



Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association Fall Newsletter

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September 2010



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FALL LUNCHEON

Join us for our fall luncheon at the

Chateau Louis

11727 Kingsway Avenue

Date: September 22, 2010

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Menu: Roast chicken buffet

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

Speaker: Maj. The Rev. Larry K. Wright, CD – Chaplain,
Canadian Forces Base Edmonton

Door Prize: Everyone is eligible for a door prize.

PLEASE NOTE

A member of the Telephone Committee will contact you prior to September 16th 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.

MEET OUR 2010–2011 EXECUTIVE

President:

Vi Oka, 780-459-8013

Past President:

Joy de Mello, 780-455-9003

Vice-President:

Mike Mort, 780-761-5027

Secretaries:

Shelley Bouska, 780-473-3248

Carol Loewen, 780-435-6832

Treasurer:

Bernie Lemay, 780-469-5031

Membership Co-ordinator:

Maurine Maslen, 780-418-8032

Benefits Representatives:

Cliff Otto, 780-476-9264

Mike Mort, 780-761-5027

Pension Representative:

Eva Nolan, 780-473-9251

Webmaster:

Joyce Lukasiewich, 780-458-1422

Members at Large:

Lorraine Caldwell, 780-454-1608

Ed Friss, 780-476-5924

Joan Harrison, 780-467-3885

Dorothy Keeler, 780-458-1250

Fred Laux, 780-444-6386

Mary Paranych, 780-476-433-7456

Gilles Verret, 780-452-1289

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A hearty welcome back to everyone! As the warm rays of summer become a distant memory, our concerns turn to issues that directly impact our lives or those we hold dear.

The Alberta Government has indicated its intention to revamp both the School Act and the Health Act this fall. One will influence colleagues in our profession in the future, the other will affect the delivery of health care services to all Albertans but especially to those retirees aged sixty-five years of age and older.

Early in June, Minister Dave Hancock released his *Inspiring Education* report that involved consulting more than 4,000 people and cost \$3 million. The report seeks to envision what the education system will look like in twenty years with technology playing a major role. The report indicated that the goal of education was to foster the development of youth who are ethical citizens and engaged thinkers focussed on entrepreneurial pursuits.

Health Advisory Councils, in conjunction with Alberta Health and Wellness, hosted public workshops from mid-June until mid-July. Consultations with Albertans and health stakeholders were initiated in response to a recommendation from the Minister's Advisory Committee on Health that Alberta develop a new Health Act to help shape the health system and make it more responsive to the needs of Albertans.

We await the release of the new School and Health Acts that will determine the delivery of both education and health services in the foreseeable future.

The guest speaker at our fall luncheon will be Maj. The Rev. Larry K. Wright, CD, the United Church chaplain at the local garrison, who will talk about Canada's mission in Afghanistan. Over the years he was posted to Gaagetown, New Brunswick; Wainwright, Alberta; Borden, Ontario; and lastly to Edmonton. Overseas tours of duty took him to Bosnia for six months, Israel for three weeks and Afghanistan for six months. He has also provided domestic support during natural disasters as well as security at major political and sporting events.

We hope to see you at the luncheon and one or more events planned for you this year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Fall Luncheon | September 22, 2010 |
| Alley Kat Brewing | October 2, 2010 |
| Company Tour | |
| ARTA AGM | October 6 & 7, 2010 |
| Mayfield Dinner Theatre | October 13, 2010 |
| Retiree Brunch | October 23, 2010 |
| Executive Meeting | November 10, 2010 |
| Christmas Luncheon | December 8, 2010 |
| Spring Luncheon | March 23, 2011 |
| Retiree Brunch | April 9, 2011 |
| Summer Luncheon | June 11, 2011 |

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

After experiencing a major computer glitch, or glitches, I am hoping that all of the members have received the newsletter, that it was delivered to the correct address and in your preferred format (email or snail mail). Please let me know if you have had any problem receiving your newsletter.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new retirees who have accepted the one-year complimentary membership in ERTA and look forward to their participation in our social activities, particularly the lunches and the brunches. We would like to offer this opportunity to others as well: if anyone knows a new retiree who would like a complimentary membership, please invite them to the social or give them my telephone number so that they can join our organization.

Included in the revision of our association bylaws, approved at the 2010 Annual General Meeting, was the granting of a life membership to ERTA members who have reached ninety years of age. The first person to achieve this milestone is Fred Tarlton. He has been a member for at least eleven years (that's as far back as I have been able to track our membership) and celebrated his 100th birthday last March.

Fred came to Canada from England at the age of three. He lived in Calgary for awhile before moving to Gadsby then Halkirk (near Stettler). Fred was enrolled in the teacher preparation class at the Normal School in Camrose during

the 1929–1930 term, then he accepted his first assignment as an educator, teaching Grades One to Nine for the Island School District. After two years, he ventured north teaching Grades Five to Ten at Pibroch for five years and Grades Nine to Twelve in Rich Valley for a couple of years before accepting a vice-principalship at the high school in Provost. Fred served as principal of the high school in Spruce Grove for almost two years then joined the Canadian Air Force as a navigator in 1942. Upon his return from patrolling the North Atlantic searching for German submarines, he decided to complete the coursework he required to earn his Bachelor of Education degree (he already had a Bachelor of Science degree). Although he requested a leave of absence, he was not granted one until the following year because of the demand for teachers at that time. When he returned to his teaching duties, he assumed the principalship at Memorial High School in Stony Plain for the next ten years before spending the last years of his teaching career as head of the Mathematics Department at Ross Sheppard Senior High School, retiring in 1973. Congratulations Fred and thank you for your continuous support.

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

As is usual at this time of year, letters have been sent to individuals whose memberships are about to lapse. You may renew your membership at the social event or by mailing your cheque to me.

Thank you to all the phoners who contact the membership before every luncheon. Several people have indicated that they do not want to be telephoned; however, if you do plan to attend a luncheon, please be sure to contact Joan Harrison at 780-467-3885 by Wednesday of the week prior to the gathering.

I look forward to working on membership matters with Dorothy Keeler and Mary Paranych. Joan Harrison and Joyce Lukasiewicz have provided me and this organization with invaluable computer support.

Maurine Maslen

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

The new ERTA Executive met at the Central Lions Senior Citizens Recreation Centre on August 25, 2010, at which time the following information was presented and subsequent decisions were made:

- In Ed Friss' absence, Vi Oko revealed that the United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) has applied for public sector affiliate membership in the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) so that UNA nurses can access ARTA Health and Wellness Benefit Plan coverage once they retire. Open enrollment in the plan would begin on September 1, 2010, and coverage for the eligible retirees who applied would commence on January 1, 2011.
- Bernie Lemay presented the audited financial statement for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2010. He reported that the financial position of the Association included \$22,812.04 in monetary assets, a fixed inventory valued at \$1,041.45 and a liability of \$6,250.00 in prepaid fees that resulted in \$17,921.49 in equity at year end, an increase of \$2,283.27 over the previous year. He will make a detailed statement available at the fall luncheon.
- Bernie also submitted a financial report for the current fiscal year. Revenue to date totals \$6,538.60 and expenses amount to \$3,400.01, leaving a balance of \$3,138.59.
- Executive members opted for roast chicken as the entrée at the fall luncheon and agreed to continue to subsidize the additional per-plate cost for the buffet. A chaplain in the Canadian Armed Forces will be the guest speaker.
- Luncheon dates for 2010–2011 were scheduled (see Dates to Remember).
- Dates were also set for two brunches at the Faculty Club (see Retiree Brunch).
- A trip to the Alley Kat Brewing Company has been planned for Saturday, October 2, 2010 (see Brewery Tour).

- Tickets have been purchased for the October 13th brunch performance of *Dark Star: The Life and Times of Roy Orbison* (see Mayfield Dinner Theatre).
- Carol Loewen, Joan Harrison, Maurine Maslen, Mike Mort, Vi Oko and Cliff Otto will represent the branch at the ARTA Annual General Meeting at Barnett House on October 6 and 7, 2010.
- Branches are being encouraged to submit nominations for vacant officer and standing committee positions.
- A couple of additions to the ERTA brochure were recommended.

ARTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) is a dynamic organization founded and governed by retired teachers who once plied their skills in classrooms throughout the province.

Based on membership numbers, ERTA is entitled to representation by six accredited branch delegates at the ARTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for October 6 and 7, 2010, at Barnett House. Members interested in learning more about the operation of the provincial association may attend the meeting as observers without voting privileges. Please contact Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 if you wish to be present at the AGM as an observer.

It is important that ERTA members be actively involved at the provincial level. ARTA's bylaws stipulate that only full ARTA members may fill vacant officer or standing committee positions. Candidates are required for the offices of president, vice-president and treasurer as well as the Communication/Technology, Governance, Health and Wellness Benefits, Human Resources, Membership/Marketing (3), Pension (2) and the Strategic Planning Committees. Association officers are elected annually while standing committee terms vary from one to five years. Prior knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of any of the committees is not necessary, only the eagerness to serve.

Branch members are encouraged to submit nominations to Don Mock, ARTA Executive Director, either in writing or electronically. The submission must include an indication of the nominee's willingness to accept the nomination. Nominees need not be present at the AGM in order to have their names placed on the ballot. Nominations may also be made at the meeting provided that the nominee accepts in writing.

BREWERY TOUR

An after-hours visit to the Alley Kat Brewing Company located at 9929-60 Avenue has been arranged for Saturday, October 2, 2010. The tour of the brewery operation begins at 1:00 p.m. followed by an opportunity to sample a number of ales and lagers produced on-site.

Four on-tap beers – Amber, Aprikat, Charlie Flint and Full Moon – are obtainable year-round for your tasting pleasure. A seasonal variety, Pumpkin Pie Spiced Ale, will be available for sampling along with the one-batch brews, Apple Wit and Ginger Beer.

Alley Kat Brewing charges an admission fee of \$12.50 per person for the tour.

Since the brewery wishes to be apprised of the number of people to expect, please telephone Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 or Mike Mort at 780-761-5027 if you plan to attend. Anyone requiring transportation is requested to contact Vi well in advance of the tour date.

MAYFIELD DINNER THEATRE

Tickets in the Broadway section are available at the discount price of \$54.43 each, which includes GST, for the brunch presentation of *Dark Star: The Life and Times of Roy Orbison* at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre on Wednesday, October 13, 2010.

The theatrical production celebrates the life and music of one of the most influential and iconic pioneers of American rock and roll from his early years as a youth in Texas, his rise to fame in the early and mid 60s, the personal tragedies that led to his subsequent fall in the 70s to his resurgence to the top of the charts at the time of his sudden death at the age of fifty-two.

For an unforgettable afternoon of music that pays tribute to the man Elvis Presley once described as the greatest singer on earth, please forward a cheque, made payable to the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association, to Vi Oko at 20 Glenhaven Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta T8N 1A5.

The doors open at 10:00 a.m. for the twelve noon performance. The dress code is business casual.

RETIREE BRUNCH

Irl Miller has again volunteered to host a retiree brunch, the first of two planned for this year, on Saturday, October 23, 2010, at the Faculty Club located on the University of Alberta campus at Saskatchewan Drive and 114 Street.

We usually meet in the lounge inside the front door shortly before 11:30 a.m. The per-person cost of the brunch is \$19.00. To reserve a seat, please telephone Vi Oko at 780-459-8013 or Mike Mort at 780-761-5027. We encourage you to bring a spouse, colleague or friend.

Courtesy parking in the parking lot situated immediately west of the facility can be accessed from 116 Street. Free overflow parking is also available at the Windsor Car Park farther south on 116 Street.

The brunch offers a wonderful opportunity to meet members of the ERTA Executive as well as connect with "old friends" in an informal setting.

2011 ALBERTA 55 PLUS WINTER GAMES

The 2011 Alberta 55 Plus Winter Games will be held in St. Albert February 24 to 27. All residents of Edmonton fifty-five years of age or older, as of December 31, 2011, are eligible to compete in the Zone 6 (Edmonton) playoffs in any one or more of the thirteen Games activities.

The dates and contact people for the zone playoffs are listed in the chart below. **It is vital that anyone interested in participating in the Winter Games register with the contact person at least ten days prior to the playoff date.** Age categories vary depending on the activity.

| Activity | Date | Contact Number |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Alpine Skiing | December 14 | Bruce Foy 780-436-7142 |
| Badminton* | November 13 | Jimmy Choo 780-456-5405 |
| Carpet Bowling | November 23 | Marjorie Ferguson 780-469-2215 |
| Cross-Country Skiing * | December 11 | Marshall Yarencio 780-434-1754 |
| Darts* | October 30 | Albert Hancock 780-454-4911 |
| Duplicate Bridge | November 2 | Don Holtom 780-475-8252 |
| Euchre | January 14 | Lyle Waun 780-475-2166 |
| Five-Pin Bowling* | Playoff information will be made available through the Club 55+ Program Director at your local bowling alley. | |
| Hockey | December 10 | Gord Severin 780-430-6827 |
| Ice Curling | January 8-9 | Rollie Ulmer 780-466-4221 |
| Scrabble | November 12 | Lola McNeil 780-452-1513 |
| Snooker | November 1 | Walt Mollenkoph 780-469-0844 |
| Table Shuffleboard | November 25 | Lillian Matthews 780-455-4447 |

A thirty-dollar Alberta 55 Plus membership is necessary in order to participate in most of the playoffs. Please contact Derry Ingram (Zone 6 Membership Director) at 780-466-1731 or ingram10@telus.net for further membership information.

*The badminton, cross-country skiing, darts and five-pin bowling competitions will be run by members of their respective provincial sport associations. Membership in the specific sport association is a prerequisite in order to compete in the zone playoff in any one of the four named sports. Competitors who qualify to participate in the provincial Games will be required to purchase an Alberta 55 Plus membership as well when they complete their Games registration forms.

ERTA members who reside in Zone 5 (greater Edmonton area) are encouraged to telephone Vi Oko as soon as possible at 780-459-8013 for playoff dates and contact numbers.