



Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Summer Newsletter

www.edmontonrta.org

June 2011



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THE EXECUTIVE

President:
Vi Oko,
780-459-8013

Vice-President:
Mike Mort,
780-761-5027

Treasurer:
Bernie Lemay,
780-469-5031

Membership Co-ordinator:
Maurine Maslen,
780-418-8032

SUMMER LUNCHEON

and

Annual General Meeting

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: June 8, 2011

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast beef buffet

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

Speaker: Dr. Ryan Perry, Knowledge Transition Specialist,
Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute

Topic: Current Heart Research Advanced by State-of-the-Art
Equipment

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.

PLEASE NOTE

A member of the Telephone Committee will contact you prior to June 2nd 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 Food Bank are appreciated.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on the evolution of revolution in the Arab world, we are also aware of how political upheaval in faraway places affects our daily lives here in Canada. The stock market reacts to any perceived economic misfortune by going down; meanwhile, gasoline and grocery prices go up. Economic borders no longer exist.

Mother Nature is on a weather-related rampage. Parts of the United States have suffered from devastating tornadoes and widespread flooding with a predicted overly-active hurricane season on the horizon. Flood waters threaten homes and livelihoods in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec, and wildfires burn in Alberta. This adversity is already exacting its toll on the resilience of the most indomitable North American and the summer season has not even begun!

Summer is supposed to be the time for gardening, the time for taking short trips, the time to discover new places and the time to revisit familiar sites. It is the time to make icy roads and shoveling snow a distant memory. It is the time to golf, to hike or just enjoy the sun. Whatever it is that you choose to do, may you have a tranquil summer with time to reflect, relax and reconnect with family and friends.

Hopefully, we will see you at the luncheon on June 8.

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

The ERTA Executive made the following decisions at a meeting held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at the Central Lions Senior Citizens Recreation Centre:

- Roast beef will be served at the June luncheon.
- Esther Oaks will head a committee to organize a conference for Edmonton and area retired teachers.
- ERTA will confer an honorary life membership on Esther Oaks at the fall luncheon.
- All life membership honorees will receive a complimentary luncheon at any time a life membership is granted.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Enjoy Centre Tour / Lunch	June 6, 2011
Enjoy Centre Tour / Coffee	June 7, 2011
Summer Luncheon & AGM	June 8, 2011
Executive Meeting	August 24, 2011
Fall Luncheon	September 21, 2011

ARTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RESIGNS

Don Mock, ARTA Executive Director, has tendered his resignation from this integral position in the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association effective August 31, 2011. Don served as Acting Executive Secretary from September through December 2006 before officially assuming the position as of January 1, 2007, following Gerry Smith's retirement. The ARTA Human Resources Committee will meet sometime in June to formally invite applications for a successor.

The executive director is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the ARTA office, liaising with Johnson Inc. – the ARTA Benefit Plan administrator, serving as an ex-officio member of ARTA committees, planning for the future and helping to meet the goals of the Association.

The successful candidate will be required to provide leadership to the Association, demonstrate effective management skills, and establish and maintain amicable relationships with ARTA members, the branches and other agencies. Strong communication skills including familiarity with computer technology are an important component of the position.

Basically the job requires that the individual possess 'people' skills and the ability to multitask, skills most teachers have refined during their years in the classroom.

Check the ARTA website at www.alberarta.org if you are interested in fulfilling an essential role in this dynamic organization, for which you will be adequately compensated.

Don's quick smile, his work ethic and readiness to be of assistance at all times will be missed.

"You will never find time for anything. If you want time, you have to make it."

—Author Unknown

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Once again it is time to renew memberships that are about to expire. ERTA members who receive their newsletters by regular post will note that the expiry date is highlighted in yellow if they need to renew their memberships. A letter to that effect is also enclosed with the mail-out. Individuals who receive their newsletters by email have already been sent a separate memorandum if their memberships are due for renewal.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Dilys Mitchell. At the June luncheon, Dilys, at ninety-four years of age, will join six other ERTA members to be granted a life membership this year. It was interesting to hear about her teaching experiences, to reminisce about some of the people we both knew, and to learn about educational practices and policies that were in place at that time. Dilys' biography is basically autobiographical. I am grateful to Edith Hislop who informed me that Dilys is over ninety years of age and thus qualifies for a life membership.

Dilys (Gittins) Mitchell was born in 1917 in the county of Powys in central Wales. After completing her studies at Newtown Girls' Grammar School, she began her teacher training at Bangor Normal College (where she became Head Prefect of the main hostel), graduating in 1936.

Following her first year of teaching in Birmingham, Dilys went to Wales where she was in charge of an open air school. The mandate of this school was to ensure that the children were in the fresh air as much as possible in order to clear their lungs of disease caused by coal mine dust. She taught the Grade Four Scholarship Class in London for four years before coming to Edmonton as an exchange teacher in 1948. When Dilys heard that her placement was to be in a Grade One classroom at Rutherford School, she was horrified. She had always taught the scholarship students, eleven years old or older, who followed the academic course. She applied for a transfer but no other class was available.

During her exchange, Dilys was paid British wages but was living in the much more

expensive Canadian economy. So, to make ends meet, she took a second job at the Edmonton Museum of Arts. In order to make the exchanges more equitable, a policy was adopted shortly after requiring Canadian teachers to leave \$200 for their counterparts.

Dilys decided to stay in Canada at the end of the exchange year. She was called to the Superintendent's Office and told that she could have Grade One or Grade Four at McDougall School to which Dilys replied, "Grade One, please, Mr. Sheppard." (He quoted her remark to other hesitant Grade One applicants.)

When she married, Dilys stopped teaching for four years to care for her stepson. In 1957, Mr. George Bailey asked her to return to teaching Grade One at Hazeldean School. When she began, the Grade One teachers were on "triple shift" because of overcrowded conditions. The following January the new Grade One wing was opened and Dilys moved into her own classroom where she worked for twenty-one years, retiring in 1979.

Dilys loves music. Since there was no Grade One songbook, Dilys, together with six other Grade One teachers, compiled a Grade One Music Resource to assist teachers with the teaching of music. She also introduced the Kodaly Method of Teaching Music and Movement to her school. Her music classes were videotaped and shown at the teachers' convention to introduce the program to other teachers.

Dilys was always very proud of her Welsh heritage and was one of four people who resurrected the St. David's Welsh Society in 1948. In 1967 she won first prize and a silver cup for her entry in a world-wide essay contest written in Welsh. When the Cantilon Singers participated in the Welsh International Festival, Dilys taught them the pronunciation of the Welsh words. They came in second place. In 1993 she was chosen to represent Welsh people from all over the world and spoke on their behalf at Eisteddfod in Wales. It was a very nostalgic moment when the approximately 5,000 people in the audience sang a song of welcome to the 300 Welsh-born visitors from twenty-eight different nations. She has worked on various

committees and functioned as the pianist for the St. David's Welsh Society for fifty years.

After retirement, Dily's and her husband, Doug, travelled to several countries. They have been married for fifty-eight years this year and now live in the Churchill Retirement Community in downtown Edmonton.

A special thank you is extended once again to the members of the Telephone Committee. It is essential that there be an accurate count of the people who are attending each luncheon since ERTA has to pay for all of the meals that are ordered.

Maurine Maslen

NOMINEES FOR NEW EXECUTIVE

Joyce Lukaszewich, current ERTA webmaster, is retiring from her executive position in June. She initiated the move to paperless newsletters when she joined the Executive in 2006, designed the website early in 2007 and maintained it for the past four years. Joyce began her webmaster journey as a neophyte, learning along the way. Although some computer proficiency is required, she has indicated that using a site provider's preset website program is much like using a word processing program, or, if you wish, you can access the help pages that furnish clear instructions that will guide you through the process.

Maurine Maslen would also like to relinquish the position of membership co-ordinator, which she has held for eight years. The membership co-ordinator's duties involve maintaining an up-to-date database, printing address labels for the four newsletter mail-outs and providing contact lists for members of the Telephone Committee. Since ERTA owns the laptop and accompanying computer program, the membership data is already in place.

Assistance and advice is readily available from both executive members.

New faces on an executive bring new expertise and new ideas as we strive to meet the expectations of our membership. Anyone interested in serving on the Executive is asked to telephone Joy de Mello at 780-455-9003 or email her at joydemello@shaw.ca.

ERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The ERTA Annual General Meeting was held at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre on June 9, 2010.

1. Call to Order

Vi Oko, ERTA President, called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Dorothy Keeler, seconded by Joy de Mello, *that the agenda be accepted as distributed.* CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Esther Oaks, seconded by Joan Harrison, *that the minutes of the 2009 AGM be approved as printed in the June 2010 newsletter.* CARRIED.

4. First Call for Nominations

Joy de Mello, ERTA Past President, presented the proposed slate of nominees. Further nominations were requested from the floor.

5. President's Report

Vi Oko gave a brief report regarding ERTA activities this year. Four newsletters were prepared and sent by mail or electronically and an average of 124 guests attended each of the four luncheons. Two brunches were held at the Faculty Club at the University of Alberta, two theatrical presentations were attended at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre and an off-Broadway musical at the Horowitz Theatre on the University of Alberta campus has been booked for June 23. A field trip to the Nanofabrication Laboratory associated with the Faculty of Engineering and a Wellness Workshop were organized as well.

6. Membership Report

Maurine Maslen briefly outlined her responsibilities as the membership co-ordinator and requested that an executive member assist her in this role. Maurine thanked the members of the Telephone Committee for contacting the membership before each luncheon. She also reminded people that they are not able to register for the luncheons by email or on the website

since neither are closely monitored and, as a result, numbers are not accurately recorded. Only designated executive members must be contacted if a telephone call has not been received by the specified date.

7. Health and Wellness Benefits Report

Mike Mort gave a brief report of the work of the Benefits Committee for the past year. The government pharmaceutical plan that was to be introduced on July 1, 2010, has been delayed indefinitely in order to allow the government to address necessary legislative and regulatory changes and align the drug plan with other government programs for seniors. Enhancements to the existing ARTA Extended Health Care Plan were approved at the May meeting of the ARTA Board of Directors. Information regarding changes to the ARTA plan will be sent to all policyholders prior to September 1, 2010.

8. Treasurer's Report

In Bernie Lemay's absence, Vi Oko reported that ERTA's financial records are still being audited. Since the current bank balance is adequate to fund the operation of the Association at this time, an increase in the membership fee is not necessary. Bernie will provide a full report at the September luncheon.

9. Second Call for Nominations

Joy indicated that Eva Nolan was interested in serving the Association as the pension representative. She repeated the names of the nominees and asked for nominations from the floor a second time.

10. Bylaw Revisions

Comments were made regarding aspects of the amended bylaws. Moved by Ernie Pawluski, seconded by Bernie Keeler, *that the bylaw revisions be adopted as presented in the June 2010 newsletter.* CARRIED. Ideas for future changes to the bylaws should be forwarded to Vi Oko.

11. Election of ERTA Executive

Joy de Mello stated that Dorothy Keeler and Mary Paranych had volunteered to help Maurine Maslen fulfill her membership duties then called for nominations from the

floor a third time. She thanked everyone for volunteering before declaring the following slate of nominees elected by acclamation: President—Vi Oko, Past President—Joy de Mello, Vice-President—Mike Mort, Secretaries (2)—Shelley Bouska and Carol Loewen, Treasurer—Bernie Lemay, Membership Co-ordinator—Maurine Maslen, Assistant Membership—Dorothy Keeler and Mary Paranych, Benefits Representatives (2)—Mike Mort and Cliff Otto, Pension Representative—Eva Nolan, Webmaster—Joyce Lukasiewich, Members at Large—Lorraine Caldwell, Ed Friss, Joan Harrison, Fred Laux and Gilles Verret.

12. Appreciation of Retiring Executive Members

Vi Oko expressed appreciation to Norma Boraas and Dave Burghardt for their work on the ERTA Executive and thanked those members who are continuing to serve. A welcome was extended to the new members joining the Executive.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Addendum to the ERTA AGM

Bernie Lemay stated that the Association has assets of \$21,636.22 that include a pin inventory of \$585.21, computer equipment originally valued at \$656.24 and \$6,316.00 in prepaid membership dues. Revenue for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2010, amounted to \$16,600.73 while expenses totalled \$14,317.46, leaving \$2,263.27 in excess funds. Moved by Bernie Lemay, seconded by Ernie Pawluski *that the audited financial statement be accepted as presented.* (Fall Luncheon, September 22, 2010)

BYLAW REVISIONS

The following revisions to the current bylaws will be presented to the ERTA membership for their approval at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for June 8, 2011:

1. Add to 3 Membership

3.1.1.4 Retired employees (support staff) of school boards, universities, colleges and technical institutions who have contributed to an Alberta government pension plan.

3.1.1.5 Retired employees (support staff) of the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) who have contributed to an Alberta government pension plan.

3.1.1.6 Spouses or partners of full members who are now deceased. (renumbered)

2. Add to 3.1.3 Life Members

... reach ninety (90) years of age and have been a member for five (5) years.

3. Add to 4.3 Fees

4.3. ... if a spouse or a partner is also a retired teacher, instructor or support staff member. Payment of the annual fee is required from both if both individuals in the household wish to have voting privileges.

4. Add to 4.5 Fees

4.5 ... withdrawal, expulsion or death of a member.

5. Add to 6 Meetings

... an Annual General Meeting (AGM) An audited financial statement shall be presented to the membership in attendance at the AGM.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) actively supports continued learning by funding scholarships and endowments. The ARTA-Johnson Degree Program Scholarship is available to students who have successfully completed one full year of post-secondary education in any faculty or program. Johnson Inc. grants \$5,000 annually to ARTA to provide scholarships that are divided among applicants attending an accredited university.

ARTA provides \$5,000 annually through the ARTA Diploma / Certificate Program Scholarship to applicants attending an accredited institution and who have successfully completed at least one year of a two or more year diploma or certificate program.

Applicants for either scholarship must be the children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews of ARTA members. There is no fixed amount per scholarship or fixed number of scholarships awarded. The determination of both is at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. The

application deadline is July 31, 2011. Application forms and criteria are available by writing to: ARTA, 409, 11010-142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2R1; calling 780-447-9474; or may be downloaded from ARTA's website at www.albertarta.org.

ARTA established the University of Alberta Endowment Award in 1998 with an initial contribution of \$15,000. One or more students entering the third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Education are awarded \$1,000 annually. For further information or for an application form contact: Office of the Assistant Dean (Field Experiences), Faculty of Education, 1-107 Education Centre North, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G5.

ERTA donates \$500 annually to this endowment. The Medicine Hat Retired Teachers' Association contributes annually to this endowment as well.

ARTA established the University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary Endowment Awards in 1998 and 1999 respectively with a contribution of \$10,000 to each institution. One \$500 award is granted in the fall semester to a student at the University of Lethbridge who has demonstrated excellence in student teaching and academic proficiency after completing the second year requirements in the Faculty of Education. At the University of Calgary \$400 is awarded to an undergraduate student who has successfully completed the first year of the BEd program. In each case the student must be enrolled in the following year of the education program.

Further information and application forms for the University of Lethbridge Endowment Award are available by writing to: Barry Knapp, University of Lethbridge Advancement, 4401 University Drive, Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3M4; calling 1-403-329-2389 or emailing barry.knapp@uleth.ca. For further information or an application form for the University of Calgary Endowment Award contact: Kathyne Drnasin, Student Awards Development Officer, at University of Calgary, CHD606, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4; telephone 1-403-220-3716; fax 1-403-282-7688; or go to www.ucalgary.ca/giving.

The Calgary Retired Teachers' Association has established its own University of Calgary Endowment. The \$80,000 endowment awards approximately \$3,000 annually to one scholarship winner.

Each perpetuity award may be supplemented by individual gifts or memorial donations at any time.

Johnson Inc. provides 100 scholarships valued at \$1,500 each to students across Canada who have completed high school and are beginning a post-secondary education at a Canadian institution. For further information and/or application forms contact one of the following: Call toll free 1-877-328-7878; email scholarshipfund@johnson.ca; or go to www.johnson.ca.

ENJOY CENTRE TOURS

Hole's Greenhouses & Gardens Ltd. originally projected an April completion date for the construction of their new complex, the Enjoy Centre, at 101 Riel Drive in St. Albert. However, adherence to the initial timelines did not occur. Construction techniques implemented in the state-of-the-art building simply required more time. As a result, Hole's decided to have a 'soft' opening of The Market, the indoor area for outdoor plants, on April 11, in time for the beginning of a new gardening season. Meanwhile, construction continues on the various sections of the elaborate structure.

Instead of arranging tours for the month of May as was previously stated, Hole's chose to delay the behind-the-scenes introduction to their spacious, architecturally stunning facility until June when they hope that all of the businesses—the bistro, deli, event space, food market, home décor, kitchenware and liquor stores, spa, and, of course, the greenhouse—will be operational.

Two tours have been booked. The first is scheduled for 11 a.m. on June 6. It involves a guided tour of the growing ranges and the retail areas along with a coupon for lunch at the fabulous Prairie Bistro (can be used at anytime in the following three months). We will gather just outside of the entryway (inside in inclement weather) at 10:45 a.m. so that names can be checked off and the \$15 fee collected before we meet our guides. The

second tour that includes coffee and a snack is booked for 1:30 p.m. on June 7. Again, we will congregate near the entrance (inside if it is raining) fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of the tour to check off names and collect the \$10 fee.

The lunch menu features many healthy options that include organic and locally-grown produce. The Hungarian master baker, Gabor Dobos, creates a range of delectable treats to tempt any palate. The glassed-in wall in the Bistro allows for a spectacular view of Big Lake and the prairie sky. Sunsets over Lois Hole Provincial Park are breathtaking in the evening.

The Enjoy Centre can be accessed by travelling north on Anthony Henday Drive, then continuing on into St. Albert on Ray Gibbon Drive. A right-hand turn onto LeClair Way at the lights will link with Riel Drive and take you into the spacious parking lot on the south side of the premises. Eventually LeClair Way will join up with Edmonton's newly-aligned 137 Avenue farther to the east making it easier for residents in north and east Edmonton to access the facility.

Please telephone Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 to register for either tour or to receive more specific directions to the Centre.

ERTA RETIREE CONFERENCE

Esther Oaks has offered to chair a committee that would plan a conference for Edmonton and area retired teachers as well as interested seniors within the community using the format implemented by the Calgary and Foothills retired teacher branches as a guideline. She is looking forward to working with up to fifteen dedicated, energetic ERTA members with a variety of interests and skills beginning in mid-October. Volunteering on the Conference Committee is a wonderful opportunity for a retiree with time constraints to make a short-term contribution to the Association while working within the confines of a limited personal time frame.

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong attitude."

—Thomas Jefferson

ARTA MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year’s event will be held at the St. Paul Golf and Country Club in St. Paul on Wednesday, June 15. The Memorial will be dedicated in memory of Gisele and Robert Kleinmann who lost their lives in a tragic traffic accident on December 22, 2010.

The Kleinmanns were strong supporters of programs involving youth in their retirement as they were during their active teaching careers. Having served their community in a number of ways outside of their professions, they hold a special place in the hearts and minds of the citizens of their home community of Bonnyville.

The objectives of this year’s tournament include the opportunity for even the occasional golfer to reminisce and socialize while enjoying a pleasant round of golf along with raising funds that will be used to support the Junior Golf Program in the Lakeland area.

Included in the \$70 fee are eighteen holes of golf, a shared power cart, hole and skill prizes, choice of individual or Texas scramble, a driving demonstration and a sumptuous barbecue supper. This event is open to ARTA members and affiliates as well as significant others. You are encouraged to participate in the tournament as a representative of ERTA and to bring a friend.

For more information about this event, visit the ARTA website at www.albertarta.org, or

contact Paul Boisvert at 1-780-645-3409 or hawkowl4@telus.net. Contact Paul before June 10 to register.

NATURE ALBERTA

Nature Alberta, the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, is seeking more experienced eyes to provide their assessment regarding the appropriate level of content as well as the activities in the Young Naturalist workbooks that have been developed by nature club volunteers for families and children. The goal of the organization is to give young children aged five to twelve a balance between fulfilled nature-inspired experiences and science-based learning of the natural world. Their Young Naturalists program is based on parents helping their children go through these educational materials at home. Nature Alberta also provides the workbooks to teachers who want to use them in the classroom. There are three levels of workbooks – bronze, silver and gold – and each is designed to be progressively more challenging.

For more information about the workbooks, the Young Naturalist program, or to provide feedback on the content in the workbooks and contribute input as to how children are likely to respond to the suggested activities, please contact Philip Penner at 780-427-8124 or philipp@naturealberta.ca.

Application for Membership/Renewal in the Alberta Retired Teachers’ Association (ARTA)

(First year of membership for a new retiree receiving a pension is complimentary)

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Sr/Dr _____

Surname First Name Initial Maiden

Address _____ City/Town _____ E-mail _____

Province _____ Postal Code _____ Phone () _____ Birth Date _____

Place of Employment _____ Position _____ Year retired _____

Signature _____ Date _____ **Remit \$25.00 cheque to:**

409, 11010-142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2R1 Phone 780-447-9474