



Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Summer Newsletter

June 2017

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SUMMER LUNCHEON

Join us for our summer luncheon at the

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: June 7, 2017

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast beef buffet

Cost: \$25.00 (includes GST and gratuity)

Speaker: Stacy Walker—Certified Professional Organizer and Owner of Gettin' Around to It Professional Organizing and Jan Tworek—Professional Organizer and Owner of Less Mess, Less Stress

Topic: "Treasures and Transitions: A Conversation About Downsizing"

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.

PLEASE NOTE

A member of the Telephone Committee will contact you prior to May 31st in order to provide an accurate account for our caterer. If you have not received a phone 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:

Ray Roy, 780-473-5598

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:

Lynn Arnold, 780-919-5848

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

This year is Canada's sesquicentennial and will see celebrations around the country. Recognition of 'Canada 150' prompts one to contemplate the incredible changes that have occurred over those years and look back at what life was like both for the people flocking to this land from Europe and for the Indigenous peoples observing this mass influx. Life in 1867 would have been much more difficult in many ways and quite a bit simpler in others.

History is often of limited interest or relevance to students of high school age and is inclined to be viewed as a mass of facts requiring memorization and regurgitation for the sole purpose of earning credits. Mia culpa!

Now, as a senior having lived through sixty plus years of history, it is far more interesting and its significance is apparent. Researching information about Confederation and the few years following revealed that Canadians have plenty to celebrate as well as a great deal to account for. Historical tidbits are included in this newsletter.

On a completely different topic, I wish to thank the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association's (ERTA) for their service to the membership this past year. It has been a pleasure working with this dedicated group of volunteers who organize activities on your behalf. Three board members who also hold positions on Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) committees provide additional service to retirees.

Thank You!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Luncheon and AGM	June 7, 2017
Alberta Legislature Tour	June 22, 2017
ARTA Annual Golf Tournament	June 24, 2017
ARTA Walking Challenge	April 1 – June 30
Board of Directors Meeting	August 16, 2017
Second Wind Conference	September 7, 2017
Fall Luncheon	September 20, 2017

DOWNSIZING

Time marches on and there comes a day when homeowners need to consider downsizing. The task, however, seems to be colossal! Decisions about what to do with possessions accumulated over a lifetime are difficult to make. Stacy Walker and Jan Tworek, guest speakers for the summer luncheon on June 7, are professional organizers who will discuss basic concepts, share tips and identify some resources to address the process of reducing the volume of personal property.

MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE DRAW

June 7 is the last opportunity this year to have your name entered into a draw for a \$60.00 gift certificate to a restaurant of your choice. Inform retired friends and colleagues, who are eligible for an ERTA membership, about the association and have them join. Every time you sponsor a new member your name goes into the draw that will be made at the summer luncheon.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The ERTA Board of Directors deliberated the following agenda items and made the subsequent decisions at the meeting on May 3 at the Central Lions Seniors Recreation Centre:

- Special activities to commemorate Canada's sesquicentennial were considered.
- A variety of activities, events, field trips and tours are being envisioned for next year.
- A donation of \$1500.00 for the sixth annual Second Wind Conference was authorized (see Second Wind Conference).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Current total membership	405
<i>Regular</i>	341
<i>Complimentary</i>	45
<i>Honorary life</i>	7
<i>Nonagenarian life</i>	12
New members through sponsorship	17
Number of sponsors	15
Renewals due as of June 30, 2017	157
<i>Regular</i>	114
<i>Complimentary</i>	43
Total membership June 2016	368
Increase this year over last	36 (10%)

Another nonagenarian has qualified for a life membership in ERTA.

Grace Melnyk, the youngest of three children of Ukrainian immigrants, was born on May 15, 1927, in Hamlin, Alberta, near Vilna. Her father was a Ukrainian Greek Orthodox priest, serving country parishes in central Alberta.

She attended Sachava School near Andrew for the first six years before the family was transferred to Roblin, Manitoba, in 1938. Grace completed her high school education in June 1943 and was able to enroll in the Faculty of Home Economics at the University of Manitoba, courtesy of a two-year scholarship.

For employment during the summer after her first year, Grace was assigned to Willen School near Elkhorn. With no teacher training whatsoever and few resources, she was asked to complete the school year. The classroom teacher had enlisted and had been sent overseas. In spite of the many obstacles it turned out to be a great experience and introduced her to the love of teaching.

Grace graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics in 1947 and was soon hired as a District Home Economist with the Alberta Department of Agriculture for the Vegreville area.

Grace was married in 1951 and, in 1952, moved to Edmonton. Since there were no jobs for home economists in Edmonton, she worked in the yarn lab at Canadian Chemical as a laboratory analyst. She found it difficult to work there after the birth of her two sons due to the shift work. She took a job in the quality control lab at Canada Packers and was employed there until 1964.

She contemplated a career change at this point in her life. With a two-month leave of absence from Canada Packers and the added benefit of a student loan, Grace registered in two summer school courses. Seventeen years after graduating from the University of Manitoba, she was enrolled in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta.

Although it was a daunting experience initially, Grace soon discovered that many mature trades people had enrolled in the Faculty of Education in order to teach the vocational courses that were being offered at many high schools. Following two summer school sessions, one full-year program

and two rounds of student teaching, a BEd degree and a teaching certificate were a reality.

One of her student teaching rounds was at Jasper Place Composite High School. She taught Home Economics at the school for nine years, finding it to be as rewarding as she had imagined it would be after her brief introduction to the profession so many years before.

In 1974, she was offered the assistant principal position at W.P. Wagner High School. Although she was reluctant to leave the classroom, this assignment was a new challenge in a different kind of school with an excellent staff.

A year later, Grace was seconded to the Department of Education for one year as the Supervisor of Home Economics. Upon her return to teaching at W. P. Wagner, she started taking the courses required to obtain a master's degree in Education Administration, which she completed in 1980.

In 1986, Grace became the Supervisor of Student Placement in central office where she remained until her retirement in 1990.

Grace enjoyed travelling and has visited central Europe, Hawaii, Mexico, Ukraine, the West Indies and the Scandinavian countries. Her hobbies are knitting and weaving. Her looms are still active—just not as much as they once were.

Cliff Otto

ERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The ERTA Annual General Meeting was held at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

1. Call to Order

Joan Harrison, Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) President, called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Sheila MacKay, seconded by Ingrid Neitsch, *that the agenda be adopted as distributed.* CARRIED.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Esther Oaks, seconded by Adrienne Coull, *that the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting be accepted*

as printed in the June 2016 newsletter.
CARRIED.

4. **First Call for Nominations**

As Sherry Robbins, Nominating Committee Chair, read the slate of nominees she introduced each one to the membership. She then called for nominations from the floor, but none were received.

5. **President's Report**

Joan Harrison itemized the various activities that were organized for the benefit of ERTA members during the past year. Four luncheons were hosted, four newsletters were produced, two life memberships were awarded, two brunches at the Faculty Club were planned, two dinner theatre outings were booked, two technology workshops were held, a classic film viewing was coordinated, two tours of the Edmonton Waste Management Centre were arranged, and participation in the fourth annual walking challenge and the fifth Second Wind Conference was encouraged. Member interests will be surveyed in the fall. A major achievement this year has been the development of a new branch logo. Work continues on an orientation handbook for board members.

6. **Membership Report**

Cliff Otto stated that ERTA membership was 368 as of June 7, 2016, which included nineteen life memberships. Thirty-six complimentary applications were received at a retirement function on June 3. Only thirty-four of the eight-one memberships due to expire at the end of June have not yet been renewed. A total of 223 ERTA members are ARTA members as well. Cliff encouraged members to share contact information so that new retirees can be provided with a complimentary membership.

7. **Second Call for Nominations**

Sherry Robbins asked for nominations from the floor for each position on the ERTA Board of Directors a second time. None were forthcoming.

8. **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the audited financial statement for the 2015–2016 year were circulated through-

out the meeting room. Receipts totalled \$22,297.37 while expenses were \$23,037.04, resulting in a deficit of \$739.67 (basically the cost of the logo design.) Association assets currently equal \$23,368.22. ERTA has a liability of \$6,030.00 in prepaid membership fees. Sharon Schnell was thanked for her assistance again this year. Moved by Mike Mort, seconded by Ray Roy, *that the audited financial statement be approved as distributed.* CARRIED.

9. **Appointment of Auditor**

Moved by Mike Mort, seconded by Sherry Robbins, *that Brian Jordan be appointed auditor for the 2016–2017 fiscal year.* CARRIED.

10. **Election of ERTA Board of Directors**

Sherry repeated the names of the nominees a third time before asking for nominations from the floor. The following nominees were declared elected by acclamation: President—Joan Harrison, Vice-President—Ray Roy, Secretaries (2)—Carol Loewen and Vi Oko, Treasurer—Mike Mort, Membership Coordinator—Cliff Otto, Directors—Lynn Arnold, Veronica Hellweg, Nadine Lung, Sheila MacKay, Ingrid Neitsch, Beth Robinson, Shirley Strembitsky and Carol Williamson.

11. **Appreciation of Retiring Board Members**

Joan Harrison thanked Eva Nolan for her input on the orientation handbook and on the logo and welcomed Lynn Arnold to the Board of Directors.

12. **Adjournment**

Joan adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

When "The Maple Leaf Forever" was written, it was considered for the national anthem, but the lyrics were thought to be too British. "O Canada" was commissioned for the 1880 Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day ceremony. The lyrics were originally in French. An English version was created in 1906. A second version that was not a literal French translation was written in 1908. The lyrics were revised twice before taking their present form in 1980 when the song officially became the national anthem. The French lyrics have remained unaltered.

ARTA SCHOLARSHIPS

Direct relatives of members of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA)—children, grandchildren, first and second generation nieces and nephews—are eligible to apply for the two types of ARTA scholarships. TW Insurance Brokers Inc. sponsors the ARTA–TW Insurance Degree Scholarships that are valued at \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively and are only awarded to undergraduate students enrolled in a degree program. ARTA also offers the ARTA Certificate/Diploma Scholarships for \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000 to post-secondary students registered in a certificate or diploma program of two or more years.

The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, community involvement and volunteer work. Personal accomplishments, future goals and letters of reference are factored into the decision as well.



Go to the ARTA website at www.arta.net or write to the ARTA office at 11835 149 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 2J1 for application forms and criteria details. The submission deadline is July 31, 2017.

ARTA WRITING CONTEST

The ARTA Communications Committee is once again offering accomplished authors or novices an opportunity to be published in a magazine that reaches an audience of over 19,500 retirees.

ARTA members are eligible to submit an entry in one or in all three categories—flash fiction (1200 words, and subject, any genre), poetry (any subject, any form, but no rhyming couplets), or children's story or poem (1000 words)—of the 2017 ARTA Writing Contest.

Check the summer issue of *news&views* or go to the ARTA website at www.arta.net for additional contest details.

Forward all submissions that are typed or handwritten to the office at 11835 149 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 2J1 or submit them electronically to writingcontest@arta.net as an attachment before December 1.



ARTA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

It's amazing! Golfers of all abilities have an incredible opportunity to participate in the 2017 ARTA Annual Golf Tournament hosted by the North Eastern Retired Teachers' Association.

The event takes place on Saturday, June 24 at the St. Paul Golf and Country Club located in St. Paul at 4601 57 Street with a 9:30 a.m. shotgun start.



A fee of \$95.00 per person entitles participants to 18 holes of golf, a cart, breakfast prior to tee-off and a full chicken dinner at 5:00 p.m. All of the contestants will receive an ARTA-crested blue golf shirt and the winning team will be presented with four ARTA jackets.

Contests of skill, games of chance and prizes galore complete what is promising to be a fun-filled day.

Information about the tournament is posted on the ARTA website. Go to arta.net, click on News & Events, scroll down to upcoming events and select 2017 ARTA Golf Tournament.

ARTA WALKING CHALLENGE

Keep those shoes laced up and your feet moving right through to June 30 (when this year's Walking Challenge comes to a conclusion) and beyond. In addition to deriving many health benefits from this enjoyable form of exercise, you can boost ERTA's participation rate and add to our total step count.



With more than thirty days left, it is not too late to start. Recording sheets are available by emailing Veronica Hellweg at hellwegv@telus.net or by calling her at 780.456.7640.

In early July, record your best thirty days on the *Personal Best 30* sheet, total those steps and send only the final count to Veronica using the contact information shown above. Remember—

THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO PARTICIPATE.

SECOND WIND CONFERENCE 2017

The Second Wind Conference, the sixth annual wellness conference for retirees, will be held at the Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre on Thursday, September 7.

Conference attendees are encouraged to explore new ideas and expand their knowledge base while connecting with colleagues and friends.

The keynote speaker this year is Peter Brown, a famous radio personality well known to local listeners as the former host of "RadioActive" and producer of the comedy sketch program, "The Irrelevant Show" with CBC Radio in Edmonton.

An assortment of informative and uplifting break-out sessions that focus on body, mind and spirit will follow the opening address. Registrants will be able to participate in wine and cheese tasting, cardio salsa, golfing, line dancing and meditation; or learn about reverse mortgages, wills and the role of an executor, sexy seniors and the ARTA benefit plan. They can also receive instruction on the use of new technology (iPhones and iPads) and how to take photographs using a cell phone; be inspired by listening to presentations on travel, gardening, decluttering and hearing loss; or focus on mental wellness by attending sessions on the stress of retirement, living a purposeful life and humour.

The conference registration fee is \$85.00. An early bird fee of \$70.00 is in effect until July 15. The names of early bird registrants will be put into a draw for one person to win back their registration fee. No refunds will be issued after July 30. A continental breakfast, nutritious lunch and two coffee breaks are included in the price of admission.



An art show and sale will run concurrently with the conference followed by a 'wine down' and a draw for various prizes at the end of the day.

Further information and a registration form are available online at secondwindconference.ca or by telephoning Maurine Maslen at 780.418.8032. Forward the registration forms to the registrar at 53 Goodridge Drive, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 2B1.

Breeze into fall with Second Wind's Expanding Horizons to renew acquaintances, reconnect with colleagues and be re-energized.

ALBERTA LEGISLATURE TOUR

In recognition of Canada 150, the ERTA Program Committee has arranged for a guided tour of the Alberta Legislature on Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. A variety of topics will be covered by a knowledgeable heritage interpreter assigned to our group. We will meet at 12:45 p.m. at the west entrance to the Federal Building that is located at 9820 107 Street—at the northeast corner of the Alberta Legislature grounds.

After the forty-five minute tour, participants will enjoy an exceptional viewing experience in the Pehonan Theatre, featuring a 360° screen with 4-D effects. The short film, entitled *Our People Our Province*, celebrates the political and social history of Alberta. A finale to the tour would be an optional visit to the Alberta branded retail store.

For those who wish to join their colleagues for lunch before starting the tour, seating has been booked for 11:30 a.m. in the Legislature cafeteria.

There is no cost for the tour but, if you wish to join the group for lunch, we request a \$10.00 deposit that will be refunded to those who arrive at the cafeteria.

BEFORE REGISTERING, please consider how you will get to the Legislature. Several ETS buses stop at Government Centre transit station, next to the Federal Building. Also, LRT routes (Metro and Capital lines) will take you to the Grandin/Government Centre station. Limited parking is available on 99 Avenue but parking downtown is expensive and a challenge at the best of times.

A printable map can be down-loaded from: www.assembly.ab.ca/visitor/maps/groundsmap.pdf, showing transit and parking locations along with the buildings and grounds.

Contact Lynn Arnold at 780.919.5848 or email her at lynarn26@gmail.com to register or add your name to the sign-up sheet at the summer luncheon.

In the early 1500s, there were 350,000 to 500,000 Aboriginal people in what would become Canada. By 1867, 100,000 to 125,000 First Nations people remained. There are now 1,400,685 people who identify themselves as Aboriginal. The disappearance of bison from the plains in the 1870s, due to demand for products, ultimately led to the destruction of the plains Aboriginal and Métis economies.