

Coquitlam Retired Teachers' Association
c/o Unit 208 – 2502 St. Johns Street, Port Moody, BC, V3H 2B4

January, 2010

Volume 2009 - 2010

Issue Number Three

Officers					
President	Jennifer Blenkinsop	604.461.4088			
Vice-President	Lionel Daneault	604.465.4180			
Secretary	Joy Silver	604.941.2606			
Treasurer	Howard Spence	604.936.8320			
Directors					
Tony Eades	Bursary	604.464.0553	Lynda Parsons	Luncheons	604.939.9897
Eunice Hodge	Door prizes; Gifts	604.464.0004	John Pope	Newsletter; Emails	604.461.7355
Darragh Hodson	Newsletter	604.522.2595	Lynn Sowerby	Phoning	604.939.5239
Dale Linton	Welcoming	604.937.5113	Vicki Stacey	Welcoming	604.936.9040
Pat Lomax	Societal Concerns	604.931.4285	Joan Wilby	Sunshine	604.936.4521
Ray McNabb	Membership	604.687.1981	Margrete Wylie	Luncheons	604.464.1788

CRTA Meeting

Wednesday, February 10
Gallery Room, Winslow
9:30 – social - coffee, tea, juice, cookies
10:15 – meeting

Guest speaker is Delia Cooper who recently received a provincial volunteer award for her work for Arthritis Society. Delia will present Arthritis 101 which is a fascinating program explaining all aspects of arthritis – prevention, signals, treatment, support. Delia has presented this all over the province and is currently involved with extending it nationally. Delia is a retired Coquitlam teacher, CRTA member and a very knowledgeable person about arthritis seeing as she has been living with it since childhood.

Christmas Luncheon

Those attending the Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 9 were treated to a superb performance by the Parkland Elementary School Choir and bell ringers. The 85 students were under the direction of Janice Binding with a large contingent of proud parents in attendance at the back of the ballroom. There were twenty bell ringers who accompanied the student pianist and the choir. It was a most remarkable and festive addition to the annual luncheon. Ray Thompson thanked the choir and teacher and presented them with a thank you gift from the CRTA. In addition, Santa made his appearance at the end of the choir's program and presented each pupil with a candy cane.

President Jennifer Blenkinsop asked those in attendance who have been to ten or more Christmas luncheons to stand. There were 14 retired teachers who qualified and each got a candy cane from Santa. As well, Tony Eades traveled from 100 Mile House to attend. Tony has served on the CRTA executive for many years and has looked after the CRTA Bursary. He will be resigning his position and, as this will be his last CRTA function, he was thanked by Jennifer and received a warm round of applause.

Lionel Daneault was in charge of organizing the 23 poinsettias for the CRTA Honourary Life Members (those over the age of 85). Volunteers took the poinsettias for delivery to the Honourary Life Members who were not in attendance. Thanks to all those who helped out with this.

Winners of the door prizes were Velda Boyle (chocolates and champagne) and Ethel Sears (poinsettia). Winner of the substantial 50/50 draw was Mary Llewelyn Davies.

Executive Meeting

The January 6 CRTA executive meeting accepted with regret the resignation of Tony Eades as Director and chair of the bursary committee. Tony has recently moved to 100 Mile House. Linda Parsons presented a summary of the Christmas luncheon and reported it was enjoyed by all. BCRTA lapel pins are now available at a cost of \$2. If you would like one of these attractive dogwood blossom pins, please phone Joy Silver at 604-941-2606.

Member News

Tony Whitham had two contributions to the Winter BCRTA Postscript, a letter and a photo of a Puerto Vallarta beach.

In a letter to the Vancouver Sun Larri Woodrow wrote: In the article What's really on the menu, Brit Innes, marketing director for the Joey Restaurant Group, comments that putting nutritional information on menus or on tables "might be going a little too far. As a consumer and someone who eats out in restaurants four or five times a week, I don't want to know. Restaurants are an escape for people..." This puts Joey's dead last on my list of restaurants to choose from. I do watch what I eat and drink. Up-front information will come to our restaurants when more consumers demand it.

Thank you

Sincere appreciation is extended to the CRTA telephoners who help your executive keep in contact with members:

Seonaid Andrews	Audrey Anthony
Sharon Blackwell	Doreen Blanchard
Joyce Edgington	Margaret Ellwood
Barb Eriksson	Dale Linton
Mary Llewelyn-Davies	LaVerne Miller
Fran Mitchell	Eileen Miyanaga
Bruce Moore	Judy Mukuda
Grace Nolan	Gwen Raycroft
Ethel Sears	

Special thanks, too, to those who have "retired" as phoners and to Vivian Yee who headed up the committee for over a decade. We very much appreciated your service.

Joanne Coghill	Barbara Davidson
I lona Eberle	Louise Grimshaw
Sally Terakita	Vivian Yee

New telephoners and "spares" are needed to contact 20 or fewer CRTA members, two or three times a year. If you can help, please e-mail Lynne Sowerby at sowerby@shaw.ca. If you have a new phone number, please contact Lynne at 604-939-5239. Also, if you would appreciate receiving reminders by e-mail rather than by telephone, please e-mail Ray McNabb at rayvanbc@telus.net. He is pleased to report that we now have 317 members on our e-mail list.

New Members

Joining the BCRTA and the CRTA since the last newsletter are Maureen Luckhart, Jim Morris, and Carol Moffat.

Activity Groups

Physical and mental fitness with CRTA

Bridge:	Barb Glancy @ 604.936.4976
	John Pope @ 604.461.7355
Golf (Women):	Christine Hough @ 604-460-1023
Walking:	Louise Grimshaw @ 604-421-4833

Post Christmas definition. Flabbergasted (adj): Appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Electronic newsletter update

The CRTA executive discussed the email newsletter responses and want to encourage many more members to request receiving the newsletter via email. It saves us so much money!

Thanks to all those who have already responded that they would like to receive the CRTA newsletter by email rather than by Canada Post. Up to this point 317 members responded affirmatively. This will save us considerable postage costs. If you wish an email newsletter instead of the mailed one and have not already requested it, please email rayvanbc@telus.net with "Newsletter" in the subject line. New retirees, in particular, are encouraged to send in their email addresses.

Check out these Web sites

Look up the BCRTA website at bcрта.ca or the Coquitlam Retired Teachers' page at bcрта.ca/branches/coquitlambranch.html

Readers of the e-mail version of the CRTA Newsletter can now access the provincial site or the Coquitlam Chapter page directly. Mac users, click on the link. PC users, hold down the CTRL key and click. (Does not work with PDF newsletter.)

[Provincial web site](#)

[Coquitlam Chapter's page](#)

Golden Star Awards

The BCRTA has initiated a new award called the Golden Star Award. Awards of \$3000, \$2000 and \$1000 are given to classes in Public Schools from kindergarten to grade 12 for programs that explore the contribution of seniors to BC. The programs should use a variety of sources of information, require students to think and work creatively, access and use the community as an information source, require students to work cooperatively with each other and outside sources, and use a variety of media to record and display results.

If any CRTA members know of a class or school with such a program, please draw the teacher's attention to this award. Submission deadline is April 15 of each year.

Elderhostels

The 34-year-old Elderhostel organization, originally created to combine travel and learning adventures for people 60 and older, is undergoing a makeover.

In October it changed its name to a fresher, more intriguing Exploritas (a combination of explore and veritas, Latin for truth, blended to mean explore for truth).

As Exploritas, it relaxed its age barrier, which earlier had been dropped to 55, though the age requirement was not always iron-clad.

The Boston-based not-for-profit group (800-454-5768, exploritas.org) is a leader in lifelong learning and educational travel, offering more than 3000 programs around the world.

"Why should we bar a 54-year-old from coming on a program if they have a sincere interest in the destination or the subject matter?" reasoned James Moses, Exploritas president, in a message to Elderhostel fans.

"Why should we turn away a 32-year-old who wants to go on a program with her 62-year-old mother? Once you start unraveling this thread of questions, you quickly realize that any formal age limit is totally arbitrary."

Because of the Exploritas structures its trips, Moses told Elderhostel devotees not to expect a flood of 20-somethings, who have other travel expectations. In the case of Exploritas, younger travellers in their 30s or 40s usually accompany a parent or grandparent.

Browse the Exploritas website and check out the learning opportunities around the globe.

Maybe We Are Not Quite As Valuable As We Think

by Tony Wilson

My daughter is entering Grade 12 this year, which means she has only a few hoops left to jump through before she graduates, and then discovers that life will force her to jump through hundreds more on her way to what she will inevitably "do for a living." I'm told it won't be law, which she describes as "Job Z." Oh well.

The amazing thing is that the three year old girl who I used to take to "parent participation pre-school" in the 1990s (instead of sitting at my desk recording billable hours on some forgettable file), is now a self-assured and confident young woman who drives a car, scuba dives with me in Mexico, speaks fluent French, skis like a pro and is looking at university calendars as I write this. She pens stories in her spare time and has no difficulty sitting in her room for hours immersed in a new book. A friend from Victoria emailed me last month and said, "Emma's in Grade 12? How did that happen?"

Since we've had our two kids, my wife and I have always left the house and returned from our respective law offices at sensible hours, in large part, to have dinner together as a family, and to not let the practice of law consume us like it can (and does) consume others. It's a trade-off in terms of compensation, but we think it's a good one. They're only kids once, and then they're not. Blink, and you may miss it.

But between 8:00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. we have more or less surrendered our kids to their teachers since they were in Grade 1, (and if you count Kindergarten, even longer). So the daytime upbringing of our most important "treasure" has been entrusted to other people between the months of September to June, Monday to Friday, for almost 12 years now (summers, holidays and Pro-D days excepted). That may well amount to 15,000 billable hours per child, if teachers billed by the hour (being professionals of course, they don't). At my hourly rate, that's \$6 Million each. And that doesn't include the after hours marking time, sports coaching time, lesson prep time, one-on-one time and the countless hours that their teachers put in over and above simply showing up for class. So to an enormous extent, the people who are responsible for shaping what direction our kids' learning will take, (and arguably, who they will inevitably become as adults) are their teachers.

Although I am olive green with envy over their impressive pension plan, why is it that society pays me (and you) buckets more money to draft contracts, close business transactions or defend insurance companies than those who are responsible for educating the most important people in our lives? Sure, it's great for me to charge \$400 per hour for what I do, but why is drafting a franchise agreement for yet another new chain of pizza restaurants worth more than teaching my kids French or Biology or how to successfully jump through the hoops that life will put in front of them? Regrettably, it's the same society that thinks CEO's, Hedge Fund Managers and professional hockey players are worth gazillions of dollars a year, but teachers shouldn't be paid more than \$70,000 because they get summers off and can go home at 4:00.

It's all too easy to be seduced by our own sense of self-importance, just because we're paid a lot of money, or we know how the levers of power work, or because others put a value on the legal profession that, dare I say, is sometimes out of proportion with other vocations and callings. In many ways, teachers are more valuable than lawyers, because unlike us, they don't talk about changing the world. They do it day by day. Child by child.

Some of my closest friends in the world chose to become teachers rather than lawyers. And it makes me very happy that my daughter wants to become one too.

Vancouver Franchise Lawyer Tony Wilson practices at Boughton Law Corporation in Vancouver, and has written for the Globe and Mail, Macleans Magazine and Canadian Lawyer.

twilson@boughton.ca

www.boughton.ca/people/lawyers/tony_wilson