



**New Westminster  
Retired Teachers' Association**



**October 2009**

*"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness"*



***Dates to Remember***

**2009:**

October 21: Lunch & Gen Meeting  
December 9: Christmas Lunch

**2010:**

February 10: Lunch & Gen Meeting  
April 14: Lunch & Gen Meeting  
June 9: AGM

Executive Meetings:

Nov 18, Jan 29, Mar 31, May 12

**Lunch Meeting October 21, 2009**

Why not attend our potluck lunch for a chance to hear where your fellow travellers have journeyed? At **12:30** pm we will gather in the New Westminster Library Auditorium to "dine" on your tasty sandwich or sweet goodie contribution to our lunch table and listen to our adventurous travellers. We plan to increase our scholarship fund with a bit of fun: Each travelogue presenter will be given two "free" minutes to describe a fascinating trip and then for each minute he or she exceeds that time, they will be levied a dollar per minute to be donated to our scholarship winner next June. So get that talk down to a length that fits your pocketbook and we'll see you on the 21<sup>st</sup>!

**Do not miss an important message on Page 6!**

***Congratulations to the Branch!***

We have won second place in the provincial Champagne Campaign Branch recruitment competition. Only three other branches increased their membership by more than 10%. Our branch membership last year increased by 12.68%. Hurrah for us!



*AGM, 2009 Janet Sammon accepting our prize from JoAnn Lauber, Membership Committee.*

The next phase of the Dogwood Recruitment Campaign has begun. Recruit a member and both you and that person will have a very good chance to win the next money prize to be drawn in January.~



This lovely BCRTA membership pin, admired by so many, can be purchased for only \$2. Call the BCRTA office at 871-2260/2262 or Betty Hough at 604-524-9906.

## Our Christmas Meeting



Join us on December 9<sup>th</sup> when we will meet for lunch in the Auditorium of the New West Library. The Lord Kelvin Elementary School Choir will sing for us, and we will have an auction to increase our scholarship fund. Bring a “treasured” item or one destined to become a treasure to another. Watch Lorrie Williams and Darragh Hodson auction off your Waterford crystal, Christmas cookies or favourite sherry to a lucky bidder.

Margaret Hickey will be sharing her famous shortbread at the Pot Luck. What elegant Christmas morsel do you have for us to sample?

We'll be looking for you at **12:30** on the 9<sup>th</sup>!



Lorrie Williams has asked us to support a student from Africa. It's easy to do: vote for Lorrie Mu-

kirazi on-line by Googling CLAS-SACTCANADA to help her win a scholarship competition that will enable her to study in Canada. You can vote up to 10 times a day. September 25 to October 16 is the most critical period. Right now, Miss Lorrie Mukirazi, a student who in the past has been sponsored by the African Harambee Project, is in second place.

**Please vote!~**

For lots of news and information, visit the updated BCRTA website: [bcрта.ca](http://bcрта.ca). Our branch contact information and the dates of upcoming events are there.

***Don't miss Page 6. It has an important message about pension indexing and benefits!***

## The BCRTA Annual General Meeting

*~ by Delegate Janet Sammon*

The Delegates' Day and BCRTA AGM were held on September 17 and September 18 respectively at the Hilton Hotel in Richmond.

Delegates' Day began with a series of BCRTA Chairs leading discussions on their respective committees. These included Heritage, Social Concerns, Health and Housing, Membership, Advocacy, Finance, Postscript, ACER/CART, Excellence in Education, and Pensions. Discussions were lively, informative, but all too brief.

The next portion of the day was about pensions. Although the basic pension is secure and fully funded, there is current discussion about cost of living adjustments and group benefits. There will be meetings at each local during this year to discuss the future of the discretionary portion of our pensions.

The BCRTA Advocacy committee was looking for direction regarding how effective their past efforts have been, should they be involved in politics at all, where is the line which the BCRTA should not cross, and what else should the BCRTA be doing?

The afternoon presentation was a thoughtful and informative presentation by Dr. Elaine Gallagher from the University of Victoria on Age Friendly Communities. For more information:

<http://www.seniorsincommunities.ca/contacts.php> or [agefriendlycommunities@gmail.com](mailto:agefriendlycommunities@gmail.com).

The day was completed by delicious meals and a casino night afterwards.

After breakfast on September 18, the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation held its annual general meeting and presented its financial statements. There was considerable “discussion” regarding the BCRTA contributing \$1.00 of membership fees to the RR Smith Foundation so that they had a set amount of funds to distribute to persons as bursaries or scholarships.

Following, the BCRTA held its AGM, which concluded after lunch. There was the election of the executive (at times with much voting rounds), committee reports, financial statements, and a motion (passed) to give RR Smith Foundation \$1.00 of membership fees. The president expressed some thoughtful remarks, and the Champagne Campaign presentations were made to locals that increased membership or were newly organized. New Westminster received two bottles of champagne for efforts to increase membership!

Next years' AGM will also be held at the Hilton in Richmond.



New West Members at the AGM  
*L~R: Dale Lauber, Janet Sammon, Darragh Hodson  
 JoAnn Lauber, Joan Basic*

### Wisdom

The mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work unless it's open.

*~ Anonymous*

When in doubt, tell the truth.

*~ Mark Twain*

A smile's a curve that sets everything straight.

*~ Phyllis Diller*

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice, there is.

*~Yogi Berra*

*A friend and colleague, Mike Angell, who taught music in the Langley District and who, like us, has since retired, had this story to tell us at the Langley Branch's September Breakfast. We asked him to write it down for us so that you might enjoy it, too.*

*~Ed.*

### "What's in a Name?"

*~ by Mike Angell*

Although my wife and I have done a fair amount of traveling in our lives, we had rarely ventured into countries where the English language was not at least one of the top three. Such was the case when we drove through Austria, Italy Switzerland, and Germany, where these citizens readily spoke each other's languages but English was further down the list. One gorgeous July day we set off from our home base in Scandicci (Florence), Italy, to explore some of the sites in the Tuscan hills, taste some wine and perhaps sample a pizza in Pisa.

We arrived at the piazza in Pisa and were instantly caught up in the thrill of being at this famous landmark. We



watched as people of all backgrounds pulled out their Nikons and snapped endlessly creative shots of the Leaning Tower in all of its splendour and uniqueness. I asked my wife Sharon if she would take a shot of me holding up the Tower. The way we were standing was not

conducive to capturing this optical illusion, so Sharon told me to get higher. I quickly scaled one of the nearby cement fence posts just like the teenager beside me. I never made it to the top of this two-foot structure. Before you could say *Buona fortuna!*, I slipped off and fell head first onto the grass courtyard beside me. I reached out my arm to soften the landing, and I heard it snap. Within one minute I was surrounded by four *carabinieri* who questioned me and kept me immobile until the ambulance arrived less than five

minutes later. They loaded me into the back and set off to the local hospital only a few blocks away.

Communication was indeed strained at this point. The attendant had a great deal of difficulty understanding anything I said, including my name. My quick-thinking wife translated my name into Italian...Michel Angelo. When the attendants realized who I was (or reported to be), I was immediately given the royal treatment. I was escorted to the front of the line in the triage room, by-passing pregnant women and men with blood running down their arms. They x-rayed and casted me with a custom plaster edifice that would have made my namesake proud.

It is noteworthy to report that I was given no painkiller, and three male doctors/nurses held me down and twisted my arm to reset it. I was out of the emergency room and into the parking lot in less than forty-five minutes from the moment I fell. When I asked for the bill, the nurse scurried out of sight and returned with only my x-ray and a strict command to be re-x-rayed in Frankfurt in one week. She wouldn't accept any payment and sent me on my way. Maybe it was just my name.



What is toleration? It is the prerogative of humanity. We are all steeped in weaknesses and errors: Let us forgive one another's follies. It is the first law of nature.

~ Voltaire

### ***NWRTA Executive 2009 ~ 2010***

President: Joan Basic [jbasic6054@yahoo.com](mailto:jbasic6054@yahoo.com)  
V. President: Dale Lauber [dalelauber@shaw.ca](mailto:dalelauber@shaw.ca)  
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Members at Large: Lorrie Williams [lorriew@shaw.ca](mailto:lorriew@shaw.ca)  
Ray Munday 778-395-5302



*President Joan Basic presents the NWRTA \$800 Scholarship to a NWSS student June 2009*



A planet doesn't explode of itself," said dryly, the Martian astronomer, gazing off into the air—"That they were able to do so is proof that highly Intelligent beings must have been living there."

~John Hall Wheelock

**Mensa's New Word List** -- Derived by taking any word from the dictionary, altering it by adding, subtracting or changing **one letter**, and supplying a new definition:

1. intaxication – euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with
2. reintarnation – coming back to life as a hillbilly
3. sarchasm – the gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it
4. inoculatte – to take coffee intravenously when you're running late.
5. osteopornosis – a degenerate disease
6. arachnoleptic fit~ the frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web
7. giraffiti – vandalism spray-painted very high



Tickets available online or at the Box Office: 604-521-5050

**October 24<sup>th</sup>:** Celebrating the Massey's 60 Years! Featuring six decades of dance, hors d'oeuvres and full bar service, 7:30 pm

**October 26<sup>th</sup>:** *Last Monday at the Movies:* Stone of Destiny 7:30 pm

**November 5<sup>th</sup>:** International Guitar Night with Lulo Reinhardt, Itamar Eraz, & harp guitarist Stephen Bennett 7:30 pm

**November 7<sup>th</sup>:** Camp Sunrise Benefit Concert ~ The Salvation Army featuring the Cariboo Hill Temple Band and guests: benefiting underprivileged children 7:30 pm

**November 8<sup>th</sup>:** Concerto Competition for Musicians ~ New Westminster Symphony Orchestra Admission by donation 7:30 pm

**November 15<sup>th</sup>:** To America with Love Seduchka Concert: "showbiz by a truly unique entertainer". Call box office for details.

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** *Last Monday at the Movies:* Vicky Cristina Barcelona 7:30 pm

**December 4<sup>th</sup>:** Christmas Dance & Music: New West Symphony Orchestra and the Richmond Academy of Dance performing Christmas classics. 7:30 pm

**December 6<sup>th</sup>:** The Sounds of Christmas: Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir featuring Winter Harp. 2:30 pm

**December 6<sup>th</sup>:** NWSS Band Annual Christmas Concert: 7:00 pm

**December 16 – 19:** Massey Theatre Winter Spectacular: "a new, grand theatrical production for all ages . . . The story follows a young heroine as she experiences, for the first time, the darkness and the magic of a west coast winter. She must find within herself, and the natural wonders of the rainforest, the light to carry her through and join in her new community." 7:30 pm

**December 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Nutcracker: Royal City Youth Ballet: 1 pm & 4 pm

**December 21<sup>st</sup>:** Vivaldi's Four Seasons: Vancouver Symphony Orchestra featuring "brilliant violinist and Baroque conductor Elizabeth Wallfisch. 7:30 pm

## Hot Reads for a Cool Evening

### *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*

27th March, 1946

Dear Miss Ashton,

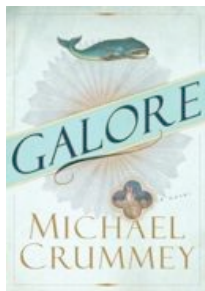
Amelia Maugery has asked me to write to you, for I am a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society—though I only read one book over and over. It was *The Letters of Seneca: Translated from Latin in One Volume, with Appendix. Seneca and the Society, betwixt them, kept me from the direful life of a drunk...*

“Here's who will love this book—anyone who nods in profound agreement with the statement, 'Reading keeps you from going gaga.' *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* is a delight. Tart, insightful and fun.” --Mary Doria Russell, author of *The Sparrow, A Thread of Grace and Dreamers of the Day*

### *Galore* By Michel Crummey

Reviewed by Lisa Grainger in the *Walrus*  
“Canada's best magazine” Nov 2009

“A pale man falls, lifeless from the belly of a beached whale. As the colourless body is hauled from the rural Newfoundland seashore to the small parish of Paradise Deep, it unexpectedly springs into life.



So begins *Galore*, the latest novel from Giller-nominated author Michel Crummey. The unlikely arrival of this pallid mute stranger marks the beginning of a tale that traces the Seller and Devine

families through six generations of unforgiving coastal livelihood. The story stretches from the Napoleonic era to the First World War, and though years of familial strife have made enemies of the clans, they are bound to one another by countless marriages, love affairs, accidents, and inevitable turns of fate.

Crummey's poetics are like the landscape he describes: stark and sparse, but punctuated with a wild richness that creates the impression of

something carefully controlled yet on the verge of bursting. The historical, almost medieval, Newfoundland setting proves fertile ground for his rich imagination; he describes early medical procedures and fishing techniques as if he had held the scalpel and lowered the nets himself. And throughout, Newfie folklore is animated with ghosts and curses as commonplace as the ubiquitous stench of cod.

*Galore* is an absolute pleasure. In Crummey's capable hands, the setting breeds magic, and the individuals that populate its rugged terrain are nuanced and real, as gentle as they are harsh, as hateful as they are loving. Each unfolding generation flows into the next in a complex narrative that feels effortless, yet is woven so tightly that the magnificent artistry of its creator cannot be ignored.”

### ***Your Pension: The Future is Worth Thinking About***

Your pension is likely your greatest financial asset and is a major part of your retirement income. Though the basic lifetime pension is guaranteed, full indexing and health benefits are not guaranteed.

Over the next month the BCTF is requesting input from all Teachers' Pension Plan members, actives and retirees, to give the Teachers' Pension Board of Trustees feedback on options regarding the future of indexing and health benefits.

You can attend the meetings nearest you. After the presentation, you should complete the survey to have your opinions recorded. Go to the BCTF website at [bctf.ca](http://bctf.ca) and click on “Have your say about pensions.” The site will also lead you to the pension presentation and the survey.

Your pension is too important to miss this conversation on indexing and health benefits.

#### **Meetings:**

\***New Westminster**, 4:00 to 6:00 Nov 16, 2009 at NWSS, New Westminster.

\***Surrey**, 4:00 to 6:00 Nov 9 and 10, 2009 at the District Conference Centre 400-9260-140 Street, Surrey.

\***Coquitlam**, 4:00 to 6:00, Nov 16, 2009 (contact Coquitlam TA for location 604.936.9971)

For more information go to [bctf.ca](http://bctf.ca) or contact the BCTF at 604.871.2283.