



Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Summer Newsletter

June 2016

www.myerta.org



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SUMMER LUNCHEON

Join us for our summer luncheon at the

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue



Date: June 8, 2016

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast chicken buffet

Cost: \$25.00 (includes GST and gratuity)

Speaker: Brenda Kane—Friendship Force Exchange Director for the Inbound Global Exchange for 2016 and Past President of the St. Albert and Area Retired Teachers' Association

Topic: "Friendship Force"

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.

PLEASE NOTE

A member of the Telephone Committee will contact you prior to June 1st in order to provide an accurate count for our caterer. If you have not received a call by 6:00 p.m. that evening, and would like to attend the luncheon, please contact Pam Roy at 780-473-5598.

Donations to the Food Bank are appreciated.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Joan Harrison, 780-467-3885

Past President:

Sherry Robbins, 780-437-0566

Vice-President:

Eva Nolan, 780-473-9251

Treasurer:

Mike Mort, 780-761-5027

Secretaries:

Carol Loewen, 780-435-6832

Vi Oke, 780-459-8013

Membership Coordinator:

Cliff Otto, 780-476-9264

Webmaster:

Ray Roy, 780-473-5598

Directors:

Veronica Hellweg, 780-456-7640

Nadine Lung, 780-416-1312

Sheila MacKay, 780-466-8697

Ingrid Neitsch, 780-435-3221

Beth Robinson, 780-486-5230

Shirley Strembitsky, 780-988-9195

Carol Williamson, 780-436-9684

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Did you know that, in addition to teachers from the Edmonton Catholic and Public school boards, membership in the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) is open to secretarial support staff, teacher aides and both instructional and support staff from other educational institutions?

Ten years after retiring it is hard to remember the myriad emotions associated with that life-changing event. Retiring teachers are elated by the prospect of living a relaxed, carefree life, of travelling and of pursuing interests long left on the back burner. Behind the excitement, however, lurks concern about leaving behind an identity tied to a thirty-five year career, the loss of daily social and professional interaction with colleagues and the ever-present concerns about financial security.

Many teachers in the local Edmonton area will embark on this new chapter of their lives at the end of June. In addition to providing opportunities for maintaining social contact with colleagues, ERTA promotes continued learning and a feeling of connectedness by sponsoring various workshops, engaging informative luncheon speakers, planning excursions to local sites and supporting an annual wellness conference. It is hoped that new retirees will include ERTA in their lives by accepting the offer of a one-year complimentary membership in ERTA and that they will continue their membership for many years to come. To that end, please invite former colleagues to join

us at a luncheon or any other ERTA-sponsored event.

Make the rest of your life the best of your life.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The topics discussed and resolutions made at the May 4, 2016 ERTA board meeting held at the Central Lions Senior Citizens Recreation Centre were as follows:

- The sum of \$1,500 in support of the Second Wind Conference was authorized.
- A graphic designer created a new logo for the branch.
- Special name tags to identify the members of the ERTA Board of Directors have been ordered.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total membership	369
<i>Regular</i>	347
<i>Complimentary</i>	22
Newsletter delivery method	
<i>Canada Post</i>	138
<i>Email</i>	229
<i>No newsletter (by request)</i>	2
Memberships expiring June 30, 2016.....	125
<i>Regular</i>	103
<i>Complimentary</i>	22
Life members.....	20
<i>Nonagenarian</i>	13
<i>Honorary</i>	7

Cliff Otto

ARTA WALKING CHALLENGE

Listen carefully. Can you hear the patter of several hundred seniors strutting their stuff on walking tracks, or in the parks and neighbourhoods of their respective communities? It is the sound of retirees participating in the 2016 ARTA Walking Challenge, which commenced April 1 and ends on June 30.



If you are a challenge participant, remember to submit your step-count total to Joan Harrison by July 11. Simply fill in your Personal Best 30 Days Report that you received with the pedometer and



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Luncheon and AGM	June 8, 2016
Edmonton Waste Management Centre Tour	June 14, 2016
ARTA Annual Golf Tournament	June 21, 2016
Fort Edmonton Park Classic Film	June 23, 2016
ARTA Walking Challenge	April 1–June 30
Board of Directors Meeting	August 17, 2016
Second Wind Conference	September 9, 2016
Fall Luncheon	September 21, 2016

email it to her at cornerstone@telus.net or post it to 57 Highland Way, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8A 5E7. If you no longer have the report form, please contact Joan at the email address above to have one sent to you.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE INTERNATIONAL

All Friendship Force journeys begin with a desire to know more. What better place to begin than inside a home! Seeing a culture through the eyes of local residents takes you straight to the heart of a country and its people.

With more than 16,000 members in sixty-three countries, Friendship Force International brings people together into one another's cultures and homes to share one-of-a-kind experiences that are not available to regular tourists. Sample wines in Australia's Barossa Valley, hike and canoe in Alberta's Rockies, wander the spice bazaars of Marrakesh, Morocco, or dance with your hosts in the streets of Veracruz, Mexico. As a result of exciting personal encounters, strangers become friends; if we can build a world of friends, we can build a world of peace.

The Edmonton and Area Friendship Force Club was formed in 1999 as a branch of Friendship Force International. Their members are ordinary people who travel or host in the name of global friendship.

Every friendship formed across barriers of nationality, religion and politics makes the world a better place.



ERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2015 ERTA Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 10 in the St. Michael Room of the Chateau Louis Conference Centre.

1. Call to Order

Joan Harrison, Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) President, called the meeting to order at 12:50 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Sheila MacKay, seconded by Margaret LeGrow, *that the agenda be adopted as received.* CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Ray Roy, seconded by Pat Semeniuk, *that the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting be approved as printed in the June 2015 newsletter.* CARRIED.

4. First Call for Nominations

Sherry Robbins, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the slate of nominees as the names of the candidates were handed out to the membership in attendance. She called for nominations from the floor.

5. President's Report

Joan Harrison gave a detailed account of ERTA activities during the past year. Four luncheons were held, four newsletters were published, two brunches at the Faculty Club were scheduled, two outings to the Mayfield Dinner Theatre were planned and a tour of the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village was arranged. A technology workshop was organized in the fall along with two wellness workshops in the spring. Two life memberships and two ARTA Volunteer Awards were granted. The association contributed \$500 to the University of Alberta Endowment Award and \$500 for the Second Wind Conference. Board members staffed a display table and provided information to active teachers about the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association and ERTA at the Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention. The development of an ERTA orientation handbook is underway.

6. Membership Report

Cliff Otto reported that, as of June 9, ERTA membership totalled 383, which included eight honorary life, fifteen life and fifteen complimentary memberships. One hundred fifty members receive their newsletters via Canada Post and 223 by email. Thirty of the 127 memberships due to expire at the end of June have already been renewed.

7. Second Call for Nominations

Sherry Robbins read the slate of nominees again before asking for nominations from the floor a second time. None were received.

8. Treasurer's Report



Mike Mort distributed copies of the audited financial statement for the year ending April 30, 2015. Revenue for the year was \$18,816.13 while disbursements totalled \$17,816.63, leaving a year-end balance of \$999.50. Current monetary assets equal \$23,721.44. The association has a total liability of \$6,258.00 in

prepaid membership fees with one membership extending to 2021. He thanked Sharon Schnell for her assistance this year. Moved by Mike Mort, seconded by Sherry Robbins, *that the audited financial statement be accepted as presented.* CARRIED.

9. Appointment of Auditor

Moved by Mike Mort, seconded by Sherry Robbins, *that Brian Jordan be appointed auditor for the 2015–2016 fiscal year.* CARRIED.

10. Election of ERTA Board of Directors

Sherry called for nominations from the floor a third time. Since no nominations were forthcoming, the following slate of nominees were declared elected by acclamation:

President—Joan Harrison, Vice-President—Eva Nolan, Secretaries (2)—Carol Loewen and Vi Oko, Treasurer—Mike Mort, Membership Coordinator—Cliff Otto, Directors—Veronica Hellweg, Nadine Lung, Sheila MacKay, Ingrid Neitsch, Beth Robinson, Ray Roy, Shirley Strembitsky and Carol Williamson.

11. Appreciation of Retiring Board Members

Joan Harrison thanked Fred Laux, Daphne Price and Esther Oaks for their service to the organization and welcomed Nadine Lung to the Board of Directors.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

SHEILA MACKAY—SAGE AWARD

The annual Sage Awards honour the contributions and outstanding achievements of seniors in the greater Edmonton community.

Her work as an educator and leader has earned Sheila MacKay a Sage Award in the 'education' category. Membership increased significantly and fundraising ventures shattered previous records during her presidency of the South East Edmonton Seniors Association.

Sheila is also involved with the Nepal Project, which supports the education of marginalized females in Nepal and focuses on preventing girls from being sold into 'indentured servitude.'

FORT EDMONTON PARK CLASSIC FILM

Dinner and/or Classic Film



Join colleagues and friends at 5:00 p.m. on June 23 at Fort Edmonton Park to enjoy dinner at Johnson's Café in the Selkirk Hotel followed by the movie *Moulin Rouge* at 7:30 p.m. in the historical Capitol Theatre.

The dinner menu ranges from sandwiches and burgers to pasta or rib-eye steak with prices from \$11 to \$22. Tickets for the movie are \$13 (cash only).

Upon arrival, turn right at the Fort Edmonton Park information sign and drive down the service road for on-site parking at the café and theatre. Maps and information will be available at the luncheon or go to www.fortedmontonpark.ca/attractions/the-capitol-theatre/ to download a map.

For more information or to register, telephone Nadine Lung at 780-416-1312 or email her at nlung@telus.net, or contact Carol Williamson by calling her at 780-436-9684 or emailing her at faubwill@telusplanet.net.

There will be an opportunity to sign up at the luncheon as well.

Participants will receive a courtesy reminder call prior to the event.

ARTA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2016 ARTA Annual Golf Tournament will be hosted by the Calgary retired teachers' branch on Tuesday, June 21 at The Links of GlenEagles in Cochrane. The tournament format is a Texas scramble that begins at 1:00 p.m.

The \$125 registration fee includes lunch, a steak dinner and fabulous prizes.

ARTA members, affiliates, friends, colleagues and relatives are eligible to participate.



To register and to pay the tournament fee online, go to the ARTA website, www.arta.net, and click on the link to the CRTA website, or telephone an ERTA board member for a registration form prior to the June 14 deadline.

SECOND WIND CONFERENCE 2016

Retired teachers and their friends are invited to attend the fifth annual Second Wind Conference, a collaborative endeavour by representatives of a few local retired teacher branches, planned for Friday, September 9, 2016, at the Chateau Louis Convention Centre. The wellness conference is an ideal opportunity for participants to reconnect with former colleagues and renew an interest in lifelong learning.

The award-winning author and playwright and present regional writer-in-residence at the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries, Marty Chan, is the keynote speaker. His books for children and plays for adults, as well as his work on radio and television, epitomize the conference theme, 'crossing bridges.'

Bridges create connections with people, places and things. Following an inspirational opening address, conference attendees will choose from eighteen one-hour sessions intended to instruct, inspire and inform.

Journey across a bridge to new skill development by connecting with your inner self through chair yoga, art therapy or travel to new destinations or by participating in a drumming, line dancing or putting session.

Learn how to link the past with the present with memoir writing or bridge the void to current knowledge by listening to a presentation on the aging brain, coping with Alzheimer's disease or fall gardening.

Attend sessions on starting your own business, capital estate planning or utilizing a life coach to broaden your horizons in retirement or bridge the gap to a better understanding of the latest technology by getting some tips on the operation of iPads, iPhones or notebooks.

Cross the bridge to enlightenment by becoming aware of how to recognize fraudulent schemes and scams or develop a discriminating palate by indulging in a wine tasting session.

An art show and sale will be held in conjunction with the conference, followed by a 'wine down' at the end of the day.

Early bird registration is \$65 prior to the August 1 deadline and \$75 thereafter.

Go to gertasecondwind.org for more information or to download a registration form. Forward it, along with the registration fee, to the registrar at 14-2 Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove, Alberta T7X 3E7. Registration forms will be available at the summer luncheon as well.

WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE TOUR

A special two-hour field trip to the 'ultimate waste theme park' will begin at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14. Please check in at the counter in the Administration and Training Facility (Site 100) located next to the parking lot.

Tour participants will visit three facilities on the site—the Materials Recovery Facility (one of the most advanced plants in North America) where recyclables are processed, the Global Electric and Electronic Processing Alberta Inc. building where e-waste is processed and recycled, and the Integrated Processing and Transfer Facility where waste is prepared for composting, biofuel production or transfer to a landfill. The Edmonton, Composting Facility, which opened in



2000, is part of an integrated waste management system that is unique in the world.

The address of the waste management complex, located in northeast Edmonton near the junction of Yellowhead Trail and Anthony Henday Drive, is 250 Aurum Road. Centre visitors who choose to travel north on the Anthony Henday East are advised to remain in the left lane to 130 Avenue. Take Aurum Road East at Exit 52 and follow the blue signs. Four participants travelling east on the Yellowhead Trail should stay in the right lane as they near Sherwood Park. Take the clover leaf exit immediately after the florescent orange 'Edmonton Waste Management Centre' sign to get to the Anthony Henday.

Please telephone Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 if you have already registered for the field trip but cannot attend so that the next person on the waiting list can be contacted in advance of the tour date.

Telephone 780-496-6879 to book a reservation on a public tour, which is held every Friday at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

ARTA SCHOLARSHIPS

ARTA supports post-secondary education by offering the ARTA-TW Insurance Degree Scholarships valued at \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000 as well as the ARTA Certificate/Diploma Scholarships for \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 to the children and close relatives of sponsoring association members.



Students must have successfully completed the first, second or third year of an undergraduate degree program at an accredited post-secondary institution and be registered in the following year of the program to be eligible for the ARTA-TW Degree Scholarships or have attained academic credits for one or more full years of a certificate or diploma program at an institution sanctioned by the Government of Alberta to qualify for the ARTA Certificate/Diploma Scholarships.

Achievements in school, community involvement, and volunteer work are taken into consideration when the scholarship recipients are determined. Personal accomplishments and future goals as

well as supporting letters of reference are also significant.

Applications must be received by July 31, 2016. Application forms may be obtained by contacting the ARTA office at 780-822-2400 or downloading them from the ARTA website at www.arta.net.

ARTA WRITING CONTEST

The ARTA Communications Committee is holding another writing contest. The competition is open to all ARTA members except for members of the sponsoring committee or their families.

Entries are limited to one submission in each of the three categories. Flash fiction articles on any fictional subject must not exceed 1500 words. Memoirs on true past events are restricted to a maximum of 1200 words. Poetry can be about any subject and in any form, with the exception of rhyming couplets.

All entrants are required to send their typed or handwritten submissions to the ARTA office by Wednesday, September 28, 2016.

For more specific information, go to the ARTA website at arta.net or check the summer issue of *news&views*.

NEW ERTA LOGO

After much consideration, consultation and many revisions, ERTA is thrilled to unveil its new logo. Four buildings: The Alberta Legislature, Canada Place, the Enbridge Tower and the Epcor Tower were incorporated into the design because they are immediately recognizable structures on the Edmonton skyline.

The Alberta Legislature was chosen to symbolize the Capital Region recognizing that members come not only from Edmonton proper but from surrounding communities as well. The beautiful river valley running through the heart of the city is a point of great civic pride so it is featured in the logo.

Encircling the logo is an arc that is symbolic of a sunset surrounding a community actively involved in and enjoying the 'golden years.' Bright, cheerful colours lend vibrancy to the logo—an appropriate portrayal of the ERTA membership.

Go online to www.myerta.org to view the logo in colour.

ARTA APPRECIATION

The Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association is one of eighteen branches of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA). Branch presidents and ARTA committee chairs are members of the ARTA Board of Directors along with the officers of the association.

The branches receive a great deal of support from ARTA in the form of grants to sponsor a variety of activities that would otherwise not be financially feasible.

Over the years, ERTA has been very fortunate to receive funds for the wellness and technology workshops, which have been arranged for the benefit of our membership.

The Second Wind Conference, organized by a committee of volunteers from local branches, has been made possible through ARTA grants.

ERTA would like to express its sincere gratitude for the generous support provided to the various branches thereby enabling them to offer clinics, programs, workshops and other activities that enhance the benefits of branch membership.

Thank you ARTA!