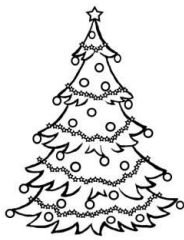




Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Christmas Newsletter

www.edmontonrta.org

December 2013



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Christmas Luncheon
- 2 President's Message
- 2 Dates to Remember
- 2 Summary of Board Meeting
- 2 Reflections of '63
- 3 Membership Report
- 3 Lorraine Darlington
- 4 ARTA AGM Report
- 5 ARTA Photography Contest
- 5 Mayfield Dinner Theatre
- 6 International Wellness Symposium
- 6 Marigold Off-Year Games
- 7 125 Years of Catholic Education
- 7 Public Education in Edmonton
- 8 Telephone Committee Volunteers
- 8 Job Opportunity
- 8 Volunteer Opportunity
- 8 In 2014 May You Have...

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Join us for our Christmas luncheon at the

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: December 4, 2013

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast turkey buffet

Cost: \$20 per person (includes GST and gratuity)

Entertainment: Music by the ESSOTONES

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.

PLEASE NOTE

A member of the Telephone Committee will contact you prior to November 27th in order to provide an accurate count for our caterer.

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

Donations to the Youth Emergency Shelter Society are appreciated.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Sherry Robbins,
780-437-0566

Vice-President:
Joan Harrison,
780-467-3885

Treasurer:
Mike Mort,
780-761-5027

Membership Co-ordinator:
Cliff Otto,
780-476-9264

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our exceptional autumn was highlighted by quite a few events. One was the Second Wind Conference on September 25 at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre shared with friends and colleagues, where insight was gained into matters that now seem to be so critical to living a good life. Another was the art display at the conference that ranged from exquisitely rich watercolours of autumnal splendor to artfully intricate jewellery and beautifully executed sculptures. Good food, good friends, good conversations and lifelong learning...a perfect day for a retired teacher!

In early October, Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) delegates and candidates attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) at the Greenwood Inn & Suites for the first ever ARTA AGM to be held in Calgary. Calgary retired teachers hosted the event in typical Calgary style, including the presentation of the coveted white Stampede Stetson to all of the guests in attendance. The two-day meeting was capped with a fantastic celebratory dinner commemorating ARTA's 50th anniversary.

A very delicious retiree brunch and spirited conversation in intimate surroundings was enjoyed by a small group that gathered at the Faculty Club on a blustery October day.

One of the last warm days of fall was shared with ERTA colleagues at the fantastic Mayfield Dinner Theatre for the brunch performance of *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline*. If you have not been to one of the Mayfield brunches, you have missed a real treat. The next event will be the hysterical musical, *Hairspray*, on April 30. Make an effort to join us and bring a friend.

Our glorious autumn was transformed into an icy winter almost overnight. Now as our world is blanketed with snow our thoughts turn to the Christmas season. May you enjoy the festive holiday however you choose to observe it, whether it be with traditional holiday dinners, on sunny beaches or at parties with friends. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas luncheon on December 4.

God bless us, every one!

—Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Christmas Luncheon	December 4, 2013
Board of Directors Meeting	February 12, 2014
Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention	February 27 & 28, 2014
Spring Luncheon	March 19, 2014
Retiree Brunch	April 12, 2014
Mayfield Dinner Theatre	April 30, 2014

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING

The ERTA Board of Directors held a meeting on October 23, 2013, at the Central Lions Senior Citizens Recreation Centre where the following information was shared and decisions made:

- A Toshiba laptop as well as Microsoft Office and antivirus software have been purchased.
- A \$500 contribution to the ARTA University of Alberta Endowment Award was approved.
- Monetary contributions will be collected on behalf of the Youth Emergency Shelter Society again this year.
- Tickets will be purchased for *Hairspray*, a musical comedy performance at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre (see Mayfield Dinner Theatre).
- An ERTA ad hoc committee will determine the item or items to be encased in the ARTA time capsule.
- Joan Harrison, Daphne Price, Sherry Robbins and Shirley Strembitsky will hand out brochures and answer questions at the Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention on February 27 and 28, 2014.
- The ARTA Memorial Golf Tournament honouring Clarence Golding will be held in Medicine Hat on June 17.

REFLECTIONS OF '63

Only a few branch members submitted their recollections of where they were and what they were doing in 1963 for the display at the commemorative gala in September. Perhaps you were stretched for time or were unsure of what to write. Everyone has a story!

Type your narrative or handwrite it, then contact Joan Harrison at 780-467-3885 or joanh1@telusplanet.net for direction. She will ensure that your account is recorded on the paper specially designed for the purpose.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The association currently has 350 members. Of those, 149 receive their newsletters via Canada Post and the remaining 201 receive theirs online. Thirty members, however, did not renew their memberships. As a result their names will be dropped from the membership roll at the end of December.

Seventeen newly retired teachers have already received their complementary one-year membership in ERTA. This is only a small fraction of the total number of teachers that retired at the end of June. If you know of any teachers who retired this past year and have not availed themselves of a complementary membership, please help us to encourage them to take advantage of this opportunity by providing their name and contact information (telephone number, mailing address, email address or any combination thereof). Send this information to cliffcon@telus.net, or telephone 780-476-9264. With your help, these new retirees will be introduced to the benefits of membership in the organization.

A life membership will be awarded to a woman who was ninety-two years old this year.

Lorraine Darlington was born on September 12, 1921, the youngest of three children. She lived on a farm near Millet and received her schooling at the community school.

Since all three high school grades were housed in the same classroom, the Grade Twelve program was spread over two years. Lorraine completed her second year of Grade Twelve by correspondence, which allowed her to concentrate on her piano lessons. When she graduated from high school she had also passed Grade Seven in piano and earned a first class honours in Music Theory.

She was twenty years old when she attended Normal School in Edmonton. Normal School courses, however, were taught on the second floor of Garneau School because the air force had commandeered Corbett Hall on the university campus.

Lorraine was fortunate to get a teaching assignment at Gwynn, teaching Grades One to Nine.

The following September Lorraine married Kenneth Darlington, an aircraft mechanic in the air force. She worked as a substitute teacher while her husband was posted in Calgary.

Since both Ken and Lorraine had grown up on the farm, they took advantage of the land grant offered to war veterans and began farming near Eckville when the war ended.

The family moved to Edmonton in 1957 after Ken was injured in a farming accident. Since he had studied a great deal about poultry, he was able to get a job with the poultry branch of the Department of Agriculture.

Lorraine returned to the classroom, first subbing at Prince Charles, then teaching Grade One full-time at Athlone, Dovercourt, Inglewood and finally at Woodcroft, retiring in 1976.

Lorraine travelled to Brazil then on to Peru, the most memorable of her travels, when her husband, because of his work with poultry nutrition, was selected to attend the World Poultry Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1978. She and her husband also travelled to Hawaii and visited Europe several times.

They spent five months each winter in Mesa, Arizona, from 1980 to 2001. Lorraine produced a variety program that played to two full houses every Monday evening for sixteen years.

She also organized the 60th anniversary of her Normal School class in 2001.

Lorraine and Ken lived in a Horizon Village development for almost twenty years where she began and maintained the resident archival book. At their present location in Terwillegar, she and her husband publish a monthly four-page newsletter. She organizes programs for the residents as well.

At age ninety-six, Ken still golfs at the Riverside Golf Course and is active in the carpentry shop where he and a partner have built hundreds and hundreds of mailboxes not only for their complex but for several other seniors' housing developments as well.

They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 15, 2013.

Cliff Otto

ARTA AGM REPORT

- Representatives of all eighteen branches, members of the Board of Directors and candidates for election met on October 1 and 2 at the Greenwood Inn & Suites in Calgary for the 50th ARTA AGM.
- Gordon Cumming, Juanita Knight and Paul Demers were re-elected by acclamation to their respective positions of president, vice-president and treasurer.
- ARTA officers, committee chairs and the Executive Director along with the branch presidents reported on association activities and branch highlights.
- The ARTA Retiree Benefit Plan has been administered by the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) since January 1, 2013. SSQ Financial Group provides efficient claims service through AXA Assistance, the emergency travel insurance company and TW Insurance Brokers Inc. provides home and automobile insurance coverage. Plan growth exceeded 15%. Over 9,225 policies provide health insurance for more than 14,000 people. The ARTA Health and Wellness Benefits Committee will use a computer-based modelling tool, the Predictive Modelling Process, to determine more accurately where benefit plan products can best be enhanced.
- ARTA representatives met with Health Minister Fred Horne shortly after the announcement of the Pharmacare program last spring to discuss the implications for Alberta seniors if the program is put into effect. The income-based Pharmacare program, based on the Fair PharmaCare Plan currently in effect in British Columbia, will supposedly be implemented in late 2014. The present ARTA plan design will remain in effect until specific details of the Pharmacare program are unveiled.
- Reserve funds in the combined education and public/private sector ARTA Benefit Plan Trust Fund investment accounts exceed nine million dollars. Growth in both accounts this year has been greater than 6.2%.
- The redesigned ARTA website has been cloned. The template for this new Calgary branch website will be offered to other retired teacher branches for their use.
- For security reasons, ARTA no longer uses the services of Survey Monkey. Instead, a subscription has been purchased to Fluid Surveys, an online survey tool deemed to be easier to use.
- The Governance Committee has been charged with initiating a process to revamp ARTA's organizational structure in the coming year in an effort to create a more efficient operation.
- An online evaluation of the Executive Director conducted last May yielded very positive responses.
- Canada Revenue Agency requirements are being finalized for the establishment of the Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation.
- ARTA 50th anniversary activities included the production of a commemorative quilt, a curling bonspiel, a bridge and cribbage tournament, a travelling display of retired teachers' literary works, a photography contest, a golf tournament, and the initiation of the Outstanding Volunteer Awards. The celebration will culminate with the sealing of the ARTA time capsule to be opened at the ARTA centennial. All of the 50th anniversary projects, events and branch histories were recorded in the *ARTA News & Views*. A number of these initiatives have potential as ongoing events.
- The ARTA Wellness Ad Hoc Committee became a standing committee with the mandate to facilitate continued focus on healthy living. The committee sponsored two initiatives this past year—a COSCO training workshop and the Great ARTA Walking Challenge, an activity it plans to make an annual event using more reliable pedometers.
- The association submitted an application for a casino license. The funds will be directed toward Charitable Foundation services provided by ARTA.

- Receipts amounted to \$1,497,707 while expenditures totalled \$1,480,629 for the past fiscal year, resulting in an excess of \$17,078. Revenue is projected to equal \$1,886,700 and expenses are anticipated to amount to \$1,758,790 for the 2013–2014 fiscal year, leaving a balance of \$1,127,910 after contributing \$50,000 in funds and services to the Charitable Foundation.
- The Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund paid approximately \$712 million to 24,667 retired teachers receiving a pension as of August 31, 2013. The current teacher contribution rate is 13.46%; however, contributions should decrease over the next fifteen years beginning in September 2017.
- An inordinate number of ARTA members were nominated to stand for election to vacant positions on the eight standing committees. Four ERTA members were elected to ARTA committees—Adrienne Coull and Ingrid Neitsch (Wellness), Ray Roy (Communication/Technology) and Esther Oaks (Governance).
- ARTA is a successful association largely due to the vision, energy and commitment of the staff and volunteers to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization.

Joan Harrison

ARTA PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

It was decided that the ARTA Photography Contest, originally conceived as an ARTA 50th anniversary event, will now become an annual occurrence.

The theme for this year's contest is 'Winter in Alberta.' There are four categories within this theme: Winter Landscape, Winter Outdoor Activities, Animals in Winter, and Black and White Winter (prints must be in black and white). Entrants will be permitted to submit one print in each category.

Entry forms along with a complete set of the rules will be available on the ARTA website at www.arta.net/contest.php and on Facebook in January 2014.

The submission deadline is May 31, 2014.

MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE

Tickets have been purchased at a discounted price in the Broadway section at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre for the Wednesday, April 30, 2014, brunch presentation of the Broadway musical, *Hairspray*. This feel-good, musical comedy based on the classic 1988 movie by the same name is the biggest, most elaborate show ever produced on the Mayfield stage.

Tracy Turnblad, a plump teenage girl with all the right moves, big hair and an even bigger heart, has only one desire—to land a spot on a local television dance show. With the help of her best friend, Penny, her dream comes true. She is transformed from a social outcast to a sudden star, angering the evil dance queen, Amber, and the show manager, who just happens to be Amber's mother. Tracy then decides that it is not fair that the black kids can only dance on "The Corny Collins Show" once a month. With the help of the 'nicest kids in town,' she must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning teen queen, win the affections of the local heartthrob, Link Larkin, and racially integrate a television network, all without denting her hairdo.

Although the April 30 date is five months away, prime seating has already sold out for several of the Wednesday brunch live theatre dates. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Latecomers were fortunate to obtain tickets for *A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline* when an additional show was added to the brunch performance schedule. Avoid being disappointed by reserving your seats early!

Post your cheque for \$62.48 (including GST), payable to the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association, to Vi Oko at 20 Glenhaven Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1A5.

The completely renovated DoubleTree by Hilton West Edmonton (formerly the Mayfield Inn & Suites) is projected to open early in 2014.

The finest Christmas gift is not the one that costs the most money, but the one that carries the most love.

—Henry Van Dyke, *The Spirit of Christmas*

INTERNATIONAL WELLNESS SYMPOSIUM

The 2013 International Wellness Symposium was held on October 1 and 2 at the Chateau Lake Louise with the Rocky Mountains serving as a spectacular backdrop. The Associate Minister of Health, Dave Rodney, welcomed over 370 delegates and speakers from across Canada, United States and Europe.

Keynote speakers from as far away as Victoria, Sudbury, New York, and Nottingham, England, shared their points of view on the topic “Social Determinants of Health: Perspectives, Insights and Lessons Learned” on the first morning. Well-known artist and environmentalist, Robert Bateman addressed convention participants after dinner. The following morning James Talbot, Chief Medical Officer of Health, outlined his views in his address “The Future of Health,” and Tod Maffin, President of engageQ, spoke about “Making the Digital World Human Again.”

Over fifty markedly different sessions were held concurrently during the two days. Along with the sessions, several companies featured healthy eating and fitness alternatives at their display tables. The Natural Health Practitioners of Canada Association offered a number of wellness treatments throughout the day.

Two meditation classes were offered each morning at 7:00 a.m.—one indoors and a walking meditation outdoors. A two-hour hiking session led by Associate Minister Rodney took place Tuesday afternoon.

The Symposium concluded with a media release of *Alberta’s Strategic Approach to Wellness: Health for All; Wellness for Life*, a document intended to form the foundation upon which to move forward together.

However, one component was missing—that of wellness within. Alberta Health Services needs to promote and support proactive programs that provide opportunities for individuals to explore, reflect and discuss the emotional and spiritual aspects of well-being.

It is vital that as the ‘age wave’ moves forward, ARTA is an active partner in enhancing the quality of life for its members.

Ingrid Neitsch

MARIGOLD OFF-YEAR GAMES

Although the upcoming year is not an Alberta 55 Plus Winter Games year, Edmonton Marigold 55 Plus Recreation Association members will have an opportunity to participate in competitions in activities usually held at an official Winter Games.

The emphasis will be on fun at the ice curling bonspiel. Curlers will register individually indicating their position preference. The draw convenors will create the rinks.

Anyone fifty-five years of age or older who lives in Edmonton and has a \$30 association membership is eligible to participate. Contact the Zone 6 Membership Director, Derry Ingram, at ingram10@telus.net or 780-466-1731 for more information.

Contact the respective activity co-ordinator listed below well in advance of the competition date to register.

Activity	Date	Contact Number
Alpine Skiing	January ?	Larry Comfort 780-444-4917
Badminton	February ?	Jimmy Choo 780-456-5405
Carpet Bowling	March 8	Louise Libich 780-466-4890
Darts	February/ March ?	Eleanor MacIntosh 780-478-7435
Duplicate Bridge	January 7	Don Holtom 780-475-8252
Euchre	February 21	Lyle Waun 780-475-2166
Five-Pin Bowling	January 24	Mike Dolynny 780-457-5036
Hockey	May 20–23	Gord Severin 780-430-6827
Ice Curling	January 4–5	Ross Lepard 780-469-8169
Scrabble	January ?	Clint Sopchyshyn 780-434-7133
Snooker	January ?	Walt Mollenkoph 780-469-0844
Table Shuffleboard	January 16	Ron Townsend 780-760-6062

125 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

On November 18, 2013, the Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7 celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Catholic education in the city dates back to before Alberta was a province. At the bequest of French Catholic parents in the community, three nuns from the Faithful Companions of Jesus arrived in Edmonton in October 1888 to establish a separate school district, The Saint Joachim Roman Catholic Separate School No. 7. On November 2, 1888, classes began for twenty-three students at St. Joachim Catholic School. At that time school was compulsory only for seven-to twelve-year-olds.

A new, larger school called St. Mary's was built downtown on 103 Street to accommodate the growing number of Catholic students in 1907. The name of the school jurisdiction was changed to 'The Edmonton Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 7' on February 15, 1912. There were thirteen schools in operation by the early 1920s. Twenty-seven new schools were constructed in the 1960s.

The Catholic Separate School District was one of the first to promote vocational studies in television and media arts at St. Joseph High School in the early 1960s. French, Ukrainian, Spanish, Polish and Aboriginal programs have been integral in Catholic schools since the 1970s. Computer programs were introduced in the 1980s.

On September 1, 1997, the district name was changed to the 'Edmonton Catholic Regional Division No. 40' to include Vegreville area schools. On May 8, 2001, the name was changed once more to the 'Edmonton Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 7' to exclude the Vegreville schools. The final name change came on July 6, 2001, when 'Roman' was dropped.

The district has grown exponentially from 23 students to over 35,000, from a religious staff of 3 to a total staff of over 3,000, and from a single one-room schoolhouse to 88 schools.

Activities will be held throughout the school year focusing on the history of the school district and celebrating Catholic education.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN EDMONTON

A progressive group of settlers realized that the education of their children was key to the prosperity of the settlement.

The first board of trustees was formed and a one-room wood-frame schoolhouse was built in 1881, just east of the historic McKay Avenue School. The free public school opened with twenty-eight students, including three girls, on January 3, 1882. The legal organization of the School District of Edmonton of the Northwest Territories, Protestant Public School District No. 7, occurred on February 5, 1885.

A new room was added to the school in 1888 and another in 1891 to accommodate the growing enrollment. By 1900 the district had 439 students. New schools were built in 1895, 1903 and 1905. By 1905 there were over 1,200 students taught by thirty teachers in the five public schools in existence.

All previously registered districts continued to use their original registration numbers when Alberta became a province. In 1907, the legal name was changed to Edmonton Public School District No. 7. By the end of the decade three more public schools had been constructed.

In 1910 a school specifically designed for high school opened. The Strathcona School District No. 216 also opened a number of schools. The two school districts amalgamated in 1912. To accommodate a school population of over 8,000 students, fifteen more schools were built by 1915.

Calisthenics and music along with courses that were considered useful for female students or that would keep students in school longer were added to the curriculum over the years.

The first composite high school opened in 1950. There were now over 18,000 students in 44 schools taught by over 600 teachers.

'Continuous progress' was introduced in 1957, school buses transported students to school by 1962, and the Beverly School District was amalgamated in 1962 and Jasper Place in 1964. The semester system was tried for the first time in 1968, site-based decision-making was instituted in 1976, achievement tests developed by district staff were administered in

1987 and a formal policy doing away with corporal punishment was adopted in 1990.

By 2011, over 83,000 students taught by the equivalent of 7,000 full-time staff members attended 199 schools in the district.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Please consider volunteering to serve on the Telephone Committee.

Prior to each luncheon, volunteers receive, by mail, a list of fifteen to eighteen members to telephone regarding the upcoming luncheon. You simply phone the people on your list, tell them you are calling on behalf of the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association, and ask if they will be attending the luncheon. You then write down, on the form provided, the names of the people coming, and report the information to the chair of the Telephone Committee. Generally, contacting everyone on the list only takes thirty to forty minutes and can be done anytime over a five-day period. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Joan Harrison by emailing her at joanh1@telusplanet.net or telephoning her at 780-467-3885 if you are able to help out, or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the Christmas luncheon.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Primary School Principal

The International School of Canada is looking for an experienced Alberta school principal to run their new Canadian School offering Kindergarten to Grade Four using the Alberta curriculum in Chittagong, Bangladesh, starting July 2014. A new grade will be added yearly.

Teachers who have recently retired but are still interested in teaching and administrative opportunities are welcome to apply. Applicants must have at least three to five years of teaching experience and prior education administration experience or the equivalent in Alberta. An Alberta Permanent Professional Certificate is required.

A complete benefit package includes competitive pay, annual return flights, work visa, apartment or living expenses and paid vacation. Please send your resume before

December 25, 2013, to O. Quazi, Director of Operations, 275 River Oaks Blvd. W., Oakville, Ontario L6H 3V2.

Telephone: 1-905-901-1276 Office

Fax: 1-647-439-1414

Email: education@iscbd.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Teaching English in Bolivia

Volunteers are required, on a monthly basis from March 31 until about June 20, 2014, for a project that primarily involves teaching English as well as strategies, games and activities that teachers in and around the Rurrenabaque area in Bolivia can use when teaching not only English but other subjects as well. Lessons, activities and materials are supplied so a minimal amount of extra planning is required while there.

Volunteers are required to have experience teaching either adults or children, preferably ESL experience, but teachers who have taught in schools are also very welcome. A minimum four-week commitment is required, starting at the beginning of each month.

As with most volunteer work in South America, volunteers must pay their own way down to Bolivia (around \$1,600 depending when and where the tickets are purchased) along with their living expenses (about \$250 a month).

Please email the project coordinator at cathie_aa_t@hotmail.com, if you are interested in this project and would like to volunteer.

IN 2014 MAY YOU HAVE ...

*Enough happiness to keep you sweet,
Enough trials to keep you strong,
Enough sorrows to keep you human,
Enough promise to keep you happy,
Enough failure to keep you humble,
Enough success to keep you eager,
Enough friends to give you comfort,
Enough wealth to meet your needs,
Enough enthusiasm to look forward,
Enough faith to banish depression,
Enough resolve to make each day
A better day than yesterday.*

—Irish Blessing

