



Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Spring Newsletter

www.edmontonrta.org

March 2013



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SPRING LUNCHEON

Join us for our spring luncheon at the

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: March 13, 2013

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast chicken buffet

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

Speakers: Noel Somerville—Chair, Seniors Task Force, Public Interest Alberta and Bill Moore-Kilgannon—Director, Public Interest Alberta

Topic: "Tough to Swallow"

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.

PLEASE NOTE

A member of the Telephone Committee will contact you prior to March 6th 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.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Vi Oka,
780-459-8013

Vice-President:
Sherry Robbins
780-437-0566

Treasurer:
Mike Mort,
780-761-5027

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the wonder of a new spring, we are reminded that new life and new hope prevail. After a long winter, we yearn for the sun to warm the earth, the soft, refreshing rain to encourage new life to spring forth and to feel the caress of a light, gentle breeze.

A green bud, the beauty of a spring flower, the singing of the birds and the blueness of the sky are all signs of life renewed.

As we approach the season of renewal, we look forward with anticipation and, perhaps, even some reservation.

Dark clouds are gathering. It could be a stormy spring with the imposition of a wage freeze on the medical profession, the province's financial woes, the looming budget realities and the economic uncertainty in Washington. What will be the ramification of the implementation of \$85 billion in automatic cuts in discretionary spending as sequestration takes effect over the next seven months?

What will be the ripple effect on Canadians and Albertans as the largest democracy on the planet lurches from one crisis to the next? Will there be another eleventh-hour deal to avoid the latest fiscal cliff?

Heavenly bodies created quite a stir a couple of weeks ago when an errant asteroid passed, without incident, inside the ring of satellites that circle the Earth only to be upstaged by a much smaller meteor. The little upstart blazed across the western Siberian sky producing a dramatic fireball before it shattered into pieces, startling residents in Russia's Chelyabinsk region, causing considerable damage and resulting in numerous injuries.

Back down on Earth, the Vatican is rocked by scandal just as cardinals from around the world are gathering in Rome to elect a new pope following the resignation, for health reasons, of Pope Benedict XVI—an event unheard of in recent church history. Speculation about from where the next pope will hail abounds. In the next few weeks puffs of white smoke will alert the world that a new pope has been chosen.

What new wonders will this spring bring?

DATES TO REMEMBER

Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention	February 28 and March 1, 2013
Spring Luncheon	March 13, 2013
Retiree Brunch	April 20, 2013
Art Gallery of Alberta Tour	April 23, 2013
Board of Directors Meeting	May 1, 2013
Mayfield Dinner Theatre	May 8, 2013
Summer Luncheon & AGM	June 5, 2013
50 th Anniversary Gala Luncheon	September 18, 2013
Second Wind Conference	September 25, 2013

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETING

The following matters were discussed and decisions reached at the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association (ERTA) board meeting held on February 6, 2013, at the Central Lions Senior Citizens Recreation Centre:

- The transition from Johnson Inc. as the administrator of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) Retiree Benefit Plan to the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan has been plagued with complications.
- The next retiree brunch at the Faculty Club is scheduled for April 20, 2013 (see Retiree Brunch).
- A tour of the Art Gallery of Alberta has been arranged for Tuesday, April 23 (see Art Gallery of Alberta Tour).
- A limited number of tickets are available for the production of the hit musical *9 To 5* on May 8 (see Mayfield Dinner Theatre).
- Planning is under way for a second retiree conference on September 25, 2013 (see Second Wind 2013).
- A committee of three has been charged with the task of developing policy regarding advertising on the website, in newsletters and at social gatherings.
- Joan Harrison, Mike Mort, Sherry Robbins and Ray Roy will distribute brochures at the upcoming Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention on February 28 and March 1.
- The donation of \$50.00 to the Ponoka and District Retired Teachers' Association for hole and skill prizes for the 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament was approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Spring, the season of renewal, is just around the corner. After a long winter, we are looking forward to tending our lawns and flower beds once again so that we can enjoy them to the fullest extent possible.

As with your lawns and gardens, spring is also the time for renewal of your membership. Check your membership card. Is yours one of the 117 memberships due to expire as of the end of June? By taking the time to renew your membership early, you can continue to enjoy, to the fullest extent possible, the benefits an ERTA membership offers.

Another nonagenarian is about to join the growing ranks of retired teachers to be granted a life membership in ERTA.

Lucienne Déschaine was born on January 31, 1923, in Causapscal in the Gaspé area of Quebec. Her family moved to Albertville, Saskatchewan, in May 1929 just months before the collapse of the stock market.

She began her formal education in 1930 as one of sixty students in a one-room school in Albertville. Since there was no high school in the area at the time, Lucienne completed Grade Nine through Grade Eleven by enrolling in correspondence courses before attending a boarding school in North Battleford for Grade Twelve.

She went to Normal School in Saskatoon in 1943. Classes began in early July. School board trustees began recruiting prospective teachers by the end of July and throughout August.

After receiving a temporary teaching certificate, Lucienne began her teaching career at La Plaine School, a two-storey building with living quarters upstairs, between Duck Lake and Rosthern, Saskatchewan. It was predominantly a French community, settled by recent arrivals to Canada. The following year she moved to La Marseillaise in Zenon Park, a rural school in northeastern Saskatchewan. Although there was a teacherage available, in both instances she chose to board with local families because of the isolation.

Still young and wanting to go to different places, Lucienne moved to Prud'homme, Saskatchewan, to teach Grades Seven and Eight. There was more to do in town outside of school hours and, as a consequence, she stayed for four years.

The Saskatoon East Unit was looking for teachers to supervise Normal School students. She applied and was assigned to Blackstrap School, a rural school in Dundurn. The job was quite demanding. Three groups of two student teachers arrived in the fall and again in the spring. The students were expected to observe in the fall and to do some planning as well as teaching in the spring.

While at summer school one year, Lucienne saw pages and pages of advertisements in the local newspaper seeking teachers to fill vacant teaching positions in Alberta at a higher salary than the existing pay scale in Saskatchewan. Because she still had some outstanding debt, incurred as a result of her efforts to get a high school and university education, she decided to apply for a teaching job in Alberta.

Lucienne accepted a position at a four-room school in the hamlet of St. Lina in the St. Paul School Division teaching Grades Five and Six.

Lucienne married a local farmer in 1952 and had a son in 1953 and a daughter in 1960.

In the meantime, she embarked on a teaching career in Mallaig where she was eventually asked to teach Grade Nine. Since Grade Nine students wrote departmental examinations at that time, preparing students for these tests involved a great deal of extra work. Lucienne spent ten years in Mallaig.

Because her husband developed a serious illness shortly after their marriage, she was left to raise her children on her own.

Prior to her intended departure from Mallaig, the principal, a Sister of the Assumption, asked Lucienne to teach at a private girls' school in Edmonton. The teaching environment in the city was quite different from working in a rural community where students were allowed to take time off from school to assist with farm work during threshing time in the fall. Many students at the Academie Assomption had

well-educated parents who expected their children to excel.

Initially, Lucienne taught Grade Seven as well as Grade Nine Social Studies. The 'new math' came along, and after numerous in-service sessions, she became a mathematics teacher, a favourite subject in high school.

When she moved to Alberta in 1950, Lucienne was credited with two years of university education earned by taking summer school and night classes. She obtained her Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta in October 1974.

When the Academie closed in 1972, a new bilingual school, J.H. Picard, was built on Edmonton's south side. Lucienne spent the next ten years at Picard as a junior high school mathematics teacher before retiring in 1982 after a thirty-five year teaching career.

Cliff Otto

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

A volunteer organization, the **Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA)** in partnership with the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension is offering several non-credit courses for adults 50+ years of age beginning on April 29, 2013, and continuing through the first three weeks of May usually at the University of Alberta Education Centre (Education Building). Twenty-eight courses in art, computers, fitness, history, literature, music, politics, science and writing are taught by University of Alberta professors and other qualified instructors. Participants can take up to four classes daily. There are no prerequisites, no homework, no examinations and no pressure! For more information, log on to the website at www.extension.ualberta.ca/ella or telephone the office at 780-492-5055.

The **Minerva Senior Studies Institute** at Grant MacEwan University offers workshops, walkabouts and presentations on timely and interesting topics by popular speakers to enrich the lives of mature adults by enhancing their intellectual pursuits. There are no tests and no grades. Check out the Minerva website at www.macewan.ca/minerva or call the office at 780-497-5082 for registration information.

MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE

Tickets in the Broadway section have been purchased for the brunch presentation of the successful Broadway musical, *9 to 5*, on May 8, 2013, at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre.

The film of the same name—starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton—was a riotous satire of the sexism and feminism that was emerging in American offices at the end of the 1980s. An improbable relationship evolves when three female co-workers, provoked to the point of exasperation, contrive an outrageous plan to eliminate their lying, chauvinistic boss and expropriate his company. Their plan to get even quickly spins wildly and hilariously out of control.

This entertaining story of friendship, female empowerment and revenge in the rolodex era features the hit title song "9 to 5," along with an exciting score of eighteen original numbers penned by the iconic Dolly Parton.

Tickets for the midday theatrical performance are limited. Send a cheque for \$58.00, payable to the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association, to Vi Oko at 20 Glenhaven Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1A5 to reserve a seat.

Gather your friends for an afternoon of laughter and merriment.

RETIREE BRUNCH

The next retiree brunch at the University of Alberta Faculty Club on Saskatchewan Drive will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013.

Plan to meet shortly before 11:30 a.m. in the lounge just inside the front door. Faculty Club staff will direct our group to an area reserved for ERTA members, their spouses and friends. The brunch fee is \$23.00 per person.

Complimentary parking is available at the Faculty Club parking lot and the nearby Windsor Car Park.

Join board members, colleagues and old friends for an opportunity to discuss common concerns, to be informed about upcoming events or simply to enjoy a social outing in a relaxed setting. Call Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 to reserve a space or register your intent at the spring luncheon.

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA TOUR

A tour of the Art Gallery of Alberta has been booked for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. The tour will include a brief commentary on the history of the Art Gallery and the design of the building by a knowledgeable interpretive guide followed by highlights of three featured exhibits— A Story of Canadian Art, Alberta Biennial (a focus on contemporary art in Alberta), and Dutch Landscapes (Rembrandt to Van Gogh). We will then be free to view the displays in the five exhibit areas or come and go at our leisure.

Admission is \$13.15 for adults and \$8.95 for seniors (65+), including GST. An additional fee of \$105.00, including GST, is charged for a tour group of twenty or less. (We will need to split the cost of this fee.)

The Art Gallery is situated on the corner of 99 Street (Rue Hull) and 102A Avenue, south of the Law Courts building and north of Chancery Hall and the Francis Winspear Centre.

Although the Art Gallery has no dedicated parking, parkades, parking lots and meters are located within easy walking distance.

Parking at the City Hall Parkade on the west side of 99 Street is \$2.00 for every half hour while the parking fee at the Library Parkade (with access beside the Citadel Theatre) is \$2.50 (cash only) for every half hour.

Ground level parking in Chinatown (between 96 and 97 Street) at Diamond Parking Service (eastbound on 102 Avenue) is \$5.00 for every two hours with a four-hour limit and \$2.00 for every two hours at the Impark lot (westbound on 102A Avenue).

Edmonton Transit System buses (Routes 1, 2, 3, 16, 57, 81, 100, 135, 140, 201, 202 and 308) make stops nearby. (Dial 311 or go to the ETS website at www.takeETS.com for specific transit information for your area.)

The facility is wheelchair accessible with direct access to the pedway from the Churchill LRT Station across the street to the west.

Light rail transit and commuter bus fare is \$3.20 (exact change) and is transferrable. Parking meters in the immediate vicinity cost \$3.50 per hour with a two-hour limit.

If you choose to have lunch at the Art Gallery prior to the tour, the Terrace Café on the third floor offers deli sandwiches, fresh fruit and pastries while the Zinc Restaurant on the main floor is a full-service establishment. There are also a number of restaurants in close proximity to the Gallery.

Because the Art Gallery requires confirmation of the approximate number of people in the tour group, please call Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 before April 2 to reserve a space.

Bring a friend or two and enjoy an enlightening afternoon in an enriching environment.

2013 EMERALD ISLE TOUR

Who more than the Irish love to tell a story and laugh at themselves? Below is a sampling of those pesky limericks from Limerick, Ireland where the limerick was birthed.

*There was a young man from Killarney
Who was chock full of what is called blarney.
He sat on a stile
And told lies by the mile
That dreadful young man from Killarney.*

*There was a young woman from Cork
Whose pa made a fortune in pork.
He bought for his daughter
A tutor who taught her
To balance green peas on a fork.*

You are invited to join Gordon and Esther Oaks on a tour of Limerick and other historical sites in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland October 7 to 19, 2013. An information session is planned for Sunday, March 17 at 1:30 p.m. at 336 Rehwinkel Close in Edmonton. If you are interested in travelling with a group of adventurers and Irish wannabes, email Esther Oaks at eoaks@shaw.ca or telephone her at 780-437-7499 and leave a message.

*There was a young girl from New York
Whose ancestors all came from Cork.
She possessed an idea
That was ever so que-er
She had to eat soup with a fork.*

Did you know there are more ethnic Irish living in New York City than in Ireland?

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A number of activities have been planned to commemorate ARTA's 50th anniversary. Two of these activities—the quilting project and the curling bonspiel—concluded several months ago.

A group of competent quilters, members of the Central East Retired Teachers' Association, assembled the individual squares featuring designs and symbols representative of aspects of education in Alberta over the past fifty years. The wall hanging, a collaborative effort by retired teachers from across the province to memorialize the Association's first fifty years, will be hung in a prominent location in the ARTA office.

Retired teachers, representing branches province-wide and as far away as the satellite branch in the Okanagan, gathered in Vermilion on November 16 and 17, 2012, for the curling, the camaraderie and, more specifically, to pay tribute to a visionary ARTA member, Floyd Sweet, at the ARTA 50th Anniversary Bonspiel.

To mark the occasion of its 50th anniversary, ARTA is initiating the Outstanding Volunteer Award to honour retired teachers throughout the province who provide invaluable volunteer service within their respective communities and beyond. The maximum number of awards to be presented at each branch is equivalent to the number of delegates eligible to represent the branch at an ARTA Annual General Meeting. In ERTA's case, up to five award recipients will be honoured at the 50th Anniversary Gala Luncheon on September 18, 2013.

To nominate an ERTA member, download the nomination form from the ERTA website at www.edmontonrta.org (phone the webmaster at 780-473-5598 for downloading information). Photocopied forms can easily be obtained by contacting any ERTA board member. Forms will also be available at the spring luncheon on March 13.

As well, ERTA members are encouraged to nominate worthy members of other branches or even retired teachers who reside in those communities where no branch currently exists. These special nominations can be submitted electronically to info@arta.net or by hard copy

to the ARTA office in Barnett House. In all cases, the deadline for submission is April 15, 2013.

A number of retired teachers have written books, both fiction and non-fiction. A synopsis of the written work, a brief biography of the author, along with contact information required to purchase any published work will be made available in a brochure and on the ARTA website at www.arta.net soon.

The photography contest, an additional activity to commemorate ARTA's 50th anniversary, is open to all ARTA members province-wide. Contest criteria and entry forms are available on the ARTA website at www.arta.net, by telephoning the ARTA office at 780-822-2400 or by mailing a request for rules and forms to 409, Barnett House, 11010–142 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2R1.

The 50th Anniversary Golf Tournament, hosted by the Ponoka and District Retired Teachers' Association, is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2013, at the Ponoka Community Golf Club. For more information, contact Bryan Martin at brianomartini@shaw.ca or Juanita Knight at 403-783-3145.

ERTA is going to hold a celebratory luncheon on September 18, 2013, for branch members. More information for how you can be involved will be forthcoming.

You are encouraged to participate in one or more commemorative events.

SECOND WIND CONFERENCE 2013

Another Second Wind is coming!

ARTA branches in the greater Edmonton area are planning another outstanding conference for retired teachers and their friends on September 25, 2013, at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre (the same venue as last year). Early bird registration will begin in April.

Watch for more information from branch representatives, in newsletters, or on the ARTA website.

To avoid disappointment, reserve the date now for an opportunity to renew your enthusiasm for learning, reconnect with colleagues and old friends, and be re-energized.

ORIGIN OF THE ARTA BENEFIT PLAN

The long and fruitful relationship that ARTA had with Johnson Inc., the insurance broker and administrator of the ARTA Health and Wellness Benefit Plan, officially came to an end on December 31, 2012.

The relationship began eighteen years ago after Ron Rhine, the new ARTA Executive Secretary at the time, received a telephone call from an ARTA member who related a story about her conversation with a member of the Superannuated Teachers of Ontario (STO) who had travel insurance as part of her medical insurance coverage. Ron investigated the possibility and negotiations with a Johnson Inc. representative by phone, on paper and in person began shortly thereafter.

Johnson Inc. and Maritime Life Insurance indicated that they might be willing to provide insurance coverage but only if a minimum of 1500 Alberta retired teachers would state, in writing, their intent to participate in the plan. Although Ron did not have access to the contact information of retirees because of the new Privacy Act, a letter describing the medical, dental, hospital and travel insurance opportunity was included in an ATRF mailout.

It is likely that Johnson Inc. and Maritime Life wanted to expand to the west. Although barely 1500 responses were received, a Johnson representative suggested that a meeting take place to discuss the possibility of creating an insurance plan for Alberta retired teachers. Every clause of the plan was negotiated using the STO package as a guide. Ron added a couple of last minute conditions—that the plan be only available to ARTA members and that ARTA receive a 1% rebate of all monthly sales to cover the extra expense the Association would assume to oversee the plan. Maritime Life became the insurance provider and Johnson Inc. the plan administrator.

The ARTA Health and Wellness Benefit Plan was launched, effective September 5, 1995, with an open enrollment for a limited time to get the plan established. It has grown from the 900 retired teachers that joined initially to over 8,600 education, public and private sector members who are plan policyholders today.

2013 ALBERTA 55 PLUS SUMMER GAMES

The communities of Barrhead and Westlock will jointly host the 2013 Alberta 55 Plus Summer Games July 25 to 28. Alberta seniors who are fifty-five years of age and older as of December 31, 2013, and reside in the city of Edmonton are eligible to compete in any of the zone playoffs in the fourteen Games events as well as the two cultural competitions for the right to represent Zone 6 at the provincial Games.

Anyone interested in representing Edmonton in any of the activities listed below is requested to register with the activity contact person well in advance of the zone competition.

Activity	Date	Contact
Arts & Crafts	May 11	Ardith Buckaway 780-481-7828
Athletics	May 27	Arnold Nett 780-475-8971
Bocce	June 4	Stan Androschuk 780-484-2168
Contract Bridge	May 14	Jessie Trottier 780-452-4917
Creative Writing	May 11	Joanne Briggs 780-452-3885
Cribbage	April 19	Gordon Conrad 780-452-4295
Cycling	May 25	Harvey Ford 780-434-1063
Eight Ball	May 14	Walter Mollenkoph 780-469-0844
Floor Curling	May 31	Mike Dolynny 780-457-5036
Floor Shuffleboard	May 31	Gordon Conrad 780-452-4295
Golf	June 18	Walter Mollenkoph 780-469-0844
Horseshoes	June 11	Carol Sievers 780-476-0225
Military Whist	May 17	Helen Conrad 780-452-4295
Slopitch	June 3–6	Bill Yakymyshyn 780-437-6598
Swimming	May 8	Kathleen Harper 780-433-5459
Tennis	TBA	Eunice Barron 780-435-7541

A \$30.00 association membership is required to participate in any of the playoff events. The Zone 6 Membership Director, Derry Ingram, can be contacted at ingram10@telus.net or 780-466-1731 for more information.

For an additional \$100.00 registration fee, zone winners will compete against seniors from seven other zones in the province in one or more medal events.

Medallists at the Games will qualify to compete in the Canada 55 Plus Games in Strathcona County in August 2014.

Seniors who live in areas surrounding the city of Edmonton are asked to telephone Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 for Zone 5 playoff information.

Just play. Have fun. Enjoy the game.
—Michael Jordan

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta

The Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta (SACA) is responsible for advising the province regarding matters relating to Alberta’s seniors.

It is a government-appointed body that reports through the Minister of Health.

The Council gathers information on issues important to seniors by consulting with seniors’ organizations and older Albertans across the province. The suggestions and feedback gathered through these consultations are used to develop advice on legislation, policies, funding and co-ordination of programs and services for seniors.

The Council also co-ordinates the annual province-wide Seniors’ Week celebration, participates in research projects and supports community-based workshops for seniors and frontline workers.

Alberta Health is currently recruiting members in the greater Edmonton region to join the Council. Check out the Council website at www.health.alberta.ca/seniors/SACA.html or contact Susan McCarthy at 780-422-4321 for more information.

Go to <https://jobs.alberta.ca/jobs-dynamic.html> for information on how to apply for a Council position.

ERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(First year of membership for a new retiree is complimentary)

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email Address: _____

Please check here if you would like to receive your newsletter by email.

_____ Amount paid for _____ year(s) (\$15 per year / \$60 for 5 years)

Send \$15.00 by cheque to: **Cliff Otto**
 Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association
 15020–64 Street NW
 Edmonton, Alberta
 T5A 2C5