

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where do I begin? March is the mid-point of the year, and looking backwards and forwards, I have to be indebted to those individuals who carry the load as your Executive Members, and to the rest of you for your support.

Since my last message, we had a most successful Christmas Function at the Carriage house, and in February explored new territory by pushing ahead on a Valentine's Tea without the funding from the ATA Convention Committee. These functions were the product of hours of attention to every detail by Irene Bruzga, Sheena Banks, Shirley Holmlund and others.

The next major production will be our conference "Steppin' Out 2008" on April 29, 2008 and it is sure to match and exceed last year's excitement, with a wider range of topics and space for an increased number of registrants. About half of you Executive is active in the planning and presentation of the conference. Kay Samphire and Carol Palis are also part of this group. Another key to the success of the day will be the many presenters, as well as our funding partners (ARTA, Johnson Inc. and Collette Tours). We look forward to sharing this day with you and other retirees from across the province.

Ensuring effective communication has been a major focus of our organization this year. We are most appreciative of the work done by Eric Berndt with Greg Chitrenky and Ron Nikiforuk and Ena Beunder. Greg now looks after the website, Ron deals with our e-mails. Eric has switched his main focus to the work our Pension Committee. Ena Beunder faithfully produces the newsletter. Thanks are also in order to Pat Rempel of the REA, who helped us in updating our database. This work has been invaluable to Gary Jeffrey (Memberships).

There is still a lot more representation on your behalf.

Chuck Rose (Past-President) and Paul Demers

(Treasurer), in addition to their very busy roles, have been representing us on the joined committee with other Unions and the ATA that was responsible for the resolution of the Long Term Disability rebate to CBE retirees. They also are at it again with regard to moneys paid to London Life in the seventies and eighties by teachers and the CBE. Hopefully we will soon have news about the status of this disposition.

Our Pension representatives (Jean Crawford, Mike Allen, Eric Berndt and Ralph Levinson) and Benefit Representative (Ralph Levinson) have been offering workshops to future retirees, as well as representing your interests beyond the local level. Along with Chuck Rose they also have a scheduled meeting with the Minister of Education to pursue issues of concern to our membership.

Many of your Calgary executives are also heavily committed as representatives to the provincial 'Alberta Retired Teachers' Association'. These include Paul Demers (Treasurer, Communications), Ralph Levinson (Benefits Chair), Irene Bruzga (Representative Committee) Jim Jarrell (Strategic Planning) and myself (Board of Directors).

Apologies to those executive members I have not highlighted. You can be assured that they all are committed to ensuring a vital and vibrant organization.

Thanks to Ralph Levinson, we have established a healthy partnership with Collette Tours. Currently there are some special travel opportunities available for our members and their friends. By booking with Collette a small percentage of the price of vacation package is paid to the CRTA.

As well we will soon be announcing a series of Program opportunities thanks to resources received from the Federal Government's New Horizons Funding.

ALBERTA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS.

Scholarships are available to children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of current members of ARTA. Details regarding eligibility and an application form (download) are available on the website: www.albertarta.org. The scholarships apply to different educational institutions and to student in their first to third year of undergraduate studies. Deadline for applications is July 31, 2008. Check it out!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

SANTA greeted members at the Christmas Luncheon, wishing them all a Merry Christmas. Gordon Cumming welcomed many members to the luncheon, which began after Shirley Homlund said grace.

During the business meeting a motion to replace the existing bylaws was unanimously carried by quorum of the CRTA membership. CRTA's transformation into a Society necessitated this move.

Paul Demers presented an updated Financial statement..

The following announcements were made:

1. Details regarding the **Valentine's Tea** (replacing the Pre-Convention Tea) See subsequent report.
2. Gordon Cumming announced the **Steppin' Out 2008 Conference** at the Dalton Conference Centre on April 29.
3. CRTA received a **Federal Government Grant for Senior Initiatives**. This money enables the conference planners to go ahead full speed.
4. **Collette Travel Update:** Lawrence Rowley, District Sales Manager reminded members of travel discounts and passed out new travel brochures. As of May 1 Collette will also be providing door-to-door transfers from home to airport.
5. Chuck Rose spoke on behalf of **the Pension Committee** and will advise the CRTA membership of any new information that arises from the Memorandum of Agreement between the ATA and the Alberta Government.
6. CRTA supported the following **charities:** Servant's Anonymous, Wood's Homes (Exit Program for Street kids) and the lunch Program for "Inn from the Cold" children at Catherine Nicholls Gunn Elementary School. Everyone was encouraged to help themselves to one of the 200 books given to CRTA by Servant's Anonymous.

Entertainment.

The Lord Beaverbrook High School Choir under the very capable direction of Heidi Woods shared their amazing talents and the spirit of the season through a medley of songs.

Gordon Cumming thanked the Carriage House staff for a delicious meal and wished the membership a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of CRTA. Many thanks go to our Santa Claus, David Thomson

A **Thank-You** letter was received by CRTA from Wood's Homes Foundation for the donation of \$300 made on behalf of the membership.

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE WINNERS DECEMBER 12, 2007

Luncheon Door—CRTA
Norma Ellis

Brunch—Carriage House Inn
Paul Demers

CRTA membership
Gloria Dalton

Heritage Park Pass—Heritage Park
Marj Weerstra

Curves 30 Day Trial—Curves
Evelyn Keddie

One Dozen Cheese Buns—Glamorgan Bakery
Gloria Filyk

Cosmetology Certificates
Sir Winston Churchill High School
Ardell Clark-Tronnes, Sharon Terray

Pair of Passes—Lougheed House
707-13 Avenue SW 268-6884
Lawrence King

Flowers from CRTA
Annabelle Mclean, Mary Tyrell,
Greg Chitrenky

Travel Blanket—Johnson Insurance
Marg Brucker

Nikki Pi Filtered Water Bottle
Donated by Shirley Holmlund
Joyce Grieve

Handmade Cards - Evelyn Keddie
Eileen Thurlow, Kathleen Gleeson

DO YOU VISIT OUR WEBSITE?

We keep you up to date with news from CRTA

www.calgaryretiredteachers.ca

VALENTINE TEA

The Valentine Tea took place on February 14. The venue, traditionally held at the Carriage House Inn, had to be moved to a different location due to the lack of financial support this year from the CCTCA (Calgary City Teachers Conventions Association.) Shirley Holmlund, with assistance of Chuck Rose, found the Varsity Community Centre at 4305 Varsity Drive NW. The rent was reasonable, the room was bright and the food catered through the Varsity Community Association was to everyone's taste.

Ninety-five members and friends who attended the event were entertained by a travel presentation by Lawrence Rowley of Collette Travel, one of CRTA's partners. He shared with us beautiful photographs of tours to South America and China. Although East Africa, the big game area normally is one of their destinations, Collette Travel has to postpone tours to that area, because of the current political unrest.



LUCKY DOOR PRIZE WINNERS FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Collette Travel Pack
Pam Scrabognia, Bonnie Bell

Flowers from CRTA
Pat Young, Marion Woodward,
Lisa Solyam

Chocolates from CRTA
Liz Beetifer, Gord Cumming

HENRY WISEWOOD HS REUNION
For information and registration go to
www.wisewood78.com

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS? PLEASE LET
RON NIKIFORUK KNOW. rwnikif@tekusplanet.net

CRTA does not accept any liability whatsoever for any consequences for anyone participating in any of the positions published in the newsletter.

More job/volunteer opportunities can be found on our website www.calgaryretiredteachers.ca

LET US REMEMBER OUR COLLEAGUES WHO PASSED AWAY RECENTLY 2007—2008

<i>Gordon Ritz</i>	<i>November 28</i>
<i>Fredda Vivian Kenney</i>	<i>December 1</i>
<i>Jean-Louise Erickson</i>	<i>December 12</i>
<i>Jean Elizabeth Robinson</i>	<i>December 13</i>
<i>Diana Georgina Rever</i>	<i>January 19</i>
<i>Marjorie Georgina Prieur</i>	<i>January 26</i>
<i>Valborg Katherie Galloway</i>	<i>January 31</i>
<i>Dorothy Marjorie McNary</i>	<i>February 5</i>
<i>Edna May Coonfer</i>	<i>February 8</i>
<i>Mary Elizabeth Schneeberger</i>	<i>February 10</i>
<i>Richard Gordon Jobb</i>	<i>February 10</i>
<i>A. Stephen Keddie</i>	<i>February 10</i>
<i>Micheline Berg</i>	<i>February 12</i>
<i>Jacqueline Elaine Fetheston</i>	<i>February 21</i>
<i>J Anita Meek</i>	<i>February 24</i>
<i>Caroline Alma Kevol</i>	<i>February 26</i>
<i>Elaine 'Bernice' Schaffer</i>	<i>March 3</i>

Erich Berndt has relinquished his position as CRTA webmaster which he held for the past 3.5 years. Erich was instrumental in putting CRTA on the web and acquiring the Group Mail program that CRTA uses to communicate by e-mail to our members. Greg Chitrenky has assumed the role of Chair of the communications/Technology Committee and Webmaster. Ron Nikiforuk has taken over the e-mailing of information to our members who have provided the membership director with an e-mail address. Erich will continue to serve CRTA as a member of the Pension Committee. The current revision of the CRTA website is Erich's last one as Webmaster. We hope you like the new clean look.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

-Heritage Park needs docents—268-8563

-Telus World of Science needs docents—268-8339

-Catholic immigration Society needs people to interact with new Canadians. Contact sreduc@cciscalgary.ab.ca

-City Parks is looking for volunteers to help keep an eye on our parks phone 311 of www.Calgary.ca/parks

*Calgary Learning Centre—Share the Magic
Carol McMullen 686-9300*