



The Newsletter

September - October 2009

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Message and Report from the Outgoing President Gordon Cumming

On August 26 your Executive was busy getting set for the upcoming year. We are happy to confirm dates for the luncheons in this newsletter, as well as those for the Valentines Tea, The Art Show and the Steppin'Out Conference. Dates for activities such as Travels Days and some other single day sessions that have proved to be so popular, are still being worked on.

The pace of activities will not be as hectic as last year as there are no funding grants for coming this year and this limits the finances there are available to enhance and extend programs. To continue providing programming the CRTA Executive is proposing a change in the by-laws to allow greater access to financial resources. Further in this newsletter issue you will have notice of some bylaw amendments that are intended to confirm our status as a 'Seniors' organization. In the past CRTA has been very open to a liaison with the wider senior community, and thus this next stop of allowing those who share our 'objectives' access to membership will make our organization eligible for expanded sources of funding, including the ability to apply for a Casino. Your Executive believes this to be a positive step at this time and will be recommending these By-law amendments to you at the coming luncheon.

In addition to programming, other continuing priorities for CRTA action include Communication, Pensions, Wellness and Benefits, and Partnerships.

Communications is a particular strength of our group, with our successful newsletter, Web-site and



Luncheon

October 21, 2009

Dalton's Greenwood Inn
3515—26 Street NE

Cost for members \$25.00
Cost for non-members \$27.00

Time: 11:30 am till 2:00 pm

IMPORTANT

All registrations for the luncheons this coming season **must take place by phone.** You will find the phone information further in this newsletter.

Reservations can be made starting October 7.

Once the reservation is made you can only cancel before the deadline. After that date you will be requested to pay for your ordered luncheon.

Deadline for the October Luncheon is Noon, October 12.

E-mail program. I find that in addition to being current on issues and concerns impacting retired teachers, they are a good resource for employment and volunteer opportunities, as well as ensuring we are informed of colleagues who have passed away. A few minutes at <http://calgaryretiredteachers.ca> is usually a few minutes well spent.

The Pension Committee is currently redefining direction and priorities in light of recent legislative changes. This will be a focus of its report at the October meeting.

The members of the Wellness and Benefits committee continue to provide vital information at seminars for active and recently retired teachers. They answer many questions and concerns regarding the termination of group benefits from their employer by and they present insurance options available to them. It is always very important to act promptly to ensure continuing coverage that may otherwise be limited by pre-existing health issues.

Partnerships...Johnson Inc. not only administers the Group Insurance Plan for Retired Teachers, but has been a generous funder in supporting our various initiatives. As well, we continue to enjoy a very positive relationship with Collette Vacations and Cruise Plus. They have been excellent partners in sponsoring some of our events, as well as providing enjoyable and interesting presentations at our events. There is contact information on our Website and identifying yourself as a CRTA member will bring price reductions.

ARTA ... as members of CRTA we are a branch of the Alberta Retired Teachers Association. As such we enjoy its efforts and advocacy on our behalf. Later in this newsletter you will find a letter from Paul Boisvert, ARTA President. His update on the Province's Pharmacare Plan for seniors is relevant to us all, and I most certainly support his call for continuing our collective efforts in this area.

And a final note ... this is my final column as CRTA president. I don't have room to thank all the players, but you know who you are. The past two years have flown by because of the enthusiasm, initiative and support of an energetic and dedicated group of Executive Members. CRTA has certainly been well served. With the new hat of Past-President, I am excited about the year to come.

News from the Social Committee

Kay Samphire 242-0189
Jeannie McCauley 275-8025

The hardworking members of the Social Committee would like to thank all members who supported the luncheons during the previous season.

They have made arrangements for the following events for the coming months that you can already mark on your calendar.

Christmas Luncheon—December 9 at the Carriage House Inn.

Valentines Tea—February 12 at the Varsity Community Centre.

Steppin'Out April, exact date not available

Barbeque—June 11 at the Varsity community Centre.

The Committee asks that you continue to remember to bring donations to the Veteran's Foodbank.

Phone Contacts to confirm attendance at the Social Functions

<i>Last name starting with</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>
A, B	Bernice Gaetz	403-252-5781
C, D	Earl Larden	403-281-5722
E, F, G	Tanis Lefroy	403-251-6214
H, I, J	Julie Biggs	403-249-1999
K, L	Mimi Hogaboam	403-288-2792
M, N, O	Gloria Rasmussen	403-271-3579
P, Q, R	Marion Kinney	403-271-1344
S	Marg Brucker	403-241-0244
T, U, V	Dave Thompson	403-249-9086
W, X, Y, Z	Kay Samphire	403-242-0189

Calgary Retired Teachers Association **Proposed Bylaw Changes—September 2009**

Rationale: Over the past few years, our association has established a broader perspective in terms of purpose and range of activities, and has included those with similar needs and interests in our activities and causes. The value of this has been readily apparent in the response of other Seniors and Groups, Our Conference, Travel and Wellness presentations and the Art Show make this evident.

In order to carry out these activities we have successfully accessed Provincial and Federal funds. To be eligible for this funding, we needed to demonstrate the accessibility of our programs to all seniors. These proposed Bylaw amendments will constitute us as a Senior's organization, open to the community. This will make us eligible for a number of other sources of funding, including Casino eligibility, and will enable CRTA sponsoring further activities for our members and 'friends'.

The changes proposed will allow others who 'share our objectives' to become affiliate members of CRTA and affiliate members who wish to, may apply to the Board for full Voting Membership. This accessibility of membership for any senior in the community is required for our organization to be eligible for Casino Funding.

The second change governs the 'Disposition of Surplus Funds' in event of organizational dissolution.

Proposed amendments are indicated in ***Bold Italics***.

Bylaw 3 Membership

Section 1 Voting Members

1. Upon application and payment of fees, CRTA will accept into voting membership any retired teacher having served or currently residing in the Calgary Region, who is receiving a pension from the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.
2. Upon application and payment of fees, CRTA will accept into voting membership any teacher fifty-five or over, having served or currently residing in the Calgary region, who will not receive an ATRF pension, but who can provide proof in writing of having made contributions to ATRF for five (5) or more years.

Section 2 Affiliate Members

1. CRTA may, at its discretion, grant affiliate membership to any individual who is:
 - The spouse of a retired teacher
 - A retired educator from another educational system of institution in Alberta
 - A retired teacher or retired educator from another province
 - Teachers on extended leave or pending retirement
 - ***Any Senior in the Community who shares the Objects of the CRTA***
2. Affiliate members shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.
3. ***Affiliate Members may apply to the Board to be considered for full Voting Membership.***

Bylaw 9 Dissolution

In the event of a voluntary dissolution pursuant to the Societies Act, any remaining funds and assets of the Society shall be disposed of ***to eligible charitable of religious groups***, as determined by the Board of Directors, ***in consultation with relevant Government Departments (Societies and Gaming)***

A Letter from the President of ARTA

2009 08 25

Dear ARTA Members and Seniors of Alberta.

Earlier this year, as a result of your collaboration in contacting Alberta Health Care and our elected MLA's together, we were able to force the Minister of Health to withdraw a Pharmaceutical Plan that was totally unacceptable for Alberta Seniors.

We recognize the necessity of providing unqualified support for the most needy of our seniors but the revised proposal to be implemented July 1, 2010, is no more acceptable than the first one as it continues to erode the principles that we deem most desirable for the universal health care program.

While Premier Ed Stelmach continues to emphasize that there shall be no new taxes under his regime, Alberta's flat tax continues to favour the most affluent. In spite of statements like this, Alberta seniors are the only group who face "tax" increases in the form of "premiums" for the Minister's pharmaceutical plan.

It will also have a major impact on provisions and costs of the ARTA Extended Health Care Plan. All senior Albertans not only face financial consequences but also the realities of a drug formulary that has included the delisting of some 1000 drugs.

On behalf of ARTA, I urge you to bring to the immediate attention of retired teachers and all Alberta seniors the fact that we must not back down in our efforts of keeping our MLA's aware that we oppose any changes that place an additional financial burden on all senior Albertans. Please use whatever means required to get this message out immediately be it by announcement at "To Hell With The Bell" or other branch events, newsletters, and other available media.

Your involvement and action does count!

Paul Boisvert, ARTA President

Should you require more information or support, do not hesitate to contact ARTA's offices at 780-447-9474 or toll free at 1800-2342-7208 or email don@albetarta.org

From the Editor: to find the name of your MLA go to http://Alberta.ca/home/mla_contacts.cfm.

Calgary Retired Teachers Art Show and Sale 2010

Following the success of the first CRTA Art show and Sale last March, when over 500 people attended the one day show and sale, we are enthusiastically in the planning stage for the next. The second Calgary Retired Teachers' Art Show and Sale is scheduled to be held at the same venue, St. Andrews United Church, located at 924 Heritage Drive SW on March 27, 2010. Be sure to mark this on your calendar and watch for further information as it gets posted on the CRTA website .

For further information or to contact the organizing committee regarding the Art show 2010 you may email to artshow2010@calgaryretiredteachers.ca

*Let's Take a Moment to Remember
those Colleagues
who passed away recently*

<i>Holger Christensen</i>	<i>May 2</i>
<i>Mary Baty</i>	<i>May 11</i>
<i>Peter James Rosewam</i>	<i>May 19</i>
<i>John Kinsman</i>	<i>May 29</i>
<i>Joyce Wilson</i>	<i>May 30</i>
<i>Dorothy Shantz</i>	<i>June 5</i>
<i>Erven Fester</i>	<i>June 9</i>
<i>Ardele Leone McAuley</i>	<i>June 10</i>
<i>Ada Stevens</i>	<i>June 11</i>
<i>Thomas Carrick</i>	<i>June 27</i>
<i>Lilian Adeline Michaluk</i>	<i>July 10</i>
<i>Sarah Marguerite Car</i>	<i>July 13</i>
<i>Bessie Louise Nebogie</i>	<i>July 19</i>
<i>Elaine Grier</i>	<i>July 22</i>
<i>Virginia Mary Klatzel</i>	<i>July 28</i>
<i>Frances Elizabeth Dunbar</i>	<i>August 8</i>
<i>Leone Campbell</i>	<i>August 12</i>
<i>Loretta Mae Chaplin</i>	<i>August 13</i>

**Inviting all Calgary Retired Teachers
To the 4th Annual
Festive Craft & Bake Sale**

**Proceeds will go to
Servants Anonymous Society**

(This society provides long-term programs, ongoing support, hope and wholeness to young women (with and without children) who are victims of, or are at risk of, sexual exploitation. The SAS Education/Scholarship fund supports women facing obstacle to furthering their education.

**Saturday, November 7, 2009
10:00 am—4:00 pm
La Joie de Vivre
1008—14 Street SE
Admission \$2.00**

Note to CRTA members. If you could make a contribution of home-baked goods, it will be greatly appreciated. Cash donations will also be accepted. A tax receipt will be provided upon request. Contact Betty Rose or Marg Brucker at the luncheon or Betty@403-288-5266

For all kinds of **VOLUNTEER** positions visit our website. It is constantly updated as new requests are being brought to the attention of the Communications Committee.

Salsa for Seniors

At the Conference last April CRTA was fortunate to have Marcos Ravelo from the Havana Cuban Dance Studio host a Taste of Salsa session. The participants had a great time and expressed a desire to learn more and have more fun. Summer was not a good time to organize lessons. Irene Bruzga has now contacted Marcos and he is delighted to offer lessons to any of our members and their friends. NO partners are needed, as in the session participants were paired up with those who were there. A lot was learned, as the instruction was geared to the group present in April. Nobody thought they would appear on "So You Think You Can Dance" any time soon, but everyone had loads of fun.

Marcos is offering an introductory package as printed below:

Four one-hour lessons: **Salsa, Merengue, Bachata and Chacha**, basics.

Thursday October 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 7:00 till 8:00 in the evening at the Havana Cuban Dance Studio, 1304—4 Street SW. There is free parking at the meters around the block.

The cost is \$30 for the package of four lessons.

Register by calling Marcos Ravello at 403-835-3149 or 403-264-3148

Email:marcos ravello@hotmail.com

This is open to all who were in the April session, those who wish they had been and anyone who wants some fun and a little exercise. Bring a friend and enjoy. Irene Bruzga

The University of Calgary has notified the Educational Progress Club historian that the bursary established by the University of Calgary in the name of the Club has been awarded to Ms. Laura Marie Slaunwhite of Calgary. The award amount is \$350.00. Anyone wishing to make a contribution to the bursary may do so by contacting Claudia Barnett at Student Awards and Financial Aid, awddonor@ucalgary.ca

Is Your Membership Up—To—Date?

Memberships for the Calgary Retired Teachers association terminate on June 30th each year. If you need to renew, please send a cheque for \$15.00/year made out to CRTA and send it to:

Garry Jeffrey
4412 Brentwood Green NW
Calgary, AB
T23L 1L4

You will receive your membership card in the mail.

If you are uncertain regarding your membership status, you can enquire by emailing gjeffrey@shaw.ca or telephoning Garry at 403-289-2807. If you have already renewed—thank you so much!

You may also buy a membership at the October luncheon.

Club 100 Calgary Retired Teachers Association Chapter

This is an update and invitation to CRTA members and friends . . . by Chuck Rose.

As fall nears, those who opted to join the CRTA Chapter Club 100 are enjoying the wine selected by David Walker. Following the Steppin'Out Conference and taking advantage of the CRTA partnership with 100 Wines, I registered as a CRTA Chapter Member of Club 100. My registration fee of \$500 garnered two exclusive bottles of wine and the option to participate in quarterly orders at one of three levels (\$100/\$150/\$200)

The results of this partnership have been delightful so far. I have written a short report on our experiences with the wines that is now available on the CRTA website. There you will also find more information on how to join Club 100.

The following people have declared their willingness to serve on the CRTA Executive in 2009-2010

President	Marg Brucker
Past President	Gordon Cumming
Vice President	Kathy Newman
Vice President	Greg Chitrenky
Secretary	Barb Smith
Treasurer	Paul Demers
Directors:	
Terry Allen	Erich Berndt
Ena Beunder	Elizabeth Bourges
Irene Bruzga	Don Checkley

Rosebud Theatre Anyone?

Margaret Espetveidt has kindly undertaken the task of organizing the repeat of last year's highly successful trip to Rosebud. This year's presentation is:

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES Thursday, November 19, 2009

Transportation will be by bus (TRAXX) from Deerfoot Mall. Parking will be available at the Mall. Boarding will take place at 9:15 am and the bus will return at 6:00 pm.

Cost: \$65.00 pp. This includes transportation, buffet lunch and theatre ticket.

*To register send your name, address, phone number and email address to:
crt2009@calgaryretiredteachers.ca
and your cheque, made out to CRTA, to Ena Beunder, 128 Varsity Crescent, NW Calgary, T3B 2Z4 after email confirmation of registration.*

Directors:

Mary Checkley	Jean Crawford
Norma Ellis	Nick Gass
Juliette Hachey	Shirley Holmlund
Garry Jeffrey	Ralph Levinson
Catrina Loman	Jeannie McAuley
Jim Nielsen	Ron Nikiforuk
Kay Samphire	Lorna Solaczek
Jim Weed	