



The Newsletter

November—December 2011

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President's Message

As I began writing for the November Newsletter I was reminded that Christmas is just two months away. One of the blessings of this pre-holiday time is the opportunity for me to take a minute to share the happenings of the CRTA Executive Board of Directors and other CRTA members who over recent months have been putting their best efforts into making our Branch a more viable and stimulating organization.

We are celebrating Gordon Cumming as the new president of the Alberta Retired Teacher's Association and the other Calgary members who are involved with ARTA committees and Executive Board positions. ARTA has hired a new Executive Director, who will be joining CRTA and CBE-REA members for the November Christmas Luncheon. Daniel Mulloy is very enthusiastic about his new position and is looking forward to meeting Calgary retired teachers.

Steppin'Out planning is quickly going forward. The May 11, 2012 conference at the Greenwood Inn will be more exciting, entertaining and informative than ever. Be sure to mark your calendars for that day.

Planning for the spending of the casino funds is well under way as your Directors consider worthwhile projects and events to meet the needs and aspirations of our members while staying within the guideline of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. Look for updates on this subject in the next

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Upcoming Events

GIFTS OF THE MAGI - Rosebud Theatre

November 23, 2011

Contact Marg Espetveid: rosebudcrta@gmail.com

STOMP Jubilee Auditorium

November 23, 2011

Contact Kathy Newman: newkat@shaw.ca

CRTA and CBE-REA Christmas Luncheon

November 30, 2011

Carriage House Inn

Registration details see page 2

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST—Jubilee Auditorium

New Year's Eve

Contact: Penny Archibald@hotmail.com

STEPPIN'OUT CONFERENCE

Greenwood Inn

May 11, 2012

ART SHOW

April 28, 2012 St. Andrew's United Church

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Newsletter. In the meantime CRTA members and acquaintances have been celebrating friendships and new experiences by planning to attend CRO rehearsals and Rosebud Theatre, STOMP and The Beauty and the Beast. Some of our artist-members are already at work to present their creative efforts at the next Art Show.

I am looking forward to the joint Christmas luncheon with CBE-REA on November 30th and the opportunity to make a contribution to the Calgary Foodbank. Let's share our good fortune.

My holiday wish for you, your family and good friends is a happy festive season with good times, enough to bless you through all of 2012.

Marg Brucker

"Maybe Christmas", he thought, "doesn't come from a store.

Maybe Christmas ...perhaps... means a little bit more."

Dr. Seuss "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"

CRTA and CBE-REA Christmas Luncheon

November 30, 2011—11:30 AM—2:00 PM

Carriage House Inn, Macleod Trail SE

Turkey Dinner

\$25.00 members—\$27.00 non-members

Entertainment by

Lord Beaverbrook Choir

Director Heidi Wood

Registration November 7 till November 18

crtaluncheon@gmail.com

Telephone: Fran Genereux 403-238-4906

Gaye-Ellen Shaw 403-730-0461

Mail you cheque to CRTA c/o Fran Genereux,
132 Oakfield Place, Calgary T2V 0J2

Cheques must be received by Tuesday, November 22. Cancellations and registrations no later than

November 18, 2011.

If you are a member of both CRTA and CBE-REA, register with ONE group only.

Any dietary restrictions should be mentioned in the e-mail or the phone message.

A larger room, the Main Ballroom has been selected for this event with tables for eight.

Sorry, no walk-ins accepted.

Door Prize Winner September 25 Luncheon

One Year CRTA Membership

Bev Cumming

A CRTA Christmas Luncheon

Gloria Rasmussen

Cards by Ev Keddy

Dennis Ming

A Bottle of Wine Compliments of CRTA

Audrey Wirtzfield

Coffee from Bell's Café and Spice Tea from Galleria

Margaret Rose Best

Scarf by Catrina Loman

Ev Keddy

Blackfoot Dinner for Two

Don Williams

Scarf from The Scottish Shop

Jennifer ???

Catrina Loman Cards

Christine???

The Social Committee apologises not having recorded the last names of the last two winners.

When shopping at our donors, do not forget to acknowledge their generosity to CRTA.

CRTA wants to thank Penny Archibald for stepping forward to take over the booking of **Broadway Across Canada** shows from Kathy Newman. Tickets for **Beauty and the Beast** are available by writing a cheque for \$34.00 made out to CRTA and mailing it to Penny Archibald, 4943 Huntwick Hill NE, Calgary, T2K 4G9 Phone 403-295-3528

*Let Us Take A Moment To Remember
Those Colleagues Who Passed Away*

Kay Stelck	September 10
Phyllis Hope Tisdall, nee Milligan	September 15
Muriel Dean Lucy Anderson, nee Barlow	September 16
Betty Marie Loudon, nee Christensen	September 25
Dolores Mary Belinsky, nee Schultz	September 25
Linda Christine White	September 28
Hannah Eunice Helen Ralston,	October 11
Dennis Seaman	October 13
Helen Swartz-Cook, nee Long	October 16
Thomas Hutton	November 3
Floyd Sweet, Past-President of ARTA, passed away in Vermillion September 30	

The membership year for CRTA runs from July 1 until June 30 the following year. Many of our members have renewed theirs already for \$20.00. If you have not yet done so, you have the opportunity to renew, or become a brand new member on November 30 at the Christmas dinner.

Also a membership can be bought on line with a credit card by going through the ARTA website and finding the CRTA button.

Some Thoughts from the Desk of Nick Gass

The feminine gender has long been numerically superior to males in the teaching profession, but those fewer males worked just as hard and cared just as much for their charges. What happened in retirement? The females of our profession upon their retirement fill their new found free time by joining in great numbers various organizations including CRTA, where they continue to contribute their knowledge, expertise and caring to the welfare and wellbeing of their retired colleagues. But I ask myself, "What happened to all the retired male teachers?" They can't possibly all be out on the golf course all the time; they can't all be in Arizona or California or Las Vegas at the same time.

Yes, the CRTA is a somewhat political organization. Necessarily so. The non-squeaking wheel captures little grease. CRTA has had a few successes, perhaps too few, but we need to demonstrate with numbers to make anyone listen. We also need you for you ideas, socialization and small chores. Standing back and throwing brickbats just gets you blindsided. Currently, female members far outnumber male members and that shouldn't be.

You may have noticed that there has been a sea of change on the political scene in Alberta. We sorely need to demonstrate to our new premier that we are worthy of her confidence and support and for that objective we need to demonstrate a better male/female balance and greater numbers. With other provincial organizations for seniors we want to continue to protect and lobby for the interest of retirees in Alberta. Do not think, "That is the role for ARTA". CRTA, although a branch of ARTA is a autonomous society that can initiate and follow through on matters that concern retirees.

Therefore I ask our female members to accept, as you solemn duty, to unloose you womanly wiles on the guys and persuade just one male to join CRTA (more females also heartily accepted). For none is going to listen to a numerically weak organization, even if they are sympathetic. Big companies are not permitting to let any grass growing under their feet—how about you?

Your humble servant and long time teacher advocate
Nick Gass

Travel News

A Vacation to

Italian Lake Country and Greek Islands

The last day to register for this holiday will be February 1, 2012. The price for the tour was \$3749.00 per person based on double occupancy for an inside cabin on the Norwegian Cruise Line ship "Jade". This price may change due to the airfare portion included in it.

The Collette Vacation offers 3 days in the Lake Country of Northern Italy, Lago Maggiore, Como, Stresa, one day in Venice and a 7 day cruise to the Greek Islands. Stops on this leg of the tour include Corfu, Santorini, Mykonos, Katakolon (Olympia). The return to Italy includes Venice and Lake Garda. An outside cabin upgrade is priced at \$310.00 per person.

If you would like to join the group traveling on this excursion, please contact Don or Mary Checkley at checklem@telusplanet.net or 403-271-1193. Friends of CRTA members are welcome.

Watch for a **CRTA e-mail blast** about a Collette on – line presentation of this tour scheduled for **November 23 at 11:00 AM**. Information about connecting to the web link will be included in the e-mail blast.

Mary and Don Checkley have used their extra time since retirement to become experienced travel tour organizers.

If you would like to travel with a group in Alberta, or anywhere in North America, they are willing to do the research needed and try to get a group together through CRTA connections.

You can contact them by using the information in Travel News. One doesn't have to be a retired teacher or a CRTA member to join in these excursions.

TAKE NOTE

Significant change is about to occur to the Canada Pension Plan before 2012 is upon us. Canadians who have already started to receive CPP and are not going to be working in the future will not be affected by these changes. However, for the rest of us the following changes will apply:

- The monthly amount will increase for those waiting until after age 65 to receive CPP. The longer you wait, the more you get until age 70.
- The monthly amount will decrease for those taking CPP between ages 60-65.. The sooner you begin, the less you will receive.
- You will not have to stop working in order to begin receiving CPP
- If you are under 65, receiving CPP and still working, you and your employer will have to continue making CPP contributions. This will increase your benefit later.
- If you are between 65-70 you can choose to continue to make CPP contributions. If you contribute, then your employer has to do so as well. This will increase your benefit when you begin to receive it.
- A longer period of low earning years will be excluded from your CPP benefit calculation. This too will increase your benefit.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

May God Bless You and Yours throughout 2012