critical: “The faults of the teacher in discipline and method are the subject of pitiless review and a high standard of excellence is expected of him or her. One fears that the critical and official aspects of the work are too much in evidence.”

Emma Shuster, a teacher at Shuswap Falls School, recalled, “He (the inspector) never went inside the school. He came at recess when we were out in the



*John Jessop, Superintendent of Inspectors, 1872-1878
Image courtesy of BC Museum and Archives*

yard playing and he talked to me and then he left... The only thing he talked about was my older sisters (who he had taught before becoming an inspector) asking where they were and what were they doing? And then he got in his little car and drove off.”

Bea Embree said her inspector “just walked up and down and scared the dickens out of you and you wondered what he was thinking. He didn’t help me any, but I got a good report.”

Lucy McCormick said, “When you got your report it was just routine... it was terrible... it didn’t mean a thing. Also, he usually left instructions with the teacher to approach the trustees regarding improvements... How was a young teacher going to go and tell the trustees that they should be doing this or that? That was *his* job.”

Some teachers, however, described their inspectors as “kind,” “supportive,” or “helpful” and recounted instances when inspectors went out of their way to assist them.

*“1,200 miles by steamer, 425 by canoe, 540 by stage, 1,255 by horseback, and 184 by foot.
I was able to make 84 school visits...”*

Pauline Hewat, a teacher in northern BC, recalls Inspector Fraser as “a very good inspector. He would spend any amount of time after school helping and advising you. I think he would have spent until midnight if you had wanted him to...”

Perhaps the biggest support for the many young women who were teaching in isolated rural schools was Lottie Bowron, former personal secretary to Premier Richard McBride. She was appointed as a “rural teachers’ welfare officer” in 1928. This new position was equivalent to that of a school inspector, but there was a big difference. Instead of being responsible for a certain geographical region, Bowron “was accountable for the care of all women teachers in rural schools throughout BC. Hers was the largest educational territory ever assigned to a single inspector in all of Canada.”

Bowron was a tireless advocate for women teachers. She wrote approximately 250 reports a year and her recommendations helped improve working and living conditions for female teachers. She also provided a buffer between them and school boards that didn’t always treat them fairly.

Two of the most prominent school inspectors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were David Wilson, who had been principal of a boys’ school in New Westminster, and Herbert King, a former principal of Kitsilano High School in Vancouver.



Lottie Bowron, rural teachers’ welfare officer (left) and Allie Bowron at Barkerville, 1928. BC Museum and Archives



Ready for the inspector, Eburne School, Vancouver, 1900. Photographer Philip Timms. Vancouver Public Library

Wilson’s contributions included making the School Inspectorate a separate branch of the Department of Education and encouraging the development of school libraries.

His extremely detailed inspector’s report for 1892 covers numerous topics, including reading, arithmetic, writing, grammar, composition, geography, history, physiology (anatomy, physiology and hygiene), music and physical training.

In general, Wilson seems satisfied with the progress being made in the various schools in his territory, but he also sees need for improvement in some areas, as shown by these comments:

- “The suggestion in the Course of Instruction with respect to the use and value of declamation has not been very largely adopted. Recitation as a voice exercise is of much assistance to the pupil in acquiring a knowledge of the art of reading...”
- “Some of the most noticeable defects, even in the work of advanced pupils, are inaccurate use of common words, carelessness in the framing of sentences, and lack of proper arrangement of material preparatory to its subsequent division into topics suitable for paragraphs.”

He was pleased with the emphasis given to temperance and commented, “No teacher who has the welfare of his pupils at heart should fail to teach not only the evils of the use of alcoholic stimulants, but of tobacco and other narcotics.”

Herbert King’s great contribution as chief inspector in the 1930s was extensive curriculum revisions for



*Herbert Baxter King, Chief Inspector of Schools, 1939.
The Homeroom: BC's History of Education website*

elementary, junior high, and senior high schools.

Few details escaped his notice. Observing that students often “don’t use their lunch hours productively...but stand around the stove or sit on the ground outside and wolf their food,” he urged teachers to “collect tablecloths, cutlery, dishes and a vase of flowers, seat the children properly and teach them the refinements of social living.”

Pi Campbell, a long-time principal and then a school inspector in many areas of the province, recalled the challenges of reaching schools in the Fort St John area.

“It was a terrible business driving the Alaska Highway in those days. The windshields got banged up and the hubcaps fell off and the headlights got dented in. You enjoyed the road more in winter because the snow filled up the holes. The only problem was that when you drove along the accelerator froze and you just kept going around a corner into a snowbank.”

Campbell recalled visiting a school at Doig River, north of Fort St. John, but there was no sign of the teacher, a recent immigrant from Ireland. He waited 15 minutes and then went to the nearby teacherage and rapped on the door.

“Another fellow answered my knock and I said, ‘Is the teacher going to come in today?’

“Oh, just a minute, I’ll go and find out,’ the fellow said. I heard him say, ‘Do you figure on going to school today?’ The teacher replied, “Oh, is it that time? No, I’m sick.”

Campbell summed up his feelings about an inspector’s life this way: “Well, after I got to be an inspector I wondered why. It was a very lonely job. You lose the relationships that occur when you are on a staff with several others. The fun you had teaching kids is gone. You become a sort of figure-head, someone the teacher looked forward to or feared, and then you were gone.”

An unusual and influential school inspector was Carlyle Ethelbert Clay (known as Mike). Clay was not a model student, being expelled six times, and he didn’t attend Normal School until he was 27 because he worked at labouring jobs to support his widowed mother.

Teaching jobs were scarce, and Clay was digging sewers in Vancouver when one of his Normal School instructors suggested he apply for a job in the Cariboo. After teaching at the 10-grade Dome Creek School as well as being the school janitor for \$105 per month, he spent 17 years teaching in Rutland, Richmond and Armstrong before becoming principal of West Vancouver High School.

He became an inspector in 1946, shortly after the Cameron Commission report resulted in the reorganization of 650 school districts into 74. As inspector for the Grand Forks, Kettle Valley, and Castlegar areas, Clay faced many obstacles, including outbreaks of communicable diseases and the burning of some schools by Sons of Freedom Doukhobors.

At times during his inspections, he would take over a class to demonstrate a technique for the teacher. “Clay would sit down and write descriptive reports on the whole school – principal, teachers, grounds, and physical conditions of the building... his comments on the teacher’s style might include comments such as ‘stresses fundamentals,’ ‘forceful’ or ‘too dominant.’”

Clay had a reputation for fairness; he had to fire very few teachers during his time as inspector. “Instead, he would give them a few years to straighten up. In one case he put ‘satisfactory work’ on a teacher’s report and described the problem by



Above left: a young Carlyle Clay, and right, Carlyle Clay after retirement. Photos courtesy of Barb Swan

On facing page: Inspectors in Victoria, 1948. BC Museum and Archives

saying, "There is a tendency for him to dominate the class...with experience this should be overcome."

As the following anecdotes indicate, many teachers remembered their encounters with inspectors vividly:

- John Lukas, a teacher at Alice Siding in the Kootenays in 1927, saw a man with a briefcase walking toward his school and he quickly swung into action. "The clock had stopped, so I had to set it and start it, skim off a few flies from the water bucket, get something on the blackboard, bring my timetable up to date, and check the stove. I really moved! I did more work in five minutes than the average secondary teacher does in half a day."
- A female teacher in a rural school in the Pouce Coupe area had the habit of dismissing the class early several times a month and riding her horse into town. On one of these occasions, she came across a man whose car was stuck in thick mud. "If you have a rope, I might be able to pull you out," offered the teacher. With a rope tied to the saddle horn and the car in low gear, she was able to pull the car out of the mud. In chatting with the man, she admitted she was a schoolteacher and quite often dismissed her students early. "Supposing the inspector comes?" the man asked. She replied, "Oh, that old fossil! He never comes this way." The next morning there was a knock on the schoolhouse door. "Well, the old fossil is here!"



- Edward Fougner was teaching Social Studies in his first year at Chemainus High School when there was a knock on the door and Inspector Bunny Hurn entered. The lesson was about the conditions in the trenches following Russia's signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1917. "Mr. Hurn interrupted, 'Excuse me, Mr. Fougner, would you mind if I speak to the class?' I paused, and probably gulped, then said yes and Inspector Hurn, who had been a soldier in the Canadian Army and served in France in 1917, kept my class spellbound as he described conditions in those WW1 trenches. By the way, I received a very, and probably overly generous, report from Inspector Hurn."
- Marion Gallagher, a teacher at Second Westview School in Powell River in the 1940s, recalls a field trip that "...ended in disaster. I took my class for a walk to Duck Lake, through Paradise Valley. We became lost and could not find our way... but we eventually arrived back in Westview at 2 a.m., barefooted. The very next day the inspector arrived in class. I had blood shot eyes and was wearing bedroom slippers!"
- Long-time Powell River School Board chair Marion McRae recalls an amusing incident involving the family dog, Golly, who used to follow her youngest child David to Stillwater School. "The dog would sit on the school step until home time and was no bother to anyone – until the day the school inspector arrived! No way would Golly let the inspector into the school!" •

VERN GIESBRECHT taught in several BC school districts before becoming an Adult Basic Education instructor and literacy co-ordinator at Capilano University.



Nelson Horse Race, July 1, 1898 Photos courtesy of Touchstones Museum and Dan Wack

HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BCRTA MEMBERS EXPLORE THE PAST AND SHARE ITS STORIES

Many of our members in British Columbia have found their skills ideally suited to volunteer work for their local historical societies and in other history-related activities. The work is varied and stimulating, as you can see from these accounts from five retired teachers.

Carolyn Prellwitz, from the Cowichan Historical Society and Cowichan Valley Schools Heritage Society, became involved through her love of field hockey. 1996 marked the Century of Field Hockey in Canada and Carolyn was inspired to research its history in Duncan and the Cowichan Valley.

She found the process so satisfying that she decided to join the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives (CVMA) when she retired, where she volunteers two afternoons a week. The CVMA is owned and operated by the Cowichan Historical Society. Carolyn joined the Society as a member in 2011, became a Director of the Board in 2015, and is now the President. She is also the Secretary-Treasurer of the Cowichan Valley Schools Heritage Society (CVSHS).

Nan Clare, from South Peace River, joined the South Peace Historical Society shortly after her husband, its former president, died. She assists half day a week at the Museum and half day a week at the Archives, as well as planning and producing the displays for the two display cases at the Archives, which are changed approximately six times a year.

Dan Wack's involvement, by contrast, came through his Retired Teachers Association (RTA) and not any local historical society. The project in Nelson was teacher-led and designed to get students thinking about their town and life there in prior eras. They encouraged students to examine artifacts that might have been in grandparents' or great-grandparents' homes. Students conducted interviews with numerous seniors; both teachers and students found this experience and the contact with seniors to be one of the most exciting and rewarding aspects.

The project was to have been housed at the school district resource centre but when finances became an issue, the School Board decided to discontinue service to teachers and students. In an effort to



The Cowichan Historical Society has recreated the Alderlea General Store for visitors. Photo from CVMA.

see the project continue, the RTA approached the Nelson Museum and also worked with the local teachers' association. Unfortunately, the project has not yet been approved for use and the material is currently stored in the museum. Needless to say, the RTA is disappointed that a good educational resource is still unavailable to students, teachers, and the community.

Tiiu Noukas was introduced to The Prince George Retired Teachers' Education Heritage Committee through friends who volunteered there. Initially, she attended meetings and participated in bimonthly work bees but gradually, took on more responsibility as senior members left. For the past ten years, Kris Nellis and she were elected co-chairs of the committee. They steered various projects to completion, including the publication of the histories of approximately 140 schools that were part of school district 57 (Prince George). The book is called ***Historical Memories: People, Places, Programs and Services***. She also independently wrote a book, entitled ***Local Schooling - A brief history of the first six decades of formal education in the Fraser Fort George Region***. Both books are available online.

As with much volunteer work, everyone has found their involvement satisfying in unexpected ways.

Nan values getting together with others who enjoy learning and discovering their local history. Contacts have included the Northern Alberta Railway Museum, the South Peace Historical



Archives, the Walter Wright Pioneer Village, and the Roots Group. “I get out, meet new people and learn new information about the area where I have lived for almost 75 years. The group as a whole helps many people searching for their own history, business history, or friends and relatives who at one time lived here. We receive queries from many parts of the world.”

Carolyn grew up and attended school and university in Alberta. “The history of that province and peoples is vastly different from BC’s. Thus, learning about the place where I have been a resident and former teacher since 1977 has been a delight.” She often writes up short stories that appear in the Cowichan Historical Society’s newsletter, has articles published in the local newspapers, and writes all of the articles on the CVSHS website. “I will continue to volunteer at the Archives as long as I feel I am being of service.”

Tiiu enjoys the research process at the local library, the College of New Caledonia, the University of Northern BC, and also online. The Society also liaises with local museums, the City of Prince George Heritage Commission, the local Genealogical society, various community associations, and the Northern BC Archives & Special Collections. “I found meeting members of the community and hearing their recollections most rewarding. Also, working with other retired teachers was a nice connection to my previous working life.”

While acknowledging that doing research can sometimes be tedious, all the volunteers mentioned enjoying the stimulation of meeting new people and exploring the histories of their respective areas. Carolyn Prellwitz points out that it’s one avenue to learning new skills, reinforcing memory skills, and continuing lifelong learning.

Some projects produce their own artifacts. In the Spring 2021 issue of PostScript, Janet White recounted the many ups and downs involved in her group producing a large book *Inwells to Internet: The History of Burnaby Schools*.

“It was not always easy to have five personalities working on how the book should be put together, but with persistence and dedication, and seventeen years later, we did it,” she said.

Recently, Surrey Archives partnered with the Surrey Retired Teachers Association (SRTA) to present a free online talk ‘School Memories & Mementos’. The event took place on September 8. “From rural one-room schoolhouses to a vast network of educational facilities, teaching in the Surrey School District has transformed enormously over the years,” said SRTA Heritage Committee member Alice Tiles.

Many other BCRTA branches have active heritage committees who produce local histories and keep common memories alive.

Those who live in Vancouver may be interested in joining Transcribimus, a network of volunteer transcribers who take hand-written documents of early Vancouver history and transcribe them into a searchable state available for free to the public and researchers. Their main work has been with the minutes of Vancouver City Council meetings from 1886 --1899, with only 12 years still left to transcribe. Minutes of other cities are being considered. Transcribimus volunteers are at liberty to add additional information and interesting photos that they discover while transcribing. Anyone interested can contact them at <https://transcribimus.ca/contact/>

Tiiu Noukas: “I think reaching out to the public and sharing historical information was important. Over the years we did public presentations and displays at the public library, at school board meetings, at Heritage Week happenings, at UNBC, at the BC Northern Exhibition. Winning local history awards has enhanced our efforts. Sharing information and working with others was intrinsically satisfying.” •

LEARN MORE

BCRTA Branches

<https://bcrt.ca/branches>

Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives

<https://cvmuseum.ca>

Cowichan Valley Schools Heritage Society

www.cowichanvalleyschoolsheritagesociety.com/

The Prince George Retired Teachers' Education Heritage Committee

<https://pgrta.ca/heritagecom.html>

Northern BC Archives & Special Collections

<https://libguides.unbc.ca/archives/home>

South Peace Historical Society

<https://calverley.ca/>

Transcribimus

<https://transcribimus.ca>

important dates

Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security

Includes the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) retirement pension and disability, children's and survivor benefits.

Payment dates 2024

2024

- January 29, 2024
- February 27, 2024
- March 26, 2024
- April 26, 2024
- May 29, 2024
- June 26, 2024
- July 29, 2024
- August 28, 2024
- September 25, 2024
- October 29, 2024
- November 27, 2024
- December 20, 2024

Teachers' Pension Plan

Here are upcoming dates that pension payments are directly deposited to accounts.

Payment dates 2023

2023

- January 30, 2023
- February 27, 2023
- March 30, 2023
- April 27, 2023
- May 30, 2023
- June 29, 2023
- July 28, 2023
- August 30, 2023
- September 28, 2023
- October 30, 2023
- November 29, 2023
- December 21, 2023

Protection for the people you care about and peace of mind for you

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Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance /
Critical Illness Insurance / Dependent Critical Illness Insurance

BC Retired Teachers Association Insurance Program in partnership with Johnson

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please visit us at: specialmarkets.ia.ca/bcрта
1.800.266.5667

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A close-up photograph of a Japanese Zen garden. The sand is meticulously raked into concentric, wavy patterns that create a sense of movement and rhythm. Two smooth, rounded, light-brown stones are placed on the sand, one in the upper right and one in the lower left, acting as focal points. The overall tone is warm and earthy, with soft lighting that highlights the texture of the sand.

CREATING A JAPANESE GARDEN

BY DALE LEOPKEY

While still surrounded by COVID, I found myself in need of a project, and rediscovered a book given to us by family, entitled “Japanese Gardens in a Weekend”. “Why,” might you ask, “a Japanese Garden, specifically a Zen Garden”? Whenever we meet friends along the Sanderson trail or enroute to the Gillies Bay Store, the conversations always end with the question, “How is your garden doing?” and I must then endure a litany of complaints about weeds, wind, weather, and water.

A Zen Garden, often called a “Dry Garden” or “Rock Garden”, has none of these concerns. The earliest historical reference to such a garden dates back to AD 74 (earlier in China). Later gardens were influenced by the rise of Zen Buddhism and the “dry landscape style” is now the standard for Zen Gardens in Japan, mostly located in Buddhist Temples. A Zen Garden has three basic zones: the fore, the middle, and the background. The garden scene is built up in a series of layers that guide the viewer’s imagination into revealing a delightful composition. Most are meant to be seen while seated in a specific spot.



Hartley and Georgia Hawkins in the Japanese garden (photo taken by Margery, their mother)



Several views of Dale and Marzie's Japanese garden. The garden incorporates driftwood as well as the traditional elements of rocks and raked gravel.



Above: traditional Zen gardens are “built up in a series of layers that guide the viewer’s imagination into revealing a delightful composition.” (iStockphoto)

Once the garden perimeter was fixed, and after removing several tons of topsoil, the area was filled with the traditional sand, rocks, and gravel. The Texada variation features not only rocks and gravel but also driftwood. The gate to the garden, which opens from the public Sanderson trail, includes my wife Marzie’s tricycle wheel from the 1940’s. and the Tea/Coffee/Bring your own beer house awaits you.

But forget that notion of building a Japanese Garden in a weekend! I started this project in October 2020 and did not complete it until Spring 2021. Now, however, when I meet my neighbours, I discuss my garden’s progress without even mentioning weeds, wind, weather, or water! •

DALE LEOPKEY has been retired for nearly 30 years and resides in Gillies Bay on Texada Island. His previous PostScript articles include “Family of Feasts” (Summer 2023) and “Lessons From My Students” (Winter 2022).



Winter Gardens

Many of us are familiar with the light and sound displays put on by larger gardens in BC for the holidays. But there are other pleasures to be had in gardens in this season, especially those designed with winter in mind. Classical Japanese and Chinese gardens aim to bring about pleasure and personal reflection in each of the four seasons. In Northern Japan, for example, the gardens even include design aspects meant to be especially beautiful in the snow. Classical elements including evergreen and deciduous plants, moss, water, rocks, sand, and man-made items such as bridges, lanterns, and water basins, all placed to encourage slow walking, stops for the deliberate viewings of the garden elements from many angles, and pauses for contemplation. Zen gardens, or Stone gardens, a subcategory, use no plants at all, but only stones, gravel, and sand.

WINTER GARDENS IN BC

The Nitobe Memorial Garden at UBC (Vancouver)

<https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca>

Also at UBC, the **Winter Garden** which surrounds the Rosalind Sturdy Amphitheatre was designed for its special colours and fragrances in winter.

<https://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/visit/garden-highlights/other-gardens-and-areas>

The Japanese Garden in Hatley Park (Colwood)

Tucked in behind the castle, a restful garden.

<https://hatleypark.ca/visit-us>

The Japanese Garden at Butchart Gardens

(Brentwood Bay) A sizeable and accomplished section of BC's world-famous attraction.

<https://www.butchartgardens.com>



Nitobe Gardens at UBC (iStock/Getty)



Hatley Castle in winter (iStock/Getty)

Ikeda Japanese Garden (Penticton)

Cared for by volunteers. Near the waterfront.

<https://www.penticton.ca/parks-recreation/parks/find-parks-and-gardens/ikeda-japanese-garden>

Kuno Japanese Garden in Kerry Point Park

(Richmond) Close to Steveston.

<https://www.richmond.ca/parks-recreation/parks/parksearch/park.aspx?ID=17>

Sun Yat-Sen Park (free) and **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden** (paid) are adjacent to each other. (Vancouver)

<https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/dr-sun-yat-sen-chinese-garden.aspx>

David Douglas Botanical Garden (Prince George) - the Educational Display Gardens are open to the public 24/7 year-round at no cost.

<https://www.ddbotgarden.bc.ca/>

Queen Elizabeth Park and Conservatory

(Vancouver). The Quarry Garden, while not technically a Japanese garden, has been designed and planted with “many oriental horticultural influences” and is delightful in the winter—I was there less than a week before writing this article. After your contemplative stroll, you can then warm up in the Conservatory, viewing tropical plants and birds.

vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/bloedel-conservatory.aspx



Butchart Gardens has an exceptional Japanese garden (iStock/Getty)

VanDusen Garden (Vancouver) This garden contains a Korean pavilion, an Asian-Style stone garden, a “Winter Walk”, and a boxwood maze, all delightful in winter. Many of the volunteer guides are retired teachers.

<https://vandusengarden.org>

Japanese Gardens, Esquimalt Gorge Park & Pavilion (Esquimalt) Pavilion and gardens alongside the Gorge.

<https://www.esquimalt.ca/parks-recreation/parks/>

Takata Japanese Garden (Victoria) Designed to recreate the unique components of traditional Japanese “stroll gardens” with the focus on understatement and simplicity.

<https://hcp.ca/takata-japanese-garden/>

There are many other small Japanese and winter gardens throughout BC, usually as parts of larger public parks. You can find them by searching “Japanese Gardens” in Google Maps.

Many other gardens in public parks in BC are delightful in winter, even when not especially designed for the season. The care taken by the designers in the lay-outs of these spaces can be more visible when many of the trees are bare of leaves. Check your local parks to see if they have garden sections, then go have a meander! •



Sun Yat-Sen Garden offers tranquility in the city. (iStock/Getty)

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“Very interesting speakers and topics.”

“Informative presentation and quality questions.”



FOCUS: PENSION INVESTMENTS

Rob Field
BC INVESTMENT CORPORATION

An overview of BCI management of pension funds including the TPP, with emphasis on BCI's ethical Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) Strategy, and how our investments are being used in the fight against climate change.



FOCUS: HOUSING

Graham Freeman
President
BC Seniors Living Association



Sara Goldvine
VP Stakeholder Engagement
BC Housing

Presentations and a panel discussion about challenges and opportunities in housing for BC seniors.



FOCUS: AGEING IN PLACE

Bev Pitman
UNITED WAY - BETTER AT HOME

Better at Home is a program that helps seniors with day-to-day tasks so that they can continue to live independently in their own homes.



FOCUS: VOLUNTEERING

Presentation by
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Wish You Were Here

POSTCARDS FROM BCRTA HOME TOWNS



In the Fall 2023 issue of PostScript, reader Janet Amsden of Port Moody posed an interesting challenge to us:

Considering that your readers are uniquely positioned, can you encourage them to share hidden vacation or adventure opportunities in BC?

Challenge accepted! Thanks to a number of BCRTA people who have stepped forward with small “postcards” from their home, sharing some local experiences you might enjoy.

We know that you have your own favourite hidden gems. What is a special or unknown feature where you live? Let us know at postscript@bcrt.ca

Or send us a postcard!

POSTCARD

Pick up a coffee & snack
(I suggest the "rescue
cookie") at the Red Wagon
Coffee Shop on Ryan
Road, then drive through
the Air Force base to Point
Holmes and park. Enjoy
your "Island coffee break"
in Comox!

Dave Scott

PostScript Magaz
100 - 550 West 6t
Vancouver BC
V5Z 4P2



Parksville Community Park is right
downtown as you are driving through town.
Easy to miss, but totally worthwhile.
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province - miles of seemingly endless sand
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walk when it is in. bring your swimsuit
and beach blanket or visit the extensive
adventure playground with the grandkids
Visit with the many local dogs on their
daily walks. Grab a meal or a snack from
one of the many food trucks that frequent
the park - summer living at its finest!

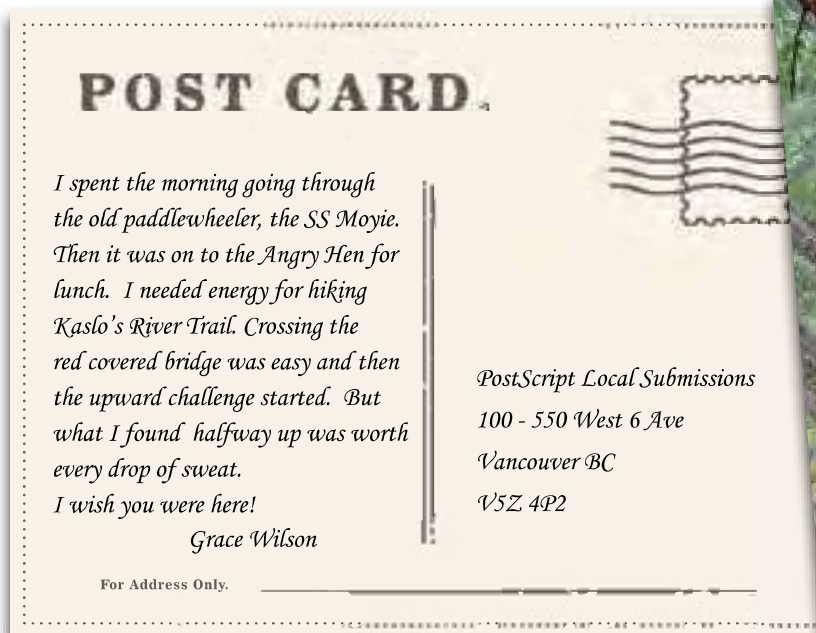
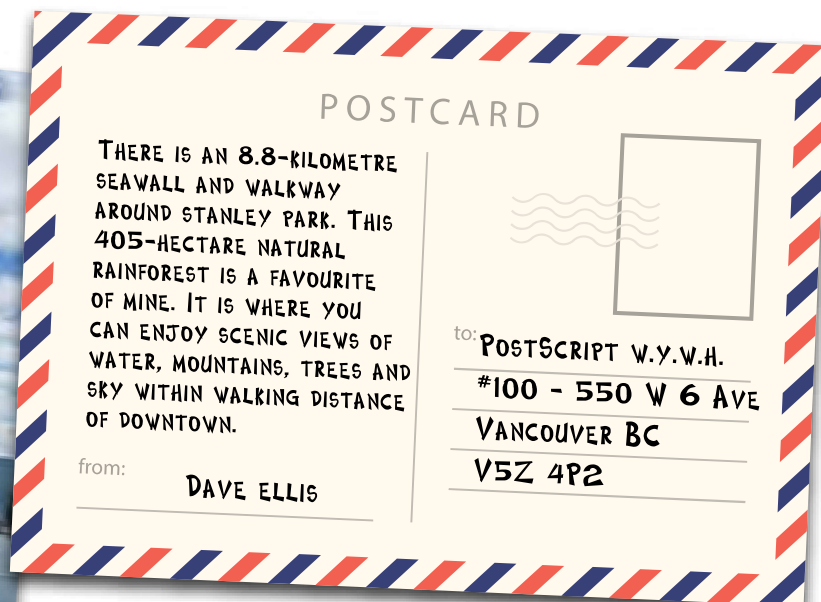
Stephanie Koropatnick

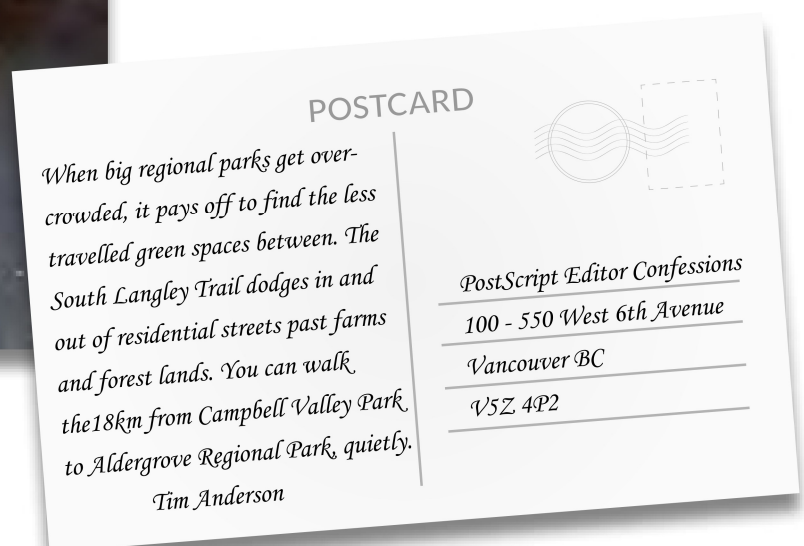
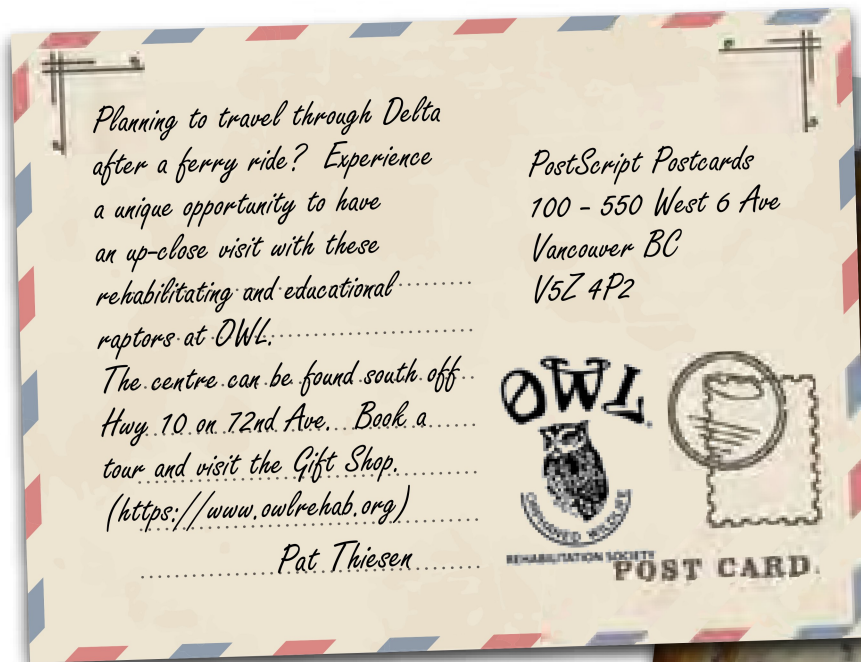
PostScript Editor

100 - 550 West 6th Ave

Vancouver BC

V5Z 4P2





MISTAKEN IDENTITY



BY PHIL FOSTER

“Pass. Now! Through the lines, Kostiuk. Too late. Montelbetti, cover that run!”

These were the sounds of a soccer practice for the upcoming 1975 tour of England by the Mount Baker High School team from the small Canadian town of Cranbrook, British Columbia. To all those who might think this is a story of a small-town team travelling halfway around the world to conquer the inventors of the game, I will put your minds at ease right now. We lost every game to players at least three years younger but, as things worked out, that is not the story.

Football, or soccer as they insist on calling the game in North America so as not to confuse it with the Canadian/American game of the same name in which only two of an army of players are actually allowed to kick the ball, was a new sport in Cranbrook in the early 1970's. My team was a ragtag bunch of immigrants' kids with names like Montelbetti, Popoff, Vogt, Bramburger, Ciano, and Provenzano with a couple of British and South African names thrown in for good measure. I had to do something spectacular to attract new players, so

I insanely proposed a tour to England during spring break.

Word passed around the Kootenay Valley that some crazy Englishman was taking a soccer team to England, and I was approached by the coach of the Kimberley High School team to see if I would be willing to take their star player, Henry Vogler. We had encountered Henry the previous fall when he had terrorized our team by scoring six goals in the two games, we had played against them. He certainly would be a great asset.

It is cold in Cranbrook during the winter when the snow comes. That winter, we extended the normal four-week season by practicing indoors twice weekly and Henry came to a handful of the practices. I would end the training sessions with a meeting about the tour where I would give them the latest updates on arrangements and fundraising. Almost from the beginning of the process I had insisted that each player apply for a passport from whichever country they were eligible. Henry was present at a number of these sessions but, unfortunately, the bulk of Henry's intelligence was in his football

“Passport, er what passport? Din’t know we needed no passport,” Henry whined.

boots. The deadline for the players to produce their passports was two weeks before departure.

“Everyone, show me your passports,” I demanded.

One by one the players produced a document that I inspected to see if it was valid.

“Passport, er what passport? Din’t know we needed no passport,” Henry whined.

“I have been telling you for the past two months to apply for a passport. England is a foreign country, and you need a passport.”

“I’ll ask my dad.”

“I will ask your dad myself. Ask him to come to the next practice and we will see what we can do, but if you don’t have a passport you can’t go.”

At the next practice Mr. Henry Vogler senior arrived.

“He didn’t tell me about no passport.”

“Well, he has to apply to Ottawa for a Canadian passport.”



“No problem,” said Vogler senior, “Henry’s grandfather lives in Ottawa. I can ask Opa to go to the passport office and get one.”

“He will need photos and birth certificates and a letter from a judge, doctor, or somebody in authority that can vouch for him,” I said.

“No problem. I will fix it. Henry really wants to go on this trip.”

“But it is only two weeks. How are we going to get the passport here in time?” I asked.

“Not sure about that one,” he admitted.

“I tell you what, I’ll contact our local MP and see what he can come up with,” I suggested.

I contacted the local MP’s office, and they were most helpful. Our journey to England included a





He opened the passport to the picture page and all three of us gasped...

three-hour stopover in Winnipeg. The plan was that the Ottawa passport office would deliver the passport to an MP from Winnipeg, who just happened to be flying home that day. He would deposit the passport with the RCMP attachment at the Winnipeg Airport. I would pick up the passport on our way through and everything would be fine.

The team arrived at the Winnipeg airport at 2 a.m. for the three-hour lay over. I went with Henry to the RCMP office, about a twenty-minute walk from the main terminal.

The lone officer was expecting us and presented Henry with an official brown envelope from the passport office in Ottawa. Henry opened the envelope and removed a brand-new Canadian passport.

He opened the passport to the picture page and all three of us gasped. The picture was of an elderly gentleman. Not the seventeen-year-old Henry Vogler but his seventy-year-old grandfather, the other Henry Vogler.

The grandfather was Dutch-speaking, and not fluent in English. He had misunderstood his son's instructions and had applied for a passport for himself.

What now? Henry still did not have a valid passport and we were about to board our flight to England. The RCMP officer arranged a meeting with Canadian Immigration for 3 a.m. They issued a temporary passport and contacted British immigration at Heathrow in London to let them know the situation.

It was now only fifteen minutes before departure. We ran back to the gate just in time to board the plane.

On arrival at Heathrow, Henry was pulled to one side and spent the next hour and a half having his photo taken and being issued with a temporary visa for his stay in the UK.

The very last thing that the immigration official said to Henry was, "DO NOT LOSE THIS PIECE OF PAPER!"

The first venue of our soccer tour was in Sheffield where Henry met a girl. On our return journey to London, the train happened to stop in Sheffield. As it pulled into the station Henry spied a telephone booth and decided he would call his new girlfriend. He had just taken out his wallet when the train began to pull out of the station. He barely managed to jump on board as one of his teammates held open the door.

“F.... it!” Henry exclaimed, “I left my wallet in the phone booth!”

The wallet contained every piece of identification he possessed including the temporary visa. The only piece of identification he now possessed was the luggage label on his suitcase.

By the time we boarded the plane the story of the passport had gained mythical proportions in the Immigration Departments of both the UK and Canada and all the officials knew the “Legend of Henry Vogler.” Our return journey was through Iceland and Winnipeg and every customs official we met said, “Ah, it’s Mr. Vogler—the young man with the face of an old man.”

Henry arrived back in Kimberly having spent two weeks travelling to foreign parts without a passport, vouched for by a Canadian resident travelling on a British Passport. Needless to say, this was in the days before September 11, 2001, when the world of air travel changed forever, and Henry Vogler would have missed the tour. •



PHIL FOSTER taught both senior high school and elementary school in Cranbrook, BC, in the 1970's and 80's. He has published two memoirs, including “Odds, Clocks and Odd Clocks,” the story of his family and growing up as a bookie’s boy in South Yorkshire.



Celtic Colours

(AM FOR DHOIGH GHAIÐHEALACH)

This Hebridean Black House is one of the many buildings reconstructed at the Highland Village, Cape Breton.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DOUG MACLEOD

Growing up in North Vancouver in the 1950's and 60's, our family's week was organized around two major events. Church was on Sunday and every Monday evening at 7:30 we gathered around the television to watch Don Messer's Jubilee. Our dad turned on the T.V fifteen minutes early to warm it up. For thirty minutes we sat enthralled as Don, Marg, Charlie, and the gang performed old-time, down east music.

Mom and Dad came from a rural community in Eastern Ontario, settled two hundred years ago by Scottish Highlanders. I grew up listening to Scottish music. As an adult the rhythms and lilting melodies resonate in my bones. Fulfilling a longtime wish to immerse myself in Celtic music, my wife and I flew to Cape Breton to attend the Celtic Colours International Festival.

For ten days in October, this beautiful island welcomes musicians from Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man, and other Canadian provinces. The biggest contingent arrives from Scotland. They join the many singers, guitar players, harpists, pipers, keyboardists, and fiddlers based on Cape Breton.

Our adventure began by stopping in at Saint Joseph's Parish Hall in Port Hawkesbury for a traditional Cape Breton dinner of fishcakes and beans. These church fund-raising suppers are part of the festival fun. Across the entire length of the church basement stretched rows of tables filled with heaping plates. We chatted with one retired couple originally from British Columbia who fell in love with the beauty and the laidback lifestyle of Nova Scotia and moved here. Another couple lived on Ilse Madame, a nearby community. The husband, a man of perhaps sixty, spoke of the old days of cod fishing, a life that was hard and dangerous. His wife shared tips on making the tastiest fishcakes. Egg holds the cakes together then onion and peas or other cooked vegetables are added for flavour.

Then we were off to opening night. A buzz of anticipation filled the air as we joined hundreds of people pouring into the Port Hawkesbury hockey arena. The evening started with opening ceremonies. We sat patiently through politicians' speeches extolling the festival and celebrating the cultural depth it brought to the island. Finally, **Heather Rankin** and her band came on stage. In a strong clear voice Heather sang of Cape Breton Island life, fishing, farming, and coal mining. One song was in Gaelic, the beautiful, ancient language of Cape Breton's Scottish settlers. Near the end of the set, the band broke into an instrumental jig. Fiddle music electrified the arena and the audience. No one could keep still. Instantly, toes tapped, and hands clapped. The sizzling energy couldn't be contained any longer and Heather sprung out front to begin a lively round of step dancing. Feet flew, fiddles screamed, and the crowd roared.

The theme for the evening was *The Universal Language*, featuring songs in English, Welsh, Manx, Irish, French, Mi'Kmaq and Scots Gaelic. One after another, seven groups performed their own unique and enchanting music. There were pianos, harps, bagpipes, accordions, guitars, drums, mandolins, and lots of fiddles. A standout for me



was **Diane Cannon** from Donegal. Singing in Irish, her ethereal voice filled the arena with haunting melodies. The evening closed with **Blazin' Fiddles**, a six-member group from Scotland, who fired up the arena with their energetic fiddle music. The audience rose with a thunderous ovation.

Every night of the festival three or four major performances occurred at various locations around the island. On weekends, afternoon concerts completed the lineup. In addition to these big events, dozens of small performances at cultural centres, pubs, and church halls filled the days adding variety to the festival. Interested in making spoons, learning to step dance, or developing textile hooking skills? There was a range of learning activities for everyone in communities big and small all over the island.

During the daytime we explored the delightful corners of Cape Breton Island. Trees were dressed in their fall colours. Orange, yellow, and red leaves blazed against a clear blue sky. We visited Margaree Harbour, perched at the base of rolling hills,



The view of Lake Bras d'Or from Baddeck.

overlooking the blue Atlantic and lingered at an almost deserted beach with powdery white sand. In the village of Mabou, we strolled beside old wooden houses brightly painted white, yellow, red or blue, with neatly cut lawns and perused the creative selections at craft stores. At *Colaisde na Caidhlig*, the Gaelic College, the language, the culture, music, and crafts of immigrants from the Highlands of Scotland are preserved and promoted.

We drove to *Baile nan Gaidheal*, the Highland Village in Iona. This living museum honours Cape Breton Scots who were driven from their homes during the Agricultural Revolution in the eighteen and nineteenth centuries, a period known as the Highland Clearances. Buildings are spread over green hills overlooking Lake Bras d'Or. We began by entering a traditional stone structure, once common on the Hebrides, known as a black house, because of the discolouration caused by open fires inside. We moved on to explore a barn, church, general store, and houses built by settlers in Cape Breton and moved or reconstructed on the site.

Each installation had interpreters in traditional costume who described the early lives of settlers.

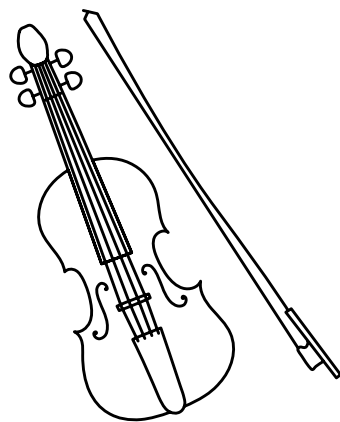
A favourite spot was Baddeck, a beautiful village nestled on a hill that gently sloped down to the shore Lake Bras d'Or. It is the home of craft associations such as the Weavers' Guild, whose intricate textiles were on display at the town art centre. We sat in the sun at the yacht club and enjoyed a lunch of beer and fish and chips.

As a retired teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing I was excited to visit the Alexander Graham Bell Historic Site. Bell began his career as a teacher of the deaf but is better known for his inventions and innovations. His most famous accomplishment was the telephone, but he also developed airplanes, and hydrofoil watercrafts that shattered speed records. His wife Mabel was an avid gardener and contributed to biodiversity by collecting plants at *Beinn Bhreagh*, their home on Cape Breton. Her legacy is celebrated in the new interpretive garden at the historic site.



A secluded beach near Margaree Harbour

It was the last concert, held at the Highland Arts Centre in Sydney, that moved me most deeply. Titled *Cainnt is Ceathramhan* (Language and Lyrics), the singing was entirely in Gaelic, the first language spoken by all four of my grandparents. I longed to reconnect with my linguistic/cultural roots. Accompanied by guitar, harp, piano, pipes, and fiddles, a group of singers from Cape Breton, mainland Nova Scotia and Scotland, performed the beautiful haunting songs of their ancestors. Though I didn't understand the lyrics, their soaring voices evoked emotions that touched my Celtic heart.



There was one more treat in store for us. A research team from Cape Breton University initiated a programme named, *Cànan tro Òrain* (Language through Songs), and had digitized over 6,000 Gaelic songs from Nova Scotia. On the morning before our flight home we attended a small concert at the university featuring three performers. Fiddles and a harp accompanied a young female and male singer.

As each piece was introduced, the performer provided historical background, accompanied by projected photos of the original Gaelic singer and voice recordings. Then they began to sing in Gaelic. I was transported to the misty glens of Scotland and to rural Canada at a time when the old language was spoken. This intimate performance left me with a special connection with my Gaelic speaking grandparents and was the perfect end to a wonderful week. •

DOUG MACLEOD taught in Hazelton and Langley. He now lives in North Vancouver and is a member of the Langley Retired Teachers' Association.

DID YOU KNOW?

FASCINATING HEALTH FACTS

BY PAT THIESEN

BCRTA WELL-BEING COMMITTEE

ADD 5 EASY HABITS AND GET A BOOST

Healthy habits can reduce the risk of depression by 57%.

Older adults have a greater risk of depression, and depression in elders is often under-diagnosed. But a very large study from England affirms the power of simple and healthy habits in counteracting this risk. Adults who practiced five or more of the habits studied had a 57% lower risk of developing depression.

The good news is that these habits are easy to integrate into your routine, like getting into motion daily, eating a balanced diet with lots of plants, making sleep a priority, dialing back alcohol, putting limits on screen time, and making time for friends.

<https://www.cdc.gov/aging/depression/index.html>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/09/19/1200223456/depression-anxiety-prevention-mental-health-healthy-habits>



SOME RESEARCH TO CHEW ON

Sugarless gum may be good for you!

Chewing sugarless gum may have benefits you've never thought of, including for dental health, esophageal acid levels, improving memory, eliminating nausea, and fighting sleepiness, amongst other positive effects.

For dental health, chew sugarless gum for 20 minutes after each meal. Remember to keep it sugar-free in your favourite flavour and to see that it has added xylitol with added antibacterial properties.

However, most experts acknowledge that sticking the used gum to the underside of your chair is just plain gross.

<https://www.webmd.com/diet/what-to-know-about-chewing-gum>



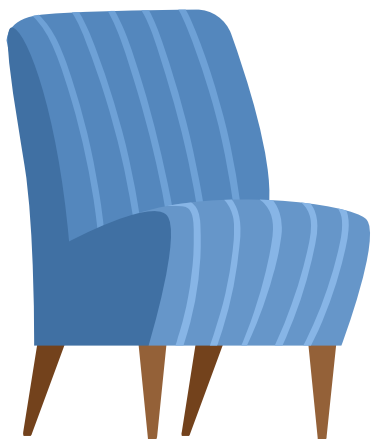
HOW THINGS GO MAY DEPEND ON HOW YOU SIT

We all know that sitting for a large portion of our days is unhealthy in many ways. It turns out that what you do while you sit also matters. Watching TV or passively using other screens is highly correlated with the development of dementia. “Even in individuals who are highly physically active, time spent watching TV was associated with increased risk of dementia”. By contrast, reading or working on a computer, with their higher cognitive activity loads, can help counteract the negative impacts of sitting.

People who take a seat at adult education classes in middle-to-old age are less likely to develop dementia or experience cognitive decline later on in life. Individuals participating in adult education classes at the start of the study had a 19% lower risk of dementia five years later.

<https://today.usc.edu/what-older-adults-do-while-they-sit-affects-dementia-risk>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10480502>



NOTES FROM THE GAMES LADY



*We don't stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing.*
Anonymous

BY PAT THIESEN

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a very small group of my family and friends would occasionally get together in parks or in restaurants (once they reopened) to socialize and stay sane. “How’s everybody doing?” and “What’s your new book?” soon got pretty stale, but I didn’t want to lose these contacts. Then a lunch with a similarly frustrated friend spurred a hunt for alternative activities. Here are just a few games we’ve enjoyed, each below \$30, and appropriate across multiple ages.



SPLURT

Age: 10+. **Players:** 2+ (suggested maximum 10).
Time per round: 15 minutes

Gameplay: The pink side of the cards indicates the topic (e.g. an animal); the black side gives a rule (e.g. five letters). The first to shout out a correct answer (Koala!) collects the black card.

The Fun: Lots of shouting and potential chaos as you try to yell out answers faster than your friends.



A BCRTA director, **PAT THIESEN** is a frequent contributor to our magazine. As a Grade 6 teacher she loved to introduce her kids to Math Games Friday.



LEFT CENTRE RIGHT

Age: 5+. **Players:** 3+. **Time per round:** Brief, but variable.

Game play: 3 “special” dice are rolled, determining the distributing of tokens. Even if you have no tokens, you remain an active player until one player has collected all the active tokens, to win the round.

The Fun: No skill required, just luck and laughter. A great game to enjoy with grandkids or other beloved young ones.



SPOT IT

Age: 6+. **Players:** 2-8. **Time per round:** 6-8 minutes.

Gameplay: A matching game where every card shares a match to every other card in the deck. The challenge is to see the visual match and identify it using the correct word or name. The game comes in many versions, including Classic, Minions (my favourite), and Camping, and in versions for preschoolers with numbers and letters for them to learn.

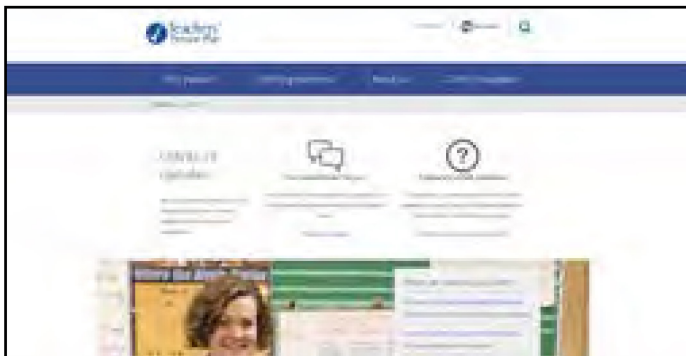
The Fun: Easy to learn, challenging for all ages. •



MASTERING YOUR PENSION & BENEFITS

UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS

BY LINDA WATSON



TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN – MY ACCOUNT

Have you registered for My Account on the Teachers' Pension Plan website yet?

It's your portal to all your personalized pension information. Only about half of retirees have activated their My Account so far.

You can register online at tpp.pensionsbc.ca using the Person ID number from your pension statement. Or you can call the pension plan for help: 1-866-876-8877.

In My Account, you can:

- find your T4A tax slip to do your income tax
- download a letter about the medical premiums deduction you can claim on your income tax if you're in the Green Shield benefit plans
- check your beneficiaries or change your beneficiaries
- find your annual pension statements and pension payment dates
- use Message Centre to get in touch with the Pension Plan
- view the progress of a service request you've made
- opt for paper-free statements if you want to go digital
- keep your personal information up to date
- create an income verification letter

HEALTH BENEFITS

Now that you're retired, an employer is no longer paying for your health benefits. That's a financial responsibility you have to take on yourself, and it can be a major part of your monthly budget planning.

There are two primary group benefit plans most of us consider joining: the Green Shield plans offered through the Teachers' Pension Plan, and the Johnson plans offered through the BCRTA. Typically, group benefit plans are more affordable than an individual plan from another provider.

Do you need to join health benefit plans in your retirement years? Are you happy with the benefit plans you're using now? Here are some things to consider.



1. EXTENDED HEALTH CARE

EHC plans cover expenses that aren't covered by BC's Medical Services Plan – things like prescription drugs, paramedical services (physiotherapy, podiatry, naturopathy, massage therapy, etc.), eyeglasses and contact lenses, eye exams, hearing aids, medical equipment and supplies (CPAP machines, diabetic test strips, knee braces, etc.), nursing care, and so forth.

Even if you have little need for these things early in your retirement – ah, the joys of youth – you may find that your circumstances change as the years go by. You can consider ongoing EHC coverage as a kind of insurance policy against serious illness and increasing medical needs as you age over the course of your retirement. However, be careful: if you have a gap in coverage longer than 60 days, it may be difficult to get into an EHC group plan later on.

Both Johnson and Green Shield offer comprehensive Extended Health Care plans, with comparable benefits. Coverage is provided for a range of needs, for example, prescription drugs, vision care, hearing aids, and paramedical services.

There are a few significant differences to be aware of between these plans:

- a. The Johnson plan through BCRTA does not have an annual deductible, so it starts paying benefits right from your first prescription. The Green Shield plan through the Teachers' Pension Plan has a \$200 annual deductible per person, so each of you will pay the first \$200 of your prescription costs every year.

If you're comparing the premium cost for each plan, you'll want to add in that \$200 per person to the Green Shield premium amount.

- b. The prescription drugs coverage on the Johnson plan includes drugs that are on the Pharmacare formulary, which is the list of medications that Pharmacare covers. The Green Shield plan covers a wider range of prescription drugs.

So you will want to check that Johnson does cover your medications before you switch plans. You can check out the Pharmacare list by going to pharmacareformularysearch.gov.bc and entering the drug name or DIN number (drug identification number). Or, on the BCRTA website, you will find a sample letter that you can send to Johnson Insurance to ask them if they cover your particular medications.

- c. The BCRTA/Johnson plan offers \$100 per year for vaccines, which the Green Shield plan doesn't cover. This could help with the cost of a high-dose flu vaccine, or the shingles or pneumonia vaccines, none of which are covered by B.C. Medical. (Seniors can get the FluAd vaccine for free, which is an enhanced version of the regular flu shot.)

The BCRTA has worked to ensure that a high level of client service is provided to our members who are enrolled in the Johnson plans. In our recent survey, member satisfaction with the BCRTA/Johnson plans rated very highly. In fact, 88.9% of Johnson Prestige EHC and Travel users would recommend the plan to other members. See the survey results at bcрта.ca/ehcsurvey.



2. DENTAL PLAN

Dental plans, even a group plan, tend to be expensive. You should consult with your dentist about the state of your teeth and gums. What is anticipated going forward? Some people prefer to “self-insure” by saving up for regular and unexpected dental work. Others prefer the security of being in a plan, even if it doesn't pay off every year. Again, a gap in coverage can limit your ability to get into a plan later.

Both BCRTA/Johnson and Green Shield offer dental plans. Green Shield has two levels of coverage, Essential and Enhanced. The Essential level covers checkups, cleanings, fluoride treatment, fillings, and root canals. The Enhanced level will get you dentures or crowns to go over those root canals. Johnson's plan covers all of those services.

Both plans have annual limits on how much will be paid for various treatments, and how often.



3. TRAVEL MEDICAL INSURANCE

If you plan to be out of Canada, even for a day trip, you need to have travel medical insurance. An unexpected medical event or a car accident could be catastrophic financially. You don't want to be giving your house to that nice doctor in Phoenix.

- a. Green Shield offers a basic travel medical plan if you are in their EHC or Dental plans, with two levels: 30-day or 60-day trips. There is up to \$5 million in coverage per incident, for an unlimited number of 30-day or 60-day trips per year. For example, that means you can go away for any number of 30-day trips in a year, as long as you return to Canada in between. You can upgrade to 60-day coverage if needed for a longer trip. But you cannot extend to any trip over 60 days.
- b. BCRTA/Johnson offers two travel medical plans: the stand-alone Medoc Travel plan, and the Prestige Travel plan, which is packaged with their Extended Health Care plan. Both Medoc and Prestige offer \$10 million in coverage per year for trips of various lengths. Medoc base plans are 17-days or 35-days. The Prestige base plans are 62-days or 93-days. Any number of such trips can be taken in a year as long as you return to Canada in between. Both plans allow you to buy longer coverage for really epic travel, up to 212 days per trip.

All these travel medical plans cover you for emergencies requiring doctors and hospital stays, and transportation home.

The Johnson plans include a number of additional benefits that Green Shield doesn't cover, such as lost baggage, lost documents, trip delay or interruption and trip cancellation, and emergency non-medical evacuation (e.g., the volcano blows up and you need to get off the island).

All travel plans are age-banded, so you will find that the premiums increase as you get older.

A final consideration for a travel plan is the important fine print on the coverage: is there a "90-day stability" requirement before travel, or is it "sudden and unforeseen" coverage?

A 90-day stability clause can be tricky for some people. For 90 days before your trip, your health must be stable or you will not be covered. For example, no changes in your medications, or pending tests or treatments. Both Green Shield Travel and Johnson's Medoc Travel have 90 day stability clauses. Johnson's Prestige Travel does not. As long as the medical emergency is "sudden and unforeseen," you'll be covered.

These are the most popular of the health care, dental, and travel benefits being considered by retired members of the Teachers' Pension Plan. You can check out the fine print on the TPP or BCRTA websites, where you will find links to the plan details and documents.

If you're unhappy with your current coverage or service, you can change plans. Just make sure that you don't have more than a 60-day gap in your coverage, to avoid any issues with eligibility. Generally, you'll need to stay in a new plan for at least a year, since there is an annual premium that is paid monthly. •

LINDA WATSON is a BCRTA director and chair of BCRTA's Pension Committee, and a former chair of the Teachers' Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

LEARN MORE

TPP MY ACCOUNT
tpp.pensionsbc.ca

PHARMACARE FORMULARY
pharmacareformularysearch.gov.bc

BCRTA EHC PLANS
bcrtajohnson.ca

EHC SURVEY RESULTS
bcrtajohnson.ca/ehcsurvey

NEW BCRTA ADVANTAGE PARTNER



TELUS Exclusive Partner Program

Discover the next chapter.

Unlock golden perks for your golden years.

Unlock exclusive perks, thanks to our partnership with **British Columbia Retired Teachers Association (BCRTA)**.

Let's help you protect your home and your budget.

Unlock discounted 5G+ plans reserved for your workplace.

Save up to
\$30 every month¹

and experience the power of our award-winning 5G network.

Act fast,
limited-time
offers.

Find your perfect match from our selection of Apple and Android smartphones and access exclusive partner pricing.

Our team of experts are here to help you. Skip the line and get direct assistance from our sales team or redeem online.

Schedule a call back at epp@telus.com or visit telus.com/BCRTA.
To access your savings, a photo of your membership card is required.

Proof of association with eligible organizations for retired professionals is required for all Exclusive Partner Program ("EPP") offers. Offer available at dealers and corporate stores that support the EPP. Taxes and pay-per-use charges (including long distance, roaming and additional airtime or additional data) are extra. The cost of voice service used while roaming outside Canada will vary by zone. Currently, voice roaming in the US is charged at \$1.50/minute. Visit telus.com/mobilityppu for details. Plus applicable provincial or municipal government 911 fees in Nova Scotia (\$0.43), PEI (\$0.70), New Brunswick (\$0.97), Saskatchewan (\$1.88), Quebec (\$0.46), Alberta (\$0.95), Northwest Territories (\$1.70) and Newfoundland and Labrador (\$0.75). Premium and subscription messages are not included. Text messages sent from Canada to a non-Canadian phone number will be charged at 40¢/message. Text messages sent while roaming outside of Canada will be charged at 60¢/message. Visit telus.com/text for details. Multimedia messaging used while outside of Canada is charged as data roaming. Messages sent using iMessage may incur data charges. Rates and offers are subject to change without notice. For any subscriber(s) with a Canada-US plan, roaming pay-per-use charges only apply when roaming outside Canada and the US. The cost of data used while roaming outside Canada will vary by zone. Visit telus.com/mobilityppu for details. Data speeds reduced to a maximum of 512Kbps after your included high-speed data bucket is exhausted. Speed may vary with your device, internet traffic, environmental conditions, and other factors. Please refer to TELUS' Fair Use Policy at telus.com/fairusepolicy for further information. 5G access requires a compatible device and connection to TELUS' 5G network where available. Speed and signal strength may vary with your device, configuration, Internet traffic, environmental conditions, applicable network management and other factors. For more information, visit telus.com/coverage. ¹ Customers from select organizations signing up on an EPP account can save up to \$30 per month on their mobility rate plan, compared to the regular in-market price. Offer not available for Quebec residents. Offer not eligible for connected device transactions such as smartwatches and tablets. © 2023 TELUS 23-1545

THE RESULTS TELL THE STORY

BCRTA MEMBERS' EXTENDED HEALTH CARE INSURANCE

Satisfaction Survey

Green Shield
Plan Users

BCRTA Johnson
Prestige Users

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND
YOUR CURRENT EHC PLAN?

35.2%

88.9%



OF CATEGORIES
WITH THE HIGHEST RATING

1

21



Since 1998, BCRTA has been offering insurance options to our retiree members. Thousands of BCRTA members now enjoy friendly, reliable coverage at a reasonable price. Prestige EHC and Travel by Johnson has much higher satisfaction levels than competing plans. Visit <https://bcрта.ca/ehcsurvey> to see the peace of mind the right plan can give.

Is it the right choice for you?

GET A FREE NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION

Visit bcрта.johnson.ca or call 1.877.989.2600

books OF NOTE

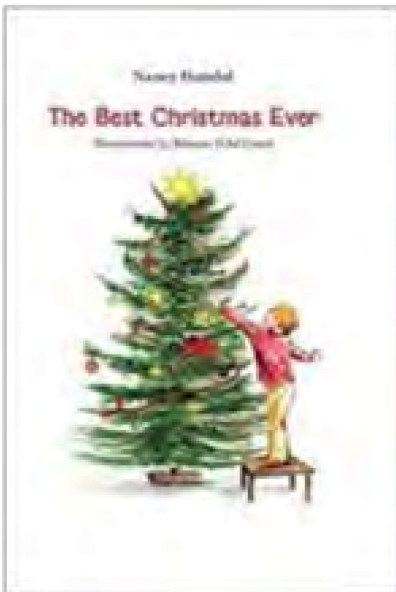
STAZY AND THE MAGIC LIST by Nancy Hundal

Stazy, the new kid. Faye, Hali and Rena, longtime friends. They are grade seven students whose obvious similarity is Skills Class, where wonderful Mr. Locke helps them keep up with their class work.

But there's a secret that ties the three longtime friends together, and when Stazy stumbles on it, she adds her own secret into the mix. These girls are supernaturals and no Skills Class can help them navigate life as a witch, a fairy, a mermaid and an angel. For that, they need each other.

A story about friendship and family, invisible friends and ghosts, poetry and magic.

Published by Rebel Mountain Press - <https://www.rebelmountainpress.com>



THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER by Nancy Hundal

It is Christmas, so Ella and Toby's mom has her list out: shopping, wrapping, baking, decorating. New clothes for the kids, Christmas photos, breakfast with Santa, Christmas cards. This party! That concert!

Where's time for building a snowman or drinking cocoa by the fire? Toby and Ella already know the answer: there's no time for that. So they batten down the hatches for another too busy, too tired holiday.

Until their exhausted mom oversleeps and misses an event. The kids coax her out into the snow to build that snowman and it's so much fun that they try it again, and again.

Is it possible that their family can create a new kind of Christmas this year? If so, it will be the Best Christmas Ever.

From Midtown Press - <https://midtownpress.ca/>

SHE THOUGHT I KNEW

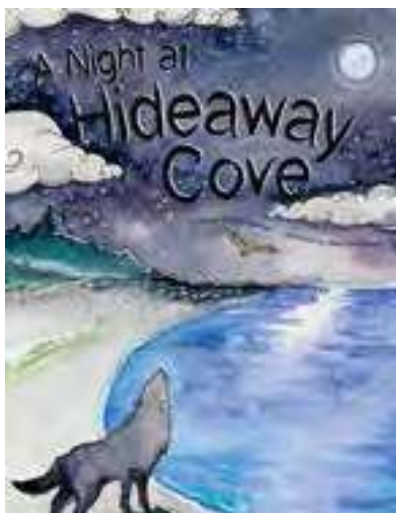
by C. S Cowan

Criminologist Maeve Rosetti, returns home to the Sunshine Coast to help in the search for her missing teenage niece. She struggles to reconcile her conflicted relationship with sister Kathleen, the girl's mother, as they desperately try to find out what happened to Jessica. The process unearths old wounds and secrets from their childhood, including the unsolved disappearance of their father. Maeve, too, has not shared her own dark past with her sister for fear of burdening an already fragile relationship.

As time wears on with no sign of Maeve's missing niece, several strange inhabitants of the town emerge as possible suspects. And an unexpected run-in with her brother-in-law, Doug, sows a seed of doubt. Maeve soon becomes the target of mysterious forces that taunt her, then threaten to harm her. Who is her tormentor and is he connected to the still missing Jessica? With her newfound ally, Hank, Maeve aims to find out, but when a girl's body is found, she fears it is too late.

She Thought I Knew is a tense, psychological thriller that heaps secrets upon secrets leading to a shocking end you won't see coming.

Available from Amazon and other booksellers.



A NIGHT AT HIDEAWAY COVE

by Brenda Boreham

Come with us, on a mid-August night, to a secluded beach on the Pacific Northwest Coast. There we will meet many creatures that make Hideaway Cove their home. From the black bear to the tiniest beach hopper, we will catch a glimpse of their night-time activities. We will also learn how the moon affects the tides, and explore the intertidal zones.

A Night at Hideaway Cove is a sequel to Hideaway Cove, another exploration of the Pacific Northwest Coast during the daytime. Written by Brenda Boreham, and illustrated by Laura Timmermans, both books share with us the many interconnections within a healthy marine ecosystem.

Published by Strong Nations Publishing - <https://www.strongnations.com/>

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CLASSIFIEDS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Transcribimus is all about Vancouver's history – we are volunteers who are transcribing hand-written documents, culminating in no-cost searchable City Council records dating back to 1886!

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<https://transcribimus.ca/contact/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



The Literacy Circle is seeking certified teachers to teach English and computer literacy skills to Indigenous adults at various school levels. We also seek a Learners' Advocate, please see our website.

Classes in Nanaimo, soon Victoria and Penticton!

For more information and to apply, visit us at

www.theliteracycircle.ca

CLASSIFIEDS

TRAVEL

CUBA1TOURS of Courtenay BC continues to offer the best small group tours to Cuba (maximum 14). All tours are safe and worry free with Cuban guides and transportation in a comfortable, air conditioned bus.

Tours offered are Cycle tours, Culture/history/discovery tours, Garden tours and Birdwatching.

All tour details for 2023/24 can be found at

www.cuba1tours.com

ACCOMMODATION OFFERED

For rent: One bedroom suite available in **Maui, Kihei**, for 2 consecutive weeks. Friday February 9 to February 16 2024 and Friday February 16 to February 23 2024

\$1600 CDNwk.

<https://www.mauischooner.com>

Contact: lavoiealine@shaw.ca

Heritage house in Alsace-France, Vosges Mountains, three bedrooms, modern kitchen, wi-fi, located on wine route, close to Germany (Freiburg) and Switzerland (Basel). Partial cleaning included. Contact mano936@gmail.com

April 2024 rental in **Palm Springs** - Tri Palms Resort 2 bedroom. 2 golf courses - par 3 and Regulation courses, pools, restaurant, tennis, pickle ball. No pets or smoking. Very clean house. \$2,000 per month. email me at barbara_grundy@yahoo.com or call 760 343 0247

HOUSE EXCHANGE - Victoria

Are you living in Vancouver and would like to spend time with family or friends living in Victoria? Let's plan home exchanges. Ours is 4 bedroom 2 bathroom.

murphywanda2@gmail.com 1-250-516-6402

ACCOMMODATION OFFERED

QUALICUM BEACH: January 14 to April 7, 2024

Waterfront, 1 bedroom condo - must be able to do stairs. No pets. Available parking, easy access to Island Highway \$7,500 for a full (12 week) stay.

Email: edoyle.qb@gmail.com

Rent – April 2024 - **Tri Palms Resort, Palm Desert CA**

2 bedroom home. This is a 55+ resort with 18 & 9 hole golf course. Clubhouse with restaurant, bar, billiards room, library, card room, 2 swimming pools, 2 hot tubs, tennis, pickle ball, shuffleboard. \$2,000 per month plus damage deposit. Non smoking and no pets. Email barbara_grundy@yahoo.com or call 604 855 5536.

Sunshine Coast: 4 bedroom, fully equipped waterfront cottage with view and beach for playing, walking and swimming. Ideal for kids and retired folks. Near Gibsons, 1 km from Langdale ferry. April, May, June are best. Occasional fall space too.

Contact Barry @250-744-7447 / bwrolston@telus.net

OPERA TOURS

The **Vancouver Opera Guild** has two new tours for 2024
New York March 11-18

Operas include La Forza del Destino, Madama Butterfly, Romeo et Juliette, Turandot and the Laffont Grand Finals concert

Munich-Strasbourg-Paris-London June 1-13

The operas are Norma and Tosca (Munich), Brahms Requiem (Strasbourg), Don Quichotte and Cosi fan tutte (Paris) and Andrea Chenier (London).

www.vancouveroperaguild.com or 1-800 663 3364

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Seniors Health and Wellness Institute Society -

COSCO is actively recruiting new presenters to deliver their well-established workshops addressing 47 topics of interest to seniors across the province. Contact Sally Caisley - gscaisley@shaw.ca - Cell: 236-970-0931

crossword

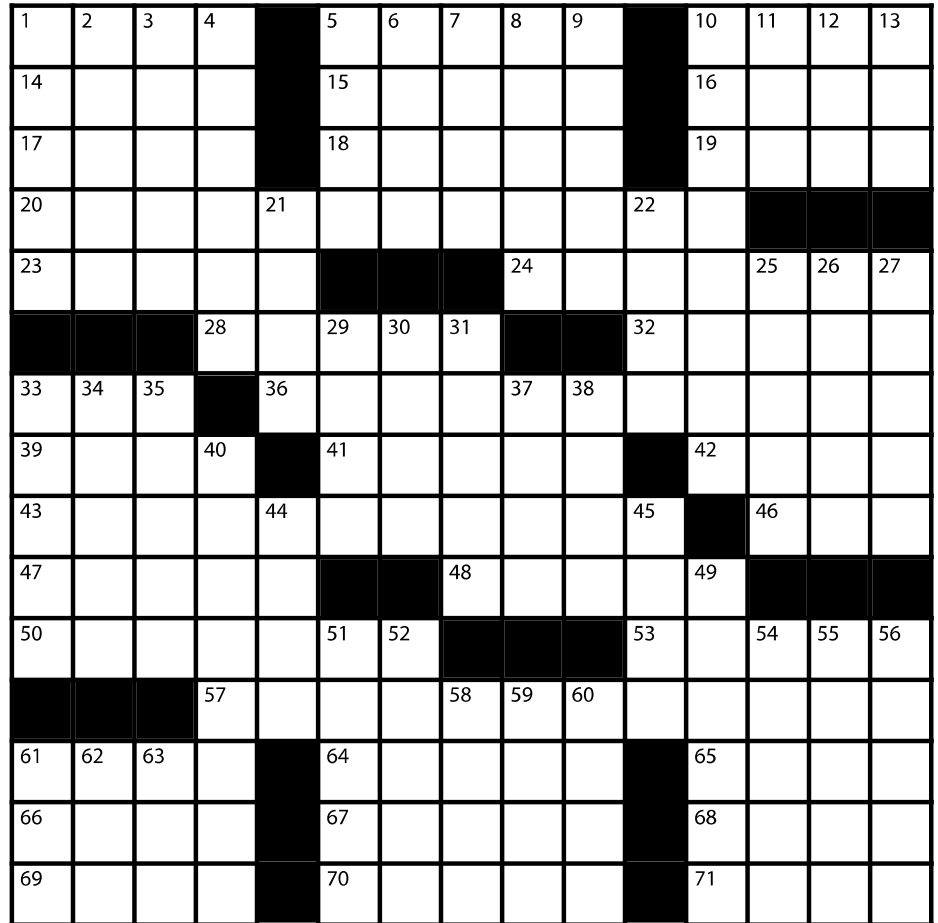
Unusual Things

By Lynn Hembree

Email: crossword@bcrrta.ca

ACROSS

1. Give the cold shoulder
5. Brightest object in Virgo
10. Soft cheese
14. Habitual drinker, slangily
15. Supreme Islamic being
16. Farm call
17. Behaves
18. Musical instrument made from a gourd
19. Answered an alarm
20. Gadgets
23. Prefix with centric
24. Doubter
28. Bottomless pit
32. Gladiator setting
33. Hospital procedures, abbr.
36. Bits and pieces
39. Yarn irregularity
41. It's missing from skim milk
42. Lacquered metalware
43. Bonhomie
46. Cabernet or merlot, e.g.
47. Mites
48. Capital of Western Australia
50. Be eco-friendly
53. Japanese-American
57. Gadgets
61. Coin in Cologne
64. Circumvent
65. River in Russia
66. Small songbird
67. Afternoon church service
68. Supergarb
69. "...Stop or ___!"
70. Indications
71. Do-it-yourself-packages



DOWN

1. Broad strip or belt
2. Where you feel most comfortable
3. "Wait ___ Dark", 1967 Hepburn Thriller
4. Former part of Yugoslavia
5. It never seems to end!
6. Pudding fruit
7. Hip bones
8. Atkins diet no-nos
9. Peter Pan's nemesis had one (2 wds.)
10. Nautical spar
11. ___ Grande (from CO to TX)
12. Difference between pen and pencil?
13. Barely survive, with "out"
21. A bunch
22. Spirit ___
25. Andrea Bocelli, for one
26. Fireplace (archaic)
27. Checked out the joint?
29. Popular 1978 Song by the Village People
30. Red variety of chalcedony
31. Difficult to climb
33. Academy Award
34. Come in second
35. Poisonous plant
37. Weight of an empty container
38. Arabic for "commander"
40. Between tenor and bass (var.)
44. Rolling in dough!
45. Peak of Sicily
49. Commandeer
51. Encumbrances
52. Final verse of a ballad (Var.)
54. Peninsula in 55-down
55. Where you find Cairo
56. British ___
58. Group
59. Gulf of ___, off the coast of Yemen
60. Bungle, with "up"
61. Farmyard mama
62. Webpage address
63. Job application, for short

See the crossword solution at bcrrta.ca/crossword AFTER January 31

Sudoku

8	6			2				4
		4	6			2		7
						6	1	
		9	2					3
4		7		3		8		1
3					8	7		
	9	1						
7		8			6	1		
5				7			8	9

	1				3			
	5	3		8				
6		9	4					
9		7	2	6		8		
	8			9			2	
		2		3	1	7		4
					6	3		8
				5		2	1	
			9				5	

TO SOLVE SUDOKU PUZZLES:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

SEND COMPLETED PUZZLES TO:

100 – 550 West 6th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V5Z 4P2

FOR MORE ONLINE SUDOKU PUZZLES:

www.websudoku.com/

DEADLINE FOR SUDOKU AND CROSSWORD SUBMISSION IS:

January 31, 2024

Congratulations to last issue's puzzle winners. Your cheques are in the mail!

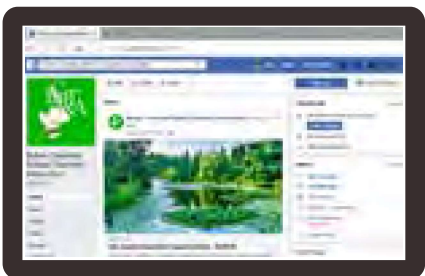
Crossword:

Deborah Nicholson, Coquitlam
Gary Anaka, Nanaimo
John Newman, Nanaimo

Sudoku:

Ruth Hodgins, Langley
Micky Quinn, Prince George
Christine Bischoff, Central Okanagan

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FALL 2023 CROSSWORD SOLUTION

		T	E	M	P	T		V	E	G		W	H	O
P	H	A	R	A	O	H		A	L	E		H	E	N
R	O	S	E	T	T	E		T	E	N	D	O	N	S
E	Y	E		T	A	C	T		P	I	E	R	C	E
P	A	R	S		S	H	H		H	A	M	L	E	T
				C	O	H	O	E		A	L	I		
T	T	U	T	O	R		S	C	A	N		T	A	E
A	F	A	R	E	W	E	L	L	T	O	A	A	R	M
M	O	P	E		A	N	I	S		P	S	E	U	D
				C	O	N		E	A	S	T	S		
A	B	O	A	R	D		N	T	H		E	M	M	A
C	A	R	R	I	E		T	I	R	A		O	A	R
T	R	A	D	E	R	S		A	I	R	P	O	R	T
U	R	N		N	E	O		N	E	M	E	S	E	S
P	E	G		T	R	Y		S	K	Y	P	E		

Obituaries

Location listed is the area given as "last taught"



Atkins, R. David	Vernon	McCutcheon, Ann Louise	Howe Sound
Ball, Georgiana G	Greater Victoria	McDonald, Linda M	Cariboo-Chilcotin
Bauer, Lawrence P.	Vancouver	McKenzie, Susan	Surrey
Butula, Walter L.	Surrey	Meyerhoff, John	Vancouver
Carter, Ralph F	Langley	Nantais, Francine	Comox Valley
Chadwick, Henry E.	Cranbrook	Ohanjanian, M. Valerie	Langley
Cooke, Dale	West Vancouver	Owen, Mary Louise	Delta
Dale, Margaret	North Vancouver	Panagopoulos, George	Vancouver
Dodd, Arlena	Saanich	Partridge, Robert	Sooke
Dunphy, Beverley Lynne	North Vancouver	Phillips, Helen	Howe Sound
Fernandes, Nancy	Coquitlam	Plett, Karen M	Burnaby
Fieber, Glenn F.	Kamloops	Rennie, Ethel E.	Campbell River
Fletcher, Elizabeth	Vancouver	Robertson, Alina	Greater Victoria
Howell, Judy	South Okanagan	Sampson-Young, Virginia	Abbotsford
Kent, Pat M.	Vancouver	Sartore, Dorothy	Nanaimo-Ladysmith
Ketchum, Maretta Lois	Burnaby	Saunders, Rozellen	Burnaby
Kuehn, Siegfried	Delta	Seebaran, Benjamin	Vancouver
Lancaster, Johnny	Cranbrook	Shane, Leonard	Delta
LeComte, Guy Roger	Chilliwack	Stansfield, Donna	Vancouver
MacDougall, Duncan	Abbotsford	Terakita, Sally K	Coquitlam
Matson, Helen C.	Delta	Ward, Elizabeth B.	Burnaby
McCambridge, Barb E.	Sooke	Wick, Lawrence B.	North Shore
McCullough, Anthony	Maple Ridge	Work, Russell James	South Okanagan

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