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Website: calgaryretiredteachers.ca

President's Message

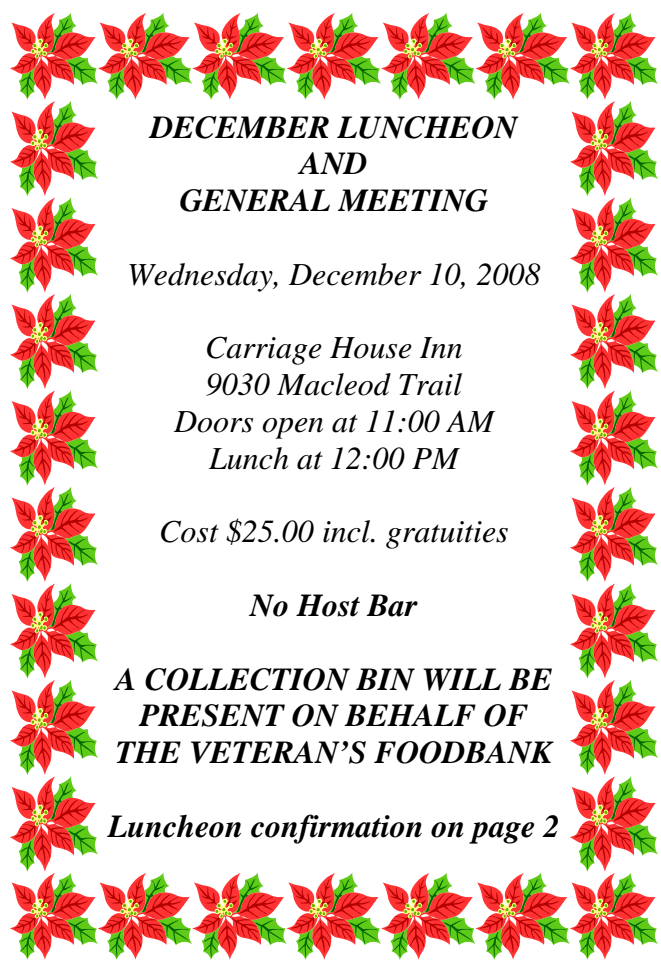
Wow, there is nothing like the deadline for the Christmas Newsletter to bring on the reality that December is upon us and with it all the thoughts of the season. On behalf of your CRTA and your Executive, Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

I hope you are able to join us at the **Carriage House Inn** for the Christmas Luncheon on December 10h and get a proper start to the festive season. I promise the chairman will be short-winded and the menu and entertainment will be outstanding! And, not to forget, there are the door prizes. As usual, it promises to be an outstanding function.

As I look back over the past year I am struck by the enthusiasm, involvement and contributions of so many members that create opportunities for us all.

As we hosted "Steppin' Out Again", our Conference, with its plethora of sessions...and food... and friends, old and new, Chuck Rose and Marg Brucker introduced the "New Dimensions in Retirement" Program. Our one-day Conference suddenly blossomed into an exciting series of activities: Field Trips to Olds College and Rosebud Theatre, course on Computers and Digital Photography, more Gardening, Finance and Wellness for Seniors.

On-going we have had the presentations an representations by our Benefits and Pension Committees. ARTA Travel Insurance now includes



DECEMBER LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

*Carriage House Inn
9030 Macleod Trail
Doors open at 11:00 AM
Lunch at 12:00 PM*

Cost \$25.00 incl. gratuities

No Host Bar

**A COLLECTION BIN WILL BE
PRESENT ON BEHALF OF
THE VETERAN'S FOODBANK**

Luncheon confirmation on page 2

free Cancellation Coverage thanks to the work of Ralph Levinson and his Committees. ARTA's Health Benefits Plan is the envy of other retirees. The minister of Education is better informed on the issues of the pension Plan after a session with Jean Crawford and her Committee.

Looking ahead... a lot more sessions and excitement with

the “New Dimensions in Retirement” is to come in January and February of next year and which will cumulate in “Steppin’ Out 3” on April 21, 2009. Look for mailings coming out soon, and/or go on line to www.calgaryretiredteachers.ca for details and deadlines. Look as well for details for the Valentines Tea on February 12. Hopefully there will be news on the return of ‘Demutualization Funds’ from the respective School Boards and hopefully the Provincial Government will see the light on reconciling outstanding Pension Issues.

Thanks again to the Executive, the committees and you, our members and supporters. From all of us, the best of the season to you now and through the upcoming year.

<i>Luncheon Confirmation by Telephone</i>		
Use the first letter of your last name to determine who you should contact.		
A, B	Bernice Gaetz	403-2552-5781
C, D	Earl Larden	403-281-5722
E, F, G	Tanis Lefroy	403-251-6214
H, I, J, K	Mimi Hogaboam	403-288-2792
L, M, N	Gloria Rasmussen	403-271-3579
O, P, Q, R	Kay Samphire	403-242-0189
S	Marg Brucker	403-241-0244
T, U, V	Dave Thompson	403-249-9086
W, X, Y, Z	Jeannie McCauley	403-275-8025

Message For All Luncheon Attendees

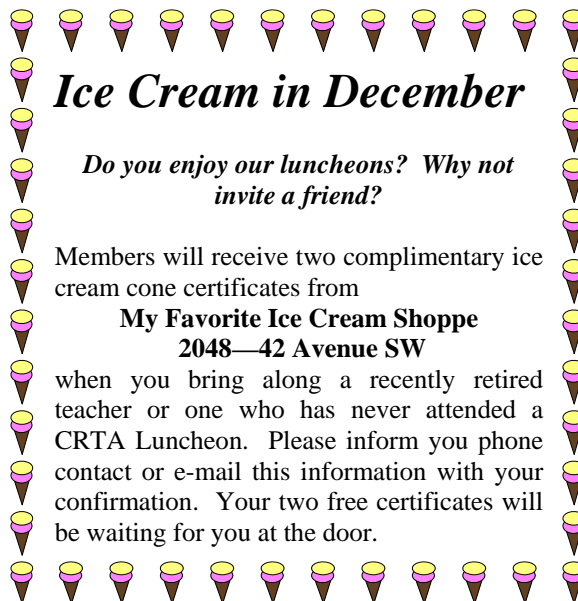
Indicate any dietary restrictions when you confirm your attendance and let your server know of your special order.

A reminder that after the confirmation cut off date you are responsible for the cost of the luncheon

Confirm your attendance between November 26 and December 3, 2008 by phone or email: confirm-luncheon@gmail.com



Cheers



Ice Cream in December

Do you enjoy our luncheons? Why not invite a friend?

Members will receive two complimentary ice cream cone certificates from

My Favorite Ice Cream Shoppe
2048—42 Avenue SW

when you bring along a recently retired teacher or one who has never attended a CRTA Luncheon. Please inform you phone contact or e-mail this information with your confirmation. Your two free certificates will be waiting for you at the door.

Plan Your Vacation Early ***2010 Oberammergau*** ***Centuries Old Passion Play***

Early October ten CRTA members met with Lawrence Rowley, the district sales representative for Collette Vacations, at the Danish Canadian Club to learn more about travel in Europe during the summer of 2010. All their tours can be enhanced with a visit to Oberammergau in Bavaria and attendance at the world famous Passion Play. This event takes place only once every ten years. Because of the world-wide popular demand Collette Vacations buys blocks of tickets early to assure its customers of a seat.

Collette has seven different tours for Europe to each of which one can attach the Passion Play event.

Discover Switzerland ***Italy***
Imperial Cities ***France and Bavaria***
Alpine Countries ***Croatia***
Alpine countries with the Glacier Express

Several members have already indicated that they intend to go on one of the tours. You may want to get together with them to form a CRTA group or prefer to travel as an individual on one of the tours and on a different date.

No matter what, Collette vacations will offer you the CRTA negotiated discount on not only these tours, but on any of their trips. Go to www.collettevacations.ca to get more information on their offerings, or get in touch with lrowley@collettevacations.ca. Ralph Levinson has a wealth of knowledge as well: 403-948-3691

New Dimension 2008-2009

Since June a large number of our membership have participated in various programs offered under the New Dimensions Program, which was made financially possible through a grant from the Federal Government.

The chairs of the organizing committees are now in the process of setting the last phase of New dimensions in motion with an offering of various courses.

A course on wines has already been scheduled to start on January 20 . Look for information on other courses to come out in the first week of January 2009. That group of courses will run mostly in February, but not beyond, due to the conditions of the grant.

The organizers trust that this coming phase will be as successful as its predecessors and that the new Dimensions program signals a new phase in the future of CRTA.

Memberships

Is your membership past due? Your \$15 yearly fee should be paid up until July 1, 2009.

The membership committee will be available at the Carriage House Inn on December 10 to assist you, or you can mail a cheque to

Gary Jeffrey
4412 Brentwood Green NW
Calgary, AB
T2L 1L4

Any questions about membership call Gary at 403-289-2807 or e-mail gjeffrey@shaw.ca



Newsletter

CRTA has currently about 800 members. Approximately 350 of those receive their copy of the newsletter through the mail. We would like to see more members give us permission to send them the newsletter through their e-mail. Sending the newsletter via Canada Post is not only expensive, but also very time consuming: producing labels, sticking them on the envelope, buying stamps and sticking them on as well as stuffing the envelopes and sealing them takes many hours. Put a smile on your newsletter editor/producers face by sending a request to switch from hard copy to electronic mail to cbeunder@shaw.ca

Door Prize Winners October 2008 Luncheon

THE DOOR

Free ticket for the next Luncheon
Chuck Rose

Fall Bouquet

Joan Liland

One free membership to CRTA

Marian Peterson

Two tickets to the Calgary Philharmonic

Marilyn Zelenka

CRTA Plants

Mertie Beatie and Wanda Nickle

Gift from Johnson Inc.

Sharon Kahut

Two tickets fr Brunch at Dalton's

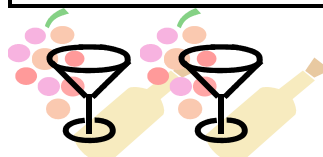
Steven Brown



CRTA ART SHOW MARCH 28, 2008

CRTA is please to sponsor an ART SHOW on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at St.Andrews United Church, located at 924 Heritage Drive SW. **We still have room for artists** and would like inquiries from retirees/artists who reside in the School Districts surrounding Calgary and from those who moved to British Columbia and who would be interested in participating. If you know of someone who might be interested let them know of this event.

For further information you may contact Irene Bruzga at bruzgav@hotmail.com, 403-255-4395 or Dave Harrison at theartcoach@shaw.ca. Further updates will appear in the next newsletter and on the CRTA website www.calgaryretiredteachers.ca



*And
More Cheers*

President	Gordon Cumming	403-288-5731
Past President	Chuck Rose	403-288-5266
Vice President	Marg Brucker	403-241-0244
	Erich Berndt	403-286-2240
Secretary	Kathy Newman	403-288-4542
Treasurer	Paul Demers	403-286-8338
<u>Directors</u>		
	Mike Allen	403-281-4081
	Terry Allen	403-289-2291
	Meryl Arnott	403-283-5306
	David Baker	403-242-6046
	Sheena Banks	403-251-0172
	Ena Beunder	403-288-3895
	Erich Berndt	403 286-2240
	Elizabeth Bourges	403-245-2035
	Irene Bruzga	403-255-4395
	Greg Chitrenky	403-256-9364
	Jean Crawford	403-247-3664
	Juliette Hachey	403-279-7640
	Shirley Holmlund	403-271-5310
	Garry Jeffrey	403-289-2807
	Ralph Levinson	403-948-3691
	Jeannie McCauley	403-275-8025
	Jim Nielsen	403-289-3185
	Ron Nikiforuk	403-271-2854
	Kay Samphire	403-242-0189
	Barb Smith	403-286-1605
	Lorna Solacek	403-255-6016
	Jim Weed	403-239-4564

Last Minute News Item

Are you feeling down with the long winter coming? Is a cruise not in your future? Are the ski hills getting too much? Never been to Las Vegas, because those tables look so intimidating? What about a little Las Vegas in Calgary?

Greg Chitrenky, 403-256-9364, is willing to organize a small group of retired teachers, who would like to learn the in and outs of blackjack. A very economical lunch can be included as part of the fun.

This **NOT** a New Dimensions sponsored activity.

CRTA Committees

You, our membership, may sometimes wonder what those twenty-eight people, who form the executive members and directors of our association, are involved in. Here is a taste:
 Four look after membership, four look after technology. There is a social committee of four members (Is there anyone else in our membership who can help these hardworking ladies with finding door prizes. Call Sheena Banks 403-251-0172) Seven people concern themselves with Insurance/Wellness. Ten bodies look after travel and Affinity programs. Nine members of the CRTA are represented on ARTA. We have established contacts with other senior groups in Calgary. One of our members keeps in contact with the current issues in teaching by attending CSR. Sometimes our lists of duties that are taken on seem ambitious and never ending, but all who sign on work hard, do more often than not double duty and do it cheerfully.

CRTA, in its new form as a society, is growing and reaching out to provide its members with meaningful services. CRTA would like to hear from you, if you think you can contribute with ideas and or action . Gordon Cumming 403- 288-5731 will be happy to talk to you .CRTA may even create another committee just for you

***Let's Take a Moment
to Remember those colleagues who
past away recently***

May Coatsworth(Master	October 1
Doris Brown	October 23
Cornelius (Con) Heppner	October 26
Jocelyn (Joss) Anne Kerr	October 3
Elizabeth Eva Pettifer	October 3
James Alexander Reid	September 26
John Watson Hasselfield	November 7

To our Members:
 Your newsletter editor finds the obituary information in one of Calgary's daily newspapers. Not every family enters the name of a dear one in the obituary column and sometimes the profession is omitted. CRTA would like to honour our former colleagues. If you know of someone who taught in the Calgary Public or Separate system and who was missed, please do not hesitate to send the name and day of passing to certainfo@calgaryretiredteachers.ca