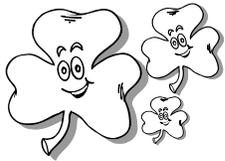




Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Spring Newsletter

www.edmontonrta.org

March 2011



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THE EXECUTIVE

President:
Vi Oka,
780-459-8013

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

Treasurer:
Bernie Lemay,
780-469-5031

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

SPRING LUNCHEON

Join us for our spring luncheon at the

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: March 23, 2011

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast chicken buffet

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

Speaker: Jim Hole, Professional Grower and Bestselling Gardening Author

Topic: "Container Gardening in Places You May Never Have Considered."

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.

PLEASE NOTE

A member of the Telephone Committee will contact you prior to March 17th 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

We are watching as history unfolds daily – on television and online. A tidal wave of discontent that began in Tunisia soon spread across the Arab world and northern Africa, led by young, secular activists.

Graphic images of torture and brutality posted on Facebook galvanized the movement in Egypt and ignited a revolution. The social network was used to mobilize peaceful marches to protest the dire economic conditions that exist throughout that country, imposed by a repressive regime.

Anti-government demonstrations rippled throughout the Middle East, all demanding constitutional change: rebellion had become contagious.

We regard our display screens intensely as the political and humanitarian crisis in Libya becomes more volatile. Given our propensity for hope, can change prevail?

Speculation has fuelled skyrocketing gasoline prices, driving up food prices worldwide just as an economic recovery was on the horizon in the West.

Demonstrators closer to home protested legislative decisions to attempt to balance state budgets by "renegotiating" public sector collective bargaining agreements. Recent budget decisions are expected to negatively impact our colleagues in Alberta classrooms as well.

Mother Nature has been temperamental this winter, displaying her displeasure worldwide. Spring appears to be reluctant to arrive and colder-than-average temperatures are predicted for the next three months.

Can a summer of general discord be far behind?

DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Luncheon	March 23, 2011
Retiree Brunch	April 9, 2011
Brewery Tour	April 15, 2011
Enjoy Centre Tour	May ?
Executive Meeting	May 11, 2011
Mayfield Dinner Theatre	May 25, 2011
Summer Luncheon & AGM	June 8, 2011

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

On February 23, 2011, executive members of the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) were apprised of the following facts and made the related decisions at their meeting held at the Central Lions Senior Citizens Recreation Centre:

- Roast chicken will be served at the spring luncheon.
- The luncheon fee will remain at \$20.00 per plate with the Association continuing to cover the shortfall.
- Jim Hole of Hole's Greenhouses & Gardens Ltd. will explain the principles of container gardening and attempt to inspire ERTA members to grow plants in places not usually considered. He is waiving his usual presenter's fee.
- Esther Oakes is interested in spearheading a conference in the fall focussing on topics of interest to retirees similar to conferences held by the Calgary and Foothills branches.
- Due to cuts in government grants, there will not be an ARTA retreat this year. Instead, board development fundamentals and lobbying workshops are planned for May 16 to 17 and September 14 respectively.

RETIREE BRUNCH

ERTA members are encouraged to bring a guest or a colleague planning to retire soon to the retiree brunch scheduled for the Faculty Club on Saturday, April 9, 2011. The delectable buffet brunch costs \$19.00 per person. We customarily gather in the lounge near the front door shortly before 11:30 a.m. before joining our host, Irl Miller, in a reserved seating area near the bar.

Free parking is available in the adjoining parking lot or in the nearby parkade, if the corner lot west of the Faculty Club is full.

The buffet provides retirees with an opportunity to discuss pertinent issues in an informal setting.

Please register your intent to attend at the spring luncheon or telephone Mike Mort at 780-761-5027 to reserve a seat.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership co-ordinator is one of the key positions on the ERTA Executive. It is essential that the database be kept up to date in order for everyone to be notified of events, that notices and receipts for membership renewals be sent and that labels for envelopes be printed. This position involves working closely with executive members – especially the treasurer, telephone committee co-ordinator and webmaster. The ERTA Executive is currently seeking a responsible person with the necessary computer skills to assume this position following the Annual General Meeting in June. Please contact me at 780-418-8032 or momaslen@telusplanet.net if you are interested or would like more information about the position.

The ERTA webmaster is also a position requiring special skills. Joyce Lukasiewich, the present webmaster, has served the ERTA membership since 2006. She requires someone to replace her as well. Joyce transmits four newsletters annually and sends email blasts from time to time to everyone on the email database. She is willing to discuss the webmaster's duties with any member interested in the position.

The phoners who contact the membership before each luncheon are vital to the success of the occasion. Their ongoing commitment to ensuring that everyone on their telephone list has been contacted is very much appreciated. Several people have indicated that they do not want to be telephoned. If you do wish to attend a luncheon, please be sure to contact Joan Harrison at 780-467-3885 by the Thursday prior to the date of the event.

In September ERTA's first life member, Fred Tarlton, was honoured. Life memberships were awarded to five individuals, all of whom are over ninety years old, at the last luncheon. Biographies of Anna Byer, Helen Harry, Isabel McRae and Tillie Poulsen were featured in the December newsletter. An account of Muriel Clarke's life is included in this news bulletin. It has been fascinating to listen to the members, and individuals associated with them, as they share pertinent details about their lives. These life members have seen the transformation of

the city of Edmonton and Western Canada from remote outposts of civilization to vital progressive societies. Their lives were influenced by the Depression as well as World War II. They have traveled all over the world and have extensive interests.

Muriel Clarke, born on March 13, 1917, is a youthful ninety-four years of age. Muriel attended the Llanarthney School for Girls, which was a private school located on 121 Street, just off Jasper Avenue.

Throughout her childhood Muriel and her two siblings were exposed to the politics of the city. Her father, Joseph A. Clarke, was first an alderman then mayor of the City of Edmonton. He ran in twenty-seven municipal elections, which is more than any other person before or since his time. Clarke Stadium and Clarke Athletic Grounds were named in recognition of the many contributions he made to the city. After Joe passed away, Muriel's mother, Gwendolen, served as an alderman and was responsible for the majestic trees that adorn the city's older neighbourhoods.

Muriel spent some time working in Yellowknife before going to Toronto to train as a physiotherapist. During World War II, as a member of the Royal Canadian Medical Corp, she worked behind the front lines in France and later used her training in hospitals in England. When she had time off, she would ride around the English countryside on a bicycle. Muriel kept in contact with her wartime friends throughout the years. Her brother, Bennie, unfortunately died in action when his plane was shot down.

When she returned from the war, Muriel attended McGill University in Montreal where she earned her BA. She received her BEd from the University of Alberta in the 1950s. Muriel taught high school English for the Edmonton Public School Board, primarily at Eastglen and Queen Elizabeth.

In addition to teaching school, she also led a Girl Guide troop. Muriel shared her love of nature as she wandered in the river valley with her friends. She set up a telescope on the balcony of her home so her young friends could look at the moon.

Although not directly involved in politics, Muriel was very cause-oriented. She took umbrage with City Council regarding many issues, and, on occasion, expressed her displeasure. She worked on many committees as well. Muriel once tied herself to a tree in order to demonstrate her opposition to cutting it down. She participated in demonstrations opposing war and is a strong supporter of the United Nations. She is adamant that conflicts must be resolved peacefully rather than resort to war.

She continues to donate to many groups that are dedicated to the conservation of nature. For years Muriel has fed the birds in her backyard and can identify all of the species that visit her birdfeeder.

Muriel had a passion for literature, travel and maps. Her travels throughout the world were tracked on maps that she beautifully labelled. While in her sixties, Muriel bought a motorcycle and rode to the West Coast and back. At the age of eighty, she made a canoe trip down the Nahanni River. Because of the physical fitness she demonstrated on that trip, she was asked to participate in a University of Alberta physical fitness study. During a tour of Asia, she draped a ten-foot boa constrictor around her neck.

Muriel's friends describe her as a very independent, charitable, dedicated lady who cares very much for others. She often visits people in the hospital, always taking flowers to brighten their stay.

She was very active until recently, chauffeuring her friends to many events such as the opera, symphony and ERTA dinners. She was standing on the street one day, talking to a friend after lunch, when someone grabbed her purse, knocking her over and breaking her hip. As a result, Muriel now walks with a cane.

Muriel still attends a Bible Study group and sometimes reads the lesson at church. She continues to reside in the home in which she was born and insists on maintaining her independence. She is and has been an inspiration to all who know her.

If you know of anyone else who qualifies for a life membership, please let me know.

Maurine Maslen

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.

NOMINEES FOR NEW EXECUTIVE

A new executive will be elected at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2011. The Association requires volunteers to serve if it is to remain vital and relevant. To submit your name or nominate a member please contact Joy de Mello, Nominating Committee Chair, at the luncheon or by telephoning her at 780-455-4009.

ERTA needs you!

ENJOY CENTRE TOUR

Hole's Greenhouses & Gardens Ltd. will be moving into its spectacular new facility, the Enjoy Centre, located between LeClair Way and Ray Gibbon Drive, adjacent to Lois Hole Centennial Provincial Park.

The facility is being built using revolutionary construction methods that dramatically reduce energy consumption and waste and feature state-of-the-art mechanization as well as production technology throughout the building. The Enjoy Centre is a community of partners: a spa, a bistro, a food market, a deli, a bakery, a wine, beer and spirits outlet, a home décor mart, a floral design shop, a garden centre and a convention space – everything one needs to reflect, relax, reconnect and create a unique lifestyle. Visit www.enjoygardening.com for more information.

Forty-five minute group tours are available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Following a welcome and introduction, the tour will include a brief overview of the retail and production areas (with some restrictions). The \$15.00-package will include the tour and a lunch voucher at the Prairie Bistro. The \$10.00-package consists of the tour and a voucher for a beverage and snack. All visitors will receive a copy of Jim Hole's *Enjoy Gardening* magazine.

If you are interested in a behind-the-scenes look at a phenomenal facility and a memorable experience, please register for either a lunch or a coffee-and-snack tour at the spring luncheon or by telephoning Vi Oko at 780-459-8013. When the Centre opens, a booking will be made for the most popular choice and everyone on the list will be notified by telephone.

WILDLIFE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Junior Wildlife Ambassador Program (JWAP) is in need of volunteers to provide free in-class presentations to elementary classes empowering the students to create a clean, safe environment for wildlife in their community. For more information check out our website at wildlife-edm.ca or send Stephanie May an email education@wildlife-edm.ca or give her a call at 780-433-0884.

MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE

Only a few reserved seats remain for the May 25, 2011, brunch performance of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, a one-act musical comedy that centres around a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. Six idiosyncratic teenagers compete in the spelling bee directed by three equally-aberrant grown-ups.

The doors open at 10:00 a.m. for the noon-hour performance.

Tickets in the Broadway section can be purchased for \$54.43 each, payable to the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association. Mail your cheque early to Vi Oko at 20 Glenhaven Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1A5. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

The plan this year includes the construction of forty-seven homes in Anderson Gardens in northeast Edmonton and a thirty-unit duplex development, Aurora Place, in the Akinsdale neighbourhood in St. Albert.

Walls for all of the homes will be framed at the new pre-fabrication shop near the Yellowhead Trail in Edmonton. On-site work should begin on the St. Albert project early in September. The intent is to frame eight of the houses this year and complete the remaining structures in 2012.

Habitat for Humanity requires many volunteers in order to achieve its goal to place eighty families in homes in the Edmonton area this year. Work days are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with lunch provided. All tools, equipment and safety gear are supplied as well. The organization has a strong safety program. Volunteering for an association with the slogan, "building homes, building hope," is a great way for retirees to get some exercise, use their skills, learn new ones and meet a diverse group of people. Beginners to trades people are welcome. No minimum number of shifts is required.

Check the website www.hfh.org for more information. Volunteers can register online, by telephoning 780-479-3566 or by emailing ksherwood@hfh.org.

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Central Lions Seniors Association

offers a number of programs for seniors in its new facility each season along with organized club sports, activities, card and board games, and special events.

Spring session programs include a series of classes involving computers, digital cameras and photography; cards, crafts and hobbies; creative writing and languages; drawing and painting; health and wellness; fitness and sports; and a general interest and as we age series.

For more information visit the Central Lions website www.clsa2.com or call 780-496-7369.

The Edmonton Lifelong Learners

Association (ELLA) is a volunteer, non-profit organization that operates in partnership with the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension. This year is the 10th anniversary of the popular program of twenty-eight non-credit courses for 50+ adults that are offered every spring during the first three weeks of May. Courses are usually held in the University of Alberta Education Centre (Education Building). There are no prerequisites, no homework, no exams and no pressure.

This year's program consists of a variety of courses that include topics on science, religion, architecture, cartoons, computers, archeology, ecology, history, music, short stories and writing, drawing and painting, health and healing, healthy aging, and fitness and exercise. A number of distinguished speakers will share their knowledge and experiences regarding a variety of topics each day during the noon-hour break.

For more information check out the ELLA website www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella or contact the office at 780-492-5055.

The Minerva Senior Studies Institute

at Grant MacEwan College provides mature adults (50+) with opportunities to engage in intellectual pursuits that enrich their lives. Minerva programs involve a variety of special events, courses, presentations and a walk-about series for which there are no tests and no grades.

Courses range from art, the classics and anthropology to history, political science and religion and include health and wellness, music, writing and topics of general interest.

Information regarding upcoming courses and events can be found on the website www.macewan.ca/minerva or by telephoning 780-497-5082.

Named in honour of the University of Alberta's sixth president, the **Walter Johns Alumni Circle** features lectures and presentations by pre-eminent faculty members on the third Thursday of every month from September through April.

For a regular sampling of the vibrant intellectual and cultural life of the University and an opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow alumni, access the Alumni Circle website at www.ualberta.ca/alumni/johnscircle or telephone 780-492-1835 for more information.

The Alumni Association offers a variety of programs for alumni, friends and family. Log on to www.ualberta.ca/alumni/events for more details regarding a complete list of programs that the Association offers.

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether this happens at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps on learning not only remains young, but becomes constantly more valuable regardless of physical capacity." Harvey Ullman

ARTA MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 2nd annual ARTA Memorial Golf Tournament, in memory of Gisele and Robert Kleinmann, will be held at the St. Paul Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, June 15, 2011. The \$70.00 fee includes eighteen holes of golf, a shared power cart, hole and skill prizes, choice of individual play or Texas scramble, a driving demonstration and a sumptuous barbecue dinner.

For more information or to register, please contact Paul Boisvert by telephoning 780-645-3409 or emailing hawkowl4@telus.net.

Plan to stay longer to enjoy other outdoor pursuits as well as play challenging golf courses in the Lakeland region that have substantially lower green fees.

BREWERY TOUR

A visit to the Alley Kat Brewing Company, located at 9929-60 Avenue, is being planned for 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2011.

Following the tour of the brewery there will be an opportunity to sample a number of ales and lagers produced on-site.

Four on-tap beers – Amber, Aprikat, Charlie Flint’s and Full Moon – can be obtained year round. The Big Bottle Series beers – Oatmeal Stout and Apple Wit – and the seasonal variety, Brewberry – a blueberry/wheat ale, will be available for tasting as well.

There is no admission charge to view the operation of the brewing facility.

Register for the brewery tour either at the luncheon or by telephoning Mike Mort at 780-761-5027 or Vi Oko at 780-459-8013.

2011 ALBERTA 55 PLUS SUMMER GAMES

Although the 2011 Alberta 55 Plus Winter Games have just ended, plans are already in place to determine the Zone 6 qualifiers for the Summer Games scheduled for July 21 to 24, 2011, in Fairview. Competitions will be held in sixteen activities, twelve of which will be conducted by Marigold 55 Plus Recreation co-ordinators. Playoffs for the remaining four – athletics, cycling, swimming and tennis – will be organized by their respective provincial sport associations, the dates of which are yet to be decided.

All Edmonton residents fifty-five years of age and older as of December 31, 2011, who have purchased a \$30.00 Alberta 55 Plus association membership, are eligible to participate in the twelve zone-conducted competitions. Derry Ingram, Zone 6 Membership Director, can be reached by telephoning 780-466-1731 or emailing ingram@interbaun.com for membership information.

*Depending on the activity, membership fees for the remaining four sport associations vary from \$15.00 to \$40.00. Competitors who qualify to represent the zone in Fairview will be required to purchase the Alberta 55 Plus membership as well.

Please contact the appropriate activity co-ordinator listed in the chart below well in advance of the competition date in order to participate in the zone playoff.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact Number</u>
Athletics*	?	Arnold Nett 780-475-8971
Bocce	June 8	Ken Shaw 780-455-7864
Contract Bridge	May 10	Jessie Trottier 780-452-4917
Creative Writing	April 8	Joanne Briggs 780-452-3885
Cribbage	June 10	Gordon Conrad 780-452-4295
Cycling*	?	Harvey Ford 780-434-1063
Eight Ball	April 11	Walter Mollenkoph 780-469-0844
Floor Curling	April 29	Mike Dolynny 780-457-5036
Floor Shuffleboard	April 15	Gordon Conrad 780-452-4295
Golf	May 31	Walter Mollenkoph 780-469-0844
Horseshoes	June 1	Carol Sievers 780-476-0225
Military Whist	May 13	Helen Conrad 780-452-4295
Slopitch	May 30– June 3	Rollie Ulmer 780-466-4221
Swimming*	?	Jackie Scott 780-476-4448
Tennis*	?	Eunice Barron 780-435-7541
Visual Arts & Crafts	May 27– May 28	Ardath Buckaway 780-481-7828

Members who reside in any of the communities that surround the city of Edmonton are encouraged to contact Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 for Zone 5 playoff information.

“You don’t have the game you played last year or last week. You only have today’s game.

It may be far from your best, but that’s all you’ve got. Harden your heart and make the best of it.”

Walter Hagen

A Creed to Live By

- ◆ *Don't undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special.*
- ◆ *Don't set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.*
- ◆ *Don't take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them life is meaningless.*
- ◆ *Don't let your life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you will live all the days of your life.*
- ◆ *Don't give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over ... until the moment you stop trying.*
- ◆ *Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other. Don't be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.*
- ◆ *Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find. The quickest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.*
- ◆ *Don't dismiss your dreams. To be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.*
- ◆ *Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been but also where you're going. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savoured each step of the way.*

Nancye Sims