



Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Fall Newsletter

www.edmontonrta.org

September 2008



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FALL LUNCHEON

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: September 17, 2008

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast chicken buffet

Cost: \$19 per person (includes GST and gratuity)

Door Prize: *Everyone is eligible for a door prize. To reduce the amount of time required to count the cash, we will be happy to give you change for \$20.00.*

Guest Speaker: W.H. Webb, Landscape Artist – a former educator, principal and superintendent and presently professional landscape artist will take us on a journey through his wonderful world of art.

NOTE

Please note that ERTA has to pay for lunches that have been booked even if the individuals do not attend.

MEET OUR 2008/09 EXECUTIVE

President:

Vi Oko, (780) 459-8013

1st Vice Pres:

Joan Harrison, (780) 467-3885

2nd Vice Pres:

Joyce Liska, (780) 487-3029

Past President

Joy de Mello, (780) 455-9003

Treasurer:

Bernie Lemay, (780) 469-5031

Membership:

Maurine Maslen, (780) 418-8032

Secretaries:

Shelley Bouska, (780) 710-6530

Carol Loewen, (780) 435-6832

Benefits Reps:

Ed Friss, (780) 476-5924

Fred Laux, (780) 444-6386

Pension Rep:

Vi Oko, (780) 459-8013

Web Master:

Joyce Lukasiewich, (780) 458-1422

Members At Large:

Adrienne Coull,
(780) 452-6284

Tom Perkins,
(780) 434-3584

Shirley Richardson,
(780) 476-4903

Gilles Verret,
(780) 452-1289

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September has always been the month for renewal when we, as active teachers, returned to the classroom with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Meeting the educational needs of a new class and planning lessons to achieve the learning objectives of new curriculum posed a challenge at the beginning of each new school year.

Members of the ERTA Executive would like to extend a special welcome to those teachers who retired in June 2008 and wish them well as they move into the next phase of their lives. Deciding what to do with your "free" time is now foremost in your mind. There are so many opportunities to become involved in new activities at this time of year. As a new retiree, we hope that you will join our association for its fellowship, friendliness and stimulating programs.

Our organization is constantly evolving. Program development for a group with as diverse a range of interests as we have is always a challenge. Included in this newsletter is a survey that we hope you will take a few moments to complete. (Copies will be available at the fall luncheon as well.) We would like to see what activities, other than our regular luncheons, might appeal to you.

We are presently exploring the possibility of organizing a seniors wellness conference with the help of neighbouring ARTA branches. The membership will be kept informed of planning developments in future newsletters. Anyone who is interested in assisting with the conference in some small way is encouraged to telephone me or Adrienne Coull.

On behalf of the current ERTA Executive, I would like to thank Esther Hardy, Esther Oaks, Mary Oswald and Vivian Spence for their contributions to the work of our association. Their willingness to serve was very much appreciated. We welcome Tom Perkins to the ERTA Executive and look forward to working with him. Diane Tyrkalo has resigned her executive position. She

has assumed the position of Executive Director in charge of evaluating instructional programming at nine English language schools in South Korea. We wish her well in her new and challenging endeavour.

The work of the ERTA Executive requires many willing hands. Anyone interested in serving on the executive is encouraged to contact me.

Our luncheon at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre will be a roast chicken buffet. We are aware that prices have increased in the past few years and that these increases may have negatively impacted a number of our members. We have investigated the cost of a similar meal at other venues only to discover that it is more expensive.

Exact change is no longer a prerequisite to be eligible to win a door prize. Everyone attending our luncheon will qualify to win one of the door prizes graciously provided by Johnson Incorporated.

At our June luncheon we were pleased to welcome 125 people, a remarkable turnout that was somewhat higher than the number of affirmative responses the Telephone Committee received. In order to ensure that our numbers are as accurate as possible, please notify Joan Harrison that you plan to come if you have not received a telephone call by the morning of September 11. Conversely, if an unforeseen event occurs that changes your intention to attend, please notify her as well. (Remember we pay for every plate ordered, yet we need to be certain that there will be enough food for everyone present). Thank you very much for your co-operation. We look forward to seeing you on September 17.

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

The ERTA executive meeting was held on August 20, 2008 at Barnett House. At that meeting the following information was presented and the following decisions were made:

- An Acer laptop computer and wireless mouse were purchased for use by the Membership Chair for a total of \$656.24.
- The Executive decided not to proceed with a logo change at this time.
- Ed Friss reported that the most recent publication of the News & Views (Volume 16, No. 3) contains the enhanced Health and Wellness Benefits Program provided by Johnson Inc., ARTA's Plan Administrator, effective September 1, 2008. The Best Doctors program is not being offered at this time.
- The cost of the buffet for the fall luncheon was set at \$19.00. Bill Webb, a former teacher who began painting in 1984 and now exhibits his work in galleries in many cities, will be the guest speaker.
- Future luncheon dates were set for 2009 (see Dates to Remember).
- Irl Miller will host a Retiree Brunch at the Faculty Club on Saturday, October 18, 2008. (See Retiree Brunches)
- The possibility of co-hosting a Wellness Conference with neighbouring branches was discussed.
- Vi Oko will attend the ARTA Orientation Meeting on September 9, 2008.
- Joan Harrison, Carol Loewen, Maurine Maslen and Vi Oko will represent ERTA at the ARTA AGM scheduled for October 1, 2008.

IMPORTANT DATES

Newsletter Mail-Out	September 4, 2008
Fall Luncheon	September 17, 2008
ARTA AGM	October 1, 2008
Retiree Brunch	October 18, 2008
ERTA Executive Meeting	November 12, 2008
Christmas Luncheon	December 10, 2008
Spring Luncheon	March 25, 2009
Summer Luncheon	June 10, 2009
Fall Luncheon	September 23, 2009
Christmas Luncheon	December 9, 2009

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership. Already signed up for the 2008 - 2009 year are 212 members who will be receiving their newsletter by regular mail and 110 members who accept e-mail delivery. Thirty-eight complimentary copies have been sent out for this issue – 18 to last year's retirees and 10 to this year's new retirees. Fifty-six of our last year's members have yet to renew their memberships. A reminder letter has been sent to each one of them.

If your membership is due, you can mail it to Maurine Maslen, 53 Goodridge Drive, St. Albert, T8N 2B1 or renew it at the next luncheon. If you know of any new retirees, please invite them to the luncheon and bring them by the membership table to sign up for their complimentary membership. There certainly are more than 10 people that retired from teaching last year. The complimentary membership applies to any new retiree regardless of where they taught in the province.

Did you know that the ERTA membership list includes people who live in Montreal, Regina, Medicine Hat, Whitecourt and many parts of British Columbia?

Thank you for your continued support and interest. A special thank you goes to the twenty-two people who will be telephoning all members living in Edmonton and vicinity to inquire if they will be attending the luncheon. We assume that people requiring a long distance telephone call will generally not be attending our luncheons.

If you have not been called by the morning of September 11, please contact Joan Harrison at (780) 467-3885 or Maurine Maslen at (780) 418-8032 to inform one of us of your intention to attend.

Maurine Maslen



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CENTENARY

The University of Alberta is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its inception with a number of formal events beginning with the Alumni Recognition Awards and Gala Dinner on Thursday, September 18 and culminating with the President's Breakfast on Sunday, September 21 for U of A grads who graduated in 1958 or earlier. Various faculty events, campus tours, lectures, and homecoming activities are scheduled as well. Join old friends and classmates to honour fellow alumni who are making remarkable contributions that range from academic leadership to innovative accomplishments in a vast array of vocations in the Edmonton area and throughout the world.

Tickets for a number of events are still available (**reservation deadline is September 10**). **Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (780) 492-7723 or 1-800-661-2593 or visit www.ualberta.ca/alumni/centenary for more information.**

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Executrade currently has several temporary job opportunities that involve clerical processing of student exams for Alberta Education. Applicants require basic computer skills, keen attention to detail, enthusiasm while completing repetitive tasks and the ability to lift up to 30 lbs. A security/criminal check is required.

DATES:

Late November 2008 until mid December 2008

Middle of January 2009 for 2-3 weeks

RATE: \$13.25/hour

LOCATIONS:

November/December session –
West Edmonton

January/February 2009 session –
Downtown Edmonton.

For further details, applicants may contact Marilyn Chorney at 780-944-0023 or email your resume to marilyn.chorney@executrade.com

RETIREE BRUNCHES

Irl Miller has graciously offered to host Saturday brunches at the University of Alberta Faculty Club for Edmonton and area retirees in the past and has agreed to do so again this year. A special invitation is extended to current ERTA members as well as new retirees.

The first one (of two or three planned for the upcoming year) is scheduled for Saturday, October 18. The cost is \$18.00 per person. We meet at 11:15 a.m. in the lounge on the lower floor. Please telephone Shelley Bouska at (780) 473-3248 or Vi Oko at (780) 459-8013 to confirm your intention to attend. You are encouraged to bring your spouse, a colleague or a friend.

These gatherings have been a wonderful opportunity to introduce new retirees to ERTA, to meet some members of the executive, make new friends or connect with "old" ones in a relaxed, small group setting.

ERTA DELEGATES TO ARTA AGM

The ARTA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at Barnett House. Based on membership, ERTA is entitled to send six delegates to this meeting of the provincial association.

Retired teachers representing Alberta's fourteen branches will gather to report on the operation of the individual branches as well as the work of the various provincial committees. In the last few years, your colleagues, which include our own Ed Friss, Irl Miller, Don Mock and Esther Oaks, have formulated extensive policies and procedures along with a complex governance model, addressed member needs by developing comprehensive programs and services, and devised an inclusive benefits program as they continue to work on resolving outstanding pension issues as well as actively advocate for political action.

Attending the meeting as either a delegate or an observer is a marvelous opportunity to see ARTA in action. Please contact Vi Oko if you would like to attend.

ERTA QUESTIONNAIRE 2008

ERTA was organized forty-eight years ago to help retired teachers keep in touch with each other, to provide information to retired teachers, and to have fun. The executive members would appreciate your input and ideas about the way we operate and some events we hope to sponsor. Please take some time to provide your reactions and ideas. They will be helpful.

1. Are you interested in participating in any of the following activities or tours? Please check those in which you would like to participate.

- Bee Maid Honey Limited
- Christmas Lights
- Clover Bar Composting Facility
- Corn Maze
- Devonian Botanic Garden
- Hutterite Colony
- Leduc #1 Historical Site (Canadian Petroleum Interpretive Centre)
- Legal or Stony Plain Murals
- Mayfield Dinner Theatre or Jubilations Theatre
- Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute
- Multicultural Heritage Centre
- National Institute for Nanotechnology
- Night at the Races
- Retiree Brunches (Faculty Club)
- Rosebud Theatre
- Smoky Lake Pumpkin Festival
- Steam Train Ride to Stettler
- Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
- Wagner Natural Area
- Wellness Conference
- Other suggestions – please indicate your interest _____

2. Do you have any suggestions for topics or activities for our luncheon meetings?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

3. Are you interested in helping in any of the following areas? If yes, please include your name and telephone number.
 Telephoning
 Collecting money for lunch
 Organizing an activity or event
 Executive or committee position
 Other (name areas of interest) _____

4. The one thing I would like to change is

5. My favorite part of the organization is

6. Please provide any additional thoughts or suggestions you have that could assist the Executive with planning for the coming year.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your input to the Executive. If you were unable to attend the September 17 meeting, please mail your completed questionnaire to:

Vi Oko
20 Glenhaven Crescent,
St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1A5

Or e-mail your responses to voko@interbaun.com

The results of the questionnaire will be reported in the December newsletter.