



MARCH 2019

Greetings from Sue



Many of our members have been enjoying a variety of travel destinations over the winter months. If any of you have any tales you are willing to share about your travel experiences, perhaps you could send to Maureen for our newsletter.

Apparently, spring is just around the corner, but has been actively disguised as winter storms have been passing through. I cannot remember the last time our schools were closed due to "snow" days, although I do remember trying to get to some remote schools during snowstorms. With the roads being treacherous and the temperatures extreme, it was great to see the children (parents and grandparents, too) bundled up and enjoying local snow activities.

In spite of the snowy weather, 53 of our members managed to attend our February luncheon at Newlands. Understandably, we did have several cancellations due to the inclement weather and members who were out-of-town. The prices for our lunch have increased over time and we now pay a room charge as well. We anticipate the need to increase our lunch costs for next year. The executive decided to subsidize the luncheon costs for this year.

We had two presentations at the luncheon - **Tom McLean from Trip Merchant**, whose company partners with the BCRTA and has a password (listed on website) travel website for members to access. If you are planning a trip, it is a useful website to visit since there are discounts and a loyalty program for members, along with their friends and families, to take advantage of.

Also, **Lisa Hansen and Mark Costales from Johnson Insurance**, provided us with information regarding the extended health programs (Prestige along with included travel insurance coverage vs. Medoc). The pros and cons of both were presented and there were opportunities to ask questions. There were handouts on the various plans along with complimentary pens and a great door prize they donated of a small travel umbrella. Unfortunately we ran out of time and the weather was getting more active so some may not have had their questions answered. If you have any questions or concerns, you can call (604-881-5982) or stop in at Johnson Insurance in Walnut Grove. (Suite #110 - 9440 202 St.) Thank you Lisa and Mark!

We have 23 more spaces available for our **"Indispensable Binder" workshop presented by Diana Cruchley that is on April 30th at the Lions Seniors Hall in Fort Langley.** Tickets are \$5.00 and available through Maureen Wilson. Please e-mail her at [lrta.35@gmail.com](mailto:lrta.35@gmail.com) to reserve a ticket.

Our next luncheon will be held at **Newlands on Tuesday, May 28, 2019.** It is our AGM meeting and we are hoping the Brookwood Secondary School senior jazz band can provide our entertainment once again. They are always such an inspiring and talented group of young people.

The executive is searching for members who may be willing to volunteer a bit of their time to serve on the executive in coming years. We currently have 2 empty positions on the executive - program and membership. The commitment is not onerous at all - we have approximately approximately 5 executive meetings per year and 4 luncheons. We are hoping to offer a few workshops and activities outside of the luncheons in the coming years.

### **Ideas for Workshops, Luncheon Presenters, or Activities**

- Home Support and Care
- Technology and Aging
- De-prescribing and Issues Related to Medications
- COSCO - support for Seniors Services - Overview of support available
- Photography
- Retaining the Power of Memory for Active Seniors -
- Travel Destinations Presentations - specific
- De-cluttering
- R.R. Smith - history, current goals, grant recipient presentations
- Pub night

**Please help us by adding to list and letting us know if you would be interested in any of the above or something different.**

**Wishing everyone an enjoyable spring and hoping to see you at the workshop in April or the luncheon in May.**

Cheers - Sue Mackenzie - LRTA President - [lta.suem@gmail.com](mailto:lta.suem@gmail.com)

#### SPRING Gluu CLASSES



I have had several queries as to when the next set of Gluu sessions will be happening. Linda Fawcus is up to her ears with writing grant proposals, so our classes are on hold for the near future. She will be contacting me, once the grant proposals are finalized and then she will have a better idea of her schedule. We are hoping to have something put together by the end of April, so that we can have a few sessions in May/June. I will contact those who are already on my Gluu contacts list, but if you are interested in participating and have not had the opportunity to do so in the past, then please e-mail me at [lta.35@gmail.com](mailto:lta.35@gmail.com) and I will add you to the list of those who wish to be informed of future sessions. I'm glad that Judy de Vries, president of RR Smith and LRTA member-at-large introduced us to this wonderful resource, as it has been appreciated and enjoyed by many of our members.

#### MEMBERSHIP/BCRTA WEBSITE LIAISON REPORT

~ Submitted by Maureen Wilson~



The Langley Branch of the BCRTA is one of the largest and most actively supported branches in the province. This year we added 27 new members, and now have a total of 489 members. We are pleased to welcome our newest members who have joined since our Fall newsletter: Gail Chaddock-Costello, George Costello, Miki Kemmett, Tracy Lee-McCall and Ruth Rissiek.



## LET'S GO GROUP

~Submitted by Judy de Vries~

Let's Go members gather to discuss trips, plan events and go for lunch. If you are interested in what is coming up, please let me know ([devriesj@telus.net](mailto:devriesj@telus.net)) and I will put you on the Let's Go list.

### Let's Go Group Activity



FRIDAY JUNE 28

#### Diablo Lake Boat Tour

\$149 | Activity Level: Easy

Cruise the glacier-fed Diablo Lake on a US Ranger narrated tour boat designed especially for Diablo Lake featuring a glass roof and outdoor deck. Learn about the surrounding wildlife habitat, see snow-clad mountain peaks, islands and waterfalls. US travel documents required.

#### PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Diablo Lake Narrated Tour
- Environmental Learning Center
- Lunch
- All fees and taxes
- Relief driver

#### PICK-UPS:

Maple Ridge Alliance Church-6:00am – 6:30pm  
21746 52<sup>nd</sup> Langley 6:30am – 6:00pm

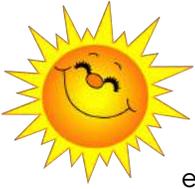
#### ITINERARY:

6:45am - USA Border  
8:00am - Market Street Cafe Burlington  
10:00am - Diablo Lake  
10:15am - Narrated Scenic Lake Tour  
1:00pm - Lunch North Cascades  
Environmental Learning Center  
2:30pm - Depart  
4:00pm - Market Street Cafe Burlington  
5:00pm - CND Border

**To book call 604 630 2434 ext. 1 Specify the June 28th trip from Langley**

## SUNSHINE (and SHOWERS) REPORT

~Submitted by Jacquie Hollybow~



As your Sunshine person, I am available to send cards to members to recognize significant events, or if they are experiencing a serious illness themselves or have lost a family member. If you know of such a situation in the life of a Langley Retired Teachers' Association member you can notify me by phone: (604) 888-7020 or e-mail: [jhollybow@hotmail.com](mailto:jhollybow@hotmail.com) or any of the executive and a card will be sent.



Glen Pinch

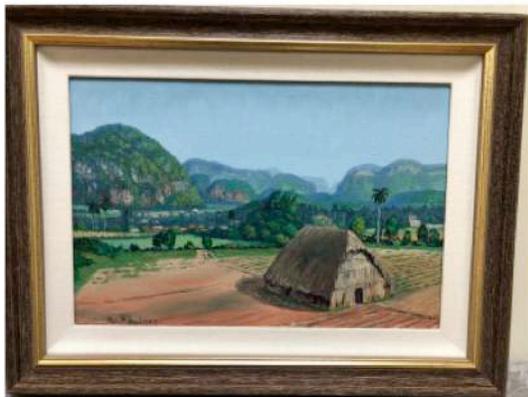


Glen has been a tireless worker for retired teachers since his retirement. He served on the executive of the Langley Retired Teachers' Association (four years as President), the Board of Directors of the B.C.R.T.A. (chaired Social Concerns and Advocacy Committees) and on the Board of Directors of the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation (four years as President). Unfortunately Glen is in Hospice in Ladner. Glen has generously donated to R.R. Smith three pieces of original art obtained during his travels.

### Silent Auction

The R.R. Smith Board of Directors is holding a province wide silent auction of three original pieces of art donated by Glen Pinch. The money raised through this auction will be used to fund an educational project in Glen's name in March of 2020. In addition, anyone wishing to donate to this educational project may do so on line with a tax receipt issued at the same time.

To make a donation go to [www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca](http://www.vancitycommunityfoundation.ca), click on "Funds" at the top of the page, type R.R. Smith in the "search" area, click on "R.R. Smith Community Fund", click on "Give to this Fund", and fill in the details required. A tax receipt will be issued for donations over \$20. If you wish to designate the funds in honour of Glen Pinch fill in the organization in the "Leave a comment" section. A donation may also be sent to R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation, #100- 550 W.6th Ave, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4P2





## DORSCIE PATERSON Celebrates Her 106<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Dorscie, one of our members, has been known for her quick wit and is as sharp as she ever was at 106. If you would like to see a video of her birthday celebration, click on this link -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fViH3-AF0GA>

### It's Retirement Time at D.W. Poppy!

If you are interested in attending the retirement celebration for **Greg and Lynie Tener, Laurel Peck, Debbie Becker, Kathy McDonald** and LTA President **Wendy Cook**, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, please contact Rory Allen ([rallen@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:rallen@sd35.bc.ca)) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### JOAN TOUT Passes Away

For those of you who taught with JOAN TOUT, one of our lifetime members, it is with great sadness that I announce her passing. Our condolences go out to her family from the LRTA.

## Bill C-27 Update

A request has been made for our members to look at the information regarding the withdrawal of Bill C-27. Many of us signed a petition in the fall (2018) at our No Bell brunch, opposing the Bill that was presented to our MP, Mark Warawa, who then presented to Parliament on our behalf. It was read out 2 times (50+ signatures entitled us to 2 readings of 25 +signatures each). This petition is requesting a complete withdrawal of Bill C-27. If you are interested in signing this ePetition, please follow the instructions below and submit. We have been told that you may sign this ePetition even if you previously signed the paper petition we distributed at the meeting.

This ePetition was sent to us from the President of Port Coquitlam Retired Teachers Association, Cathy Van Herwaarden for distribution and was initiated by Gerry Tiede (BCRTA President) from Surrey on February 8, 2019. If you are unfamiliar with Bill C-27, please click on the link below with the background information.

<https://bcrt.ca/bill-c27-backgrounder/>

### **Bill C-27: an act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985**

**Initiated by Gerry Tiede from Surrey, British Columbia, on February 8, 2019, at 12:23 p.m. (EDT)**

The Petition is open for signature until **April 9, 2019**, at 12:23 p.m. (EDT)

PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Whereas:

- Canadians throughout their working years have individually contributed to their pensions, and their employers have contributed to those pensions as deferred wages;
- Canadians who have defined benefit pension plans should not live in fear that their earned benefits might be reduced when they are in their most vulnerable senior years; and
- Canadians who have worked and contributed to defined benefit pension plans should be protected from the loss of their pensions through bankruptcy or mismanagement of their pension administration and investments.

We, the undersigned, **Citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to to promote and protect earned pensions for all Canadians in the future, **to withdraw Bill C-27**, and to establish a national pension insurance program to ensure that seniors can live with financial security.

**Sign the ePetition:**

- Just double-click on this blue hypertext link:  
<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2039>
- Then, scroll down and click on the box that says, "Sign the Petition".
- Complete your personal information in each line, as requested
- Click on the final box that says "sign".
- Then, you should get a confirmation email.

Pass along to friends and family, too!!!

Are you interested in BRIDGE LESSONS?

Contact Alice Thomas, one of our members for more information.

**LDB Langley Duplicate Bridge**

For players who already know fundamentals of rubber/party/or social bridge . . . **Duplicate Bridge** is an easy transition.

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|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>GAME TIME:</b>                                      | Wed 1 – 4 pm                      |
| <b>Pre GAME LESSON:</b><br>(Intro to Duplicate Bridge) | Wed 12:15 – 12:45 pm              |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>                                       | TIMMS Langley<br>Community Centre |

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**Basic BRIDGE LESSONS begin:**

Feb Thurs 9:30am -11:30 am

**For enquires and registration contact, Alice @**  
[aliceb7@shaw.ca](mailto:aliceb7@shaw.ca)

Alice Thomas B.ED  
*ACBL Director, Teacher, Ruby Life Master*

WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

If you are in contact with any of the following people, please have them phone me at 604-916-0653 (before March 8 or after April 7 -- I am on holiday during that time) or contact me at [lrita.35@gmail.com](mailto:lrita.35@gmail.com) at anytime. You can also contact our LRTA president, Sue Mackenzie (up until March 26<sup>th</sup>) at 604-882-3115.

|                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ann Fowler      | Patricia Murphy | Mary Sopova  |
| Mike Angell     | Sid Parsons     | Ardath Sydor |
| Beverly Johnson | Jean Ryley      |              |

Are You Interested in Receiving Volunteer Training?

**The Langley Chamber of Commerce is hosting "Non-Profit Training: Engaging Skilled Volunteers"**

*Through this interactive workshop, explore practices that support the successful engagement of knowledge philanthropists, or skilled volunteers, and learn how to proactively plan for, attract and engage knowledge philanthropists in your work. From project managers to human resources experts, from business analysts to information technology specialists, community members are eager to contribute their skills to your*

**This workshop will cover:**

- Identify the opportunity afforded by engaging knowledge philanthropists.
- Differentiate between knowledge philanthropy, board roles, and traditional volunteer roles.
- Identify the issues that can support or hinder knowledge philanthropists' work.
- Describe how to manage knowledge philanthropists and understand the tools used to do this.

Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
Engaging Skilled Volunteers  
Presented by Vantage Point  
2:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
Members: \$35.00 + GST  
Fort Langley Golf Course  
(9782 McKinnon Crescent, Langley)

CLICK BELOW FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO REGISTER

<https://www.langleychamber.com/events/details/non-profit-training-engaging-skilled-volunteers-6412>

Are You Confused About the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Declaration?

Submitted by George Main

When you receive your Speculation and Vacancy Tax Declaration, the column on the left is more description of the Tax and will send you in circles.

When you are ready to declare, hit the DECLARE NOW in the right hand column. Everything is straight forward following the letter. If you don't receive the letter go to the following website or phone 1-833 554-2323

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/speculation-and-vacancy-tax>

All residential property owners in the designated **taxable regions** must complete an annual declaration for the **speculation and vacancy tax**. When there are multiple owners of a home, a declaration must be completed by each owner, including spouses.

You must complete a declaration to claim an **exemption**. Over 99% of all British Columbians will be exempt from the tax.

The deadline to complete your declaration is March 31.

If you don't complete your declaration, you'll receive a tax notice charging tax at the maximum **tax rate**. You can still complete your declaration to exemption even after you've received a tax notice.

If you don't own residential property in a designated **taxable region**, you don't need to complete a declaration.



You can complete your declaration as soon as you receive your declaration letter. You need the **Letter ID and Declaration Code** from your letter before you start. We keep your information private and secure.

**Declare Now**



*Your Story Your Voice*  
Workshop offered by Surrey RTA

[www.tol.ca/your-township/plans-reports-and-strategies/age-friendly-strategy/age-friendly-live/](http://www.tol.ca/your-township/plans-reports-and-strategies/age-friendly-strategy/age-friendly-live/) to learn more about [The Age-friendly Business Recognition Program](#) and how to apply.

Deb Williams has been working as an award winning actress, playwright, producer, director, comedian, storyteller and teacher for over 30 years. She is one of the creator/stars of the international hit trilogy Mom's The Word, enjoyed in 19 countries and 14 languages. She is the co-creator of Vancouver/Victoria/New Westminter's The Flame, a sold out monthly storytelling event, in its 10th season.

In this workshop Deb will share her 30 years of storytelling expertise to give you the tools to create and share a truly compelling story. This inclusive and supportive workshop is focused on learning and growth.

**Monday, April 15, 2019**  
**1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**Newton Library – Meeting Room**

Please register by March 15th by emailing:

**Brenda Jones**

This workshop is free for SRTA members (you must be on the membership list). SRTA members may bring one guest to the workshop with them. Guests pay \$5.00 at the door of the workshop.

**Registration is limited to 50 people.**

Join the BCRTA, and receive your first year FREE!!

Go to the Membership page of the BCRTA. Here is a direct link <http://www.bcrta.ca/membership> (you can copy and paste the URL into your browser window). This offer is for anyone who has never joined the BCRTA, not only for new retirees. So, if you know a teacher who has retired in previous years, but has not yet joined the BCRTA, please let them know of this unique opportunity.



We are trying to be environmentally aware, as well as save on printing and mailing costs, by sending electronic copies of our newsletters, wherever possible. If we do not have your current e-mail address and you would like to be part of our 'green team' and receive your newsletter via e-mail, please let us know by e-mailing us at: [lra.35@gmail.com](mailto:lra.35@gmail.com)

Thanks,

*Maureen Wilson ~ editor of 'Open Road', the LRTA newsletter*