



# The Newsletter

March—April 2010

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## Message From The President

*Marg Brucker*

As we get closer to the warmer temperatures of springtime, we can look back on the cold days of winter and remember our activities more fondly. February 12th was a warm sunny day providing a cheery background for our CARTA Valentine Tea at the Varsity Community Centre. Jeannie McCauley, Kay Samphire and other members of the Social Committee provided great food, a comfortable setting and lively music to help CARTA members and guests enjoy an opportunity to share holidays, both achieved and planned, and catch up on current happenings in everyone's lives. We were fortunate to have Paul Miller and Kathy Cook, a talented duo, entertaining us with their special music and songs. Thank you Kathy Newman for arranging this treat for us.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the University of Calgary Food Bank. You made a difference in the lives of many hungry students.

While some of us were enjoying our tea, fruit and squares, several CARTA Executive members represented our organization at the Teachers' Convention. For a number of years now CARTA, together with CBE-REA share a booth on the Convention's Displays Floor where they have the opportunity to share the benefits of being a member of the these two organizations and ARTA with teachers who are contemplating retirement in the near future.

On a more serious note, the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association and specifically the Benefits

### *Calgary Retired Teachers' Art Show*

St. Andrew's United Church  
924 Heritage Drive SW  
Saturday, March 27, 2010  
10:00 am—4:00 pm  
Door Prizes and Refreshments  
Cheques and cash only, please

### *"Steppin' Out 2010" A Conference for Retired Colleagues and Friends*

Daltons Conference Centre  
(Greenwood Inn)  
3515-26 Street NE  
Friday, April 30, 2010

### *Annual CARTA Barbecue*

Varsity Community Centre  
4303 Varsity Drive NW  
Friday, June 11, 2010  
Doors open at 11.00 am  
\$21.00 for members  
\$23.00 for non-members  
Entertainment: Diamond Ridge

Committee has been meeting over the last few months to discuss the concerns of the retired teachers about Health Care Reform and the Alberta Government's new Pharmaceutical Strategy. I would urge you **NOT** to enrol in the Government's Drug Plan until you have received ARTA's information on the revised plan design provisions for prescription drugs, extended health care and travel benefits to be effective July 1, 2010. Go to the ARTA website: [www.albertarta.org](http://www.albertarta.org) where you will find more information on proposed changes to seniors' pharmaceutical coverage and the ramifications for retired teachers.

You will find information on the upcoming CRTA Art Show 2010 in this newsletter. Irene Bruzga and her committee are hard at work contacting artists and making all the arrangements to guarantee this event will be as fabulous as last year's and word has it that it will be even better. Mark your calendar and make plans to be at St. Andrew's United Church on March 27.

What would April be without the "Steppin' Out 2010" Conference at the Dalton Conference Centre in the Greenwood Inn? Your CRTA Conference Committee will be offering you at least 20 sessions centered on members' interests and passions. The committee has dedicated untold hours to planning this special day to invigorate and inspire everyone who attends. Register early and be present. You won't regret your decision. I will look forward to seeing many of you there.

***The CRTA Social Committee works hard at providing you with quality dinners by negotiating with various hotels and Community Centres. It is difficult to keep the price for a served dinner, including gratuities (now up to 18%) down to \$25.00 per plate. If any of our members have suggestions or know of "good deals" contact Jeannie McCauley, 403-275-8025 or Kay Samphire 403-242-0289. Also these ladies work at providing the door prizes at the Luncheons. It would be much appreciated if you mention that, when you drop in at one of our sponsors, that you heard about their business from CRTA. Any ideas for door prizes? Again contact Jeannie or Kay.***

## ***More Dates to Remember***

### ***Fall Luncheon and General Meeting***

Blackfoot Inn  
5940 Blackfoot Trail SE  
September 29, 2010  
Doors open at 11:00 am  
Members \$25.00  
Non-Members \$27.00

### ***Christmas Luncheon***

Carriage House Inn  
9030 MacLeod Trail SW  
December 8  
Doors open at 11:00 am  
Member \$25.00  
Non-Members \$27.00  
Entertainment: The Lord Beaverbrook  
High School Choir

## ***Membership Renewal***

***\$15.00 for one year, if bought before September 1, after that date \$20.00***

The CRTA membership year runs from July 1 till June 30 of the following year. Teachers who retired June 30, 2009, have had a year of free membership. CRTA urges you to become a full paid-up member of our organization. There is strength in numbers, which is again especially important with the continued chipping away at seniors' benefits. CRTA liaises with other Seniors Groups in Calgary to make our collective concerns known to the Government. Current members, please renew your membership by sending your cheque to:

Garry Jeffrey  
4412 Brentwood Green  
Calgary AB  
T2L-1L4

*Door Prizes And More Door Prizes*

*Christmas Luncheon*

*December 9, 2009*

**CRTA Luncheon Ticket**

Barb Smith

**CRTA Door and One Year Membership**

Sharon Terray

**Scarf by Catrina Loman**

Garfield Anderson

**Johnson Inc.**

**Teaset**

Marjorie Kushnir

**The Wilderdest Dream Cafe**

**Two \$25.00 Gift Certificates**

Christine Andrew

Jeanette Veale

**Jacqueline Suzanne's Bistro**

**A \$25 Gift Certificate**

Mary Tyrrell

**Carriage House Inn**

**Two Brunch Tickets**

Bernice Gaetz

**Cherry Four**

**A Plush Bunny**

Fran Hill

**Handmade Cards by Ev Keddie**

Charlie Grant

**Galleria Inglewood**

Marilyn Grant

**ARTA Calendar Dairies**

**Presented by Don Mock**

Nick Gass

Audrey Wirzfeld

Ena Beunder

Gordon Ashley-Smith

**Johnson Inc.**

**Notebook**

Marion Kinney

*Valentine Tea*

*February 11*

**Chocolates**

Eleanor Morris

Mary Checkley

Sheena Banks

Sherrie MacRae

**Pot of Tulips**

Sandra Rocks

Trudi Stebert

**Scarf by Catrina Loman**

Sheila Rocks

**Plush Monkey and Kahlua Chocolates**

Don Checkley

**An Important Message from Ena Beunder Monitor of**

**[crt2009@calgaryretiredteachers.ca](mailto:crt2009@calgaryretiredteachers.ca)**

From time to time I receive a request via [CRTA2009@calgaryretiredteachers.ca](mailto:CRTA2009@calgaryretiredteachers.ca) to bring the sender into contact with one of our members. Under **NO** circumstance will I release a member's e-mail address. The e-mail

containing the request, I forward to our member, who can then determine to answer it or to ignore it. I notify the sender, that I have forwarded his/her request.

### COMPANION TRAVELERS

Juliette Hachey, one of CRTA's executive members has indicated that she would be willing to receive names of people (male-female), who would like to travel, but often find that traveling alone costs much more than making bookings for couples. Juliette has a list of names of people looking for a travel companion. You may leave your e-mail address with Juliette and she will send you her list. It is up to the interested party(ies) to establish further contact.

### CALGARY NORMAL SCHOOL

Millie Foster is writing her mother's history. Her mother, who was born in 1920, remembers attending the Normal School in Calgary for grades 1 to 3, while her aunt did teacher training there around 1941. Millie is trying to get more information about this school. Was it a training school for teachers, where children attended as well? Her contact with CBE to find some answers was not very fruitful. If you have any knowledge about this subject, please contact Millie at 403-271-7675 or by e-mail [foster@telusplanet.net](mailto:foster@telusplanet.net)

### KERBY CENTRE

Kerby Centre invites you to attend the Annual General Meeting and **Old Fashioned Radio Show** on March 24 at 10 o'clock to discover the challenges and achievements of the past year. Kerby Centre will showcase its programs and services and have many retro themed booths and displays for you to visit.

### ALBERTA INSTITUTE FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, MADDEN AB

This institute (AIWC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to wildlife conservation through rehabilitation EDUCATION and research.

AIWC is seeking enthusiastic educators to teach all ages, ranging from kindergarten up to university undergrads and veterinary students about various wildlife related topics. Educators are required to present a single one hour program per month. A reasonable stipend per program presented is offered. Contact Tara Tamasi 403-946-2361 or e-mail [volunteer@aiwc.ca](mailto:volunteer@aiwc.ca)

### REQUEST FOR STUDY PARTICIPANTS

Lisa Baker is a health educator with Alberta Health Services—Cancer Care. Her group is conducting a study on colon cancer screening educational materials. The goal of this study is to determine how educational resources help people make choices about colon cancer screening. They are recruiting Calgarians aged 50-70 to assist in evaluating these materials.

Ms. Baker feels that CRTA is an ideal group from which to recruit volunteers. If you would like to help with this project, contact by e-mail: [lisa.baker@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:lisa.baker@albertahealthservices.ca) or by phone 403-521-3426 or 403-472-2463

### *Let's Take A Moment To Remember Those Colleagues Who Passed Away*

<i>Ava Stevens</i>	<i>June 6</i>
<i>Ethel Laverne Eroshinsky</i>	<i>November 18</i>
<i>George Ralph Jorginson</i>	<i>November 19</i>
<i>Alice Margaret Crabb</i>	<i>November 24</i>
<i>Helen Margaret McNeil</i>	<i>November 27</i>
<i>Judith Ann Yaunish</i>	<i>November 28</i>
<i>Mary "Carmel" Schwab</i>	<i>November 29</i>
<i>Maie Hiroko Dustin</i>	<i>December 1</i>
<i>Elvetta Marie (Tommie) Thompson</i>	<i>December 16</i>
<i>Margaret Katherine Arnold</i>	<i>December 25</i>
<i>James Lawrence Way</i>	<i>January 9</i>
<i>Mary Olive Bur</i>	<i>January 1</i>
<i>Alain Michaud</i>	<i>January 24</i>
<i>Barbara Laura Love</i>	<i>February 18</i>
<i>Annick Marie Odette Josset</i>	<i>February 24</i>

*If you know of a teacher who passed away and was not recognized by CRTA, please contact Ena Beunder at [crta2009@calgaryretiredteachers.ca](mailto:crta2009@calgaryretiredteachers.ca)*

**Recruit a new member. Together we can be a formidable voice that advocates for the interests of retired teachers.**

## CURMUDGEON'S CORNER

Nick Gass

So my little article in the previous newsletter stirred up some of us. Good! Feedback suggests that it was kind of fun, not to mention that I got two new members and a renewal. Will this be the end? I will attempt to editorialize a bit of controversy and ask for your reaction. There is opportunity for input. If you feel that my style is better suited for a stage or screen production, or the blue box, please feel free to say so, or anything else to which you may take exception, or even agree with.

If you are anything like me, you may sometimes get upset with the banal manner in which the ATA News presents even critical items. Yes, there is a "Stop the Cuts" campaign in place, but the house is on fire! Scott Seville used to refer to the ATA as a "paper tiger". Little did he know! But we really aren't ATA anymore, or so they tell us. Where did this idea that retirement ended our commitment to education come from? I was in the classroom for 31 years and I'm not a teacher anymore?

Teachers have always been in the forefront of social commentary. "Good for us" I heard you say. Well...? Just where were we when it all began to come apart at the seams? Me included! A recent article in The Economist magazine on private schools in Britain and the USA, stated that private schools had never gained much traction in Canada, because Public Schools were so good. Well, I guess that we can kiss goodbye to that idea in Alberta. A conversation the other day revealed a classroom with 35 kids, 14 of whom were coded. Not a whole lot of education going on there, I guess. But one must destroy what is working (Public Education), if one is to change it (Private Schooling) - Remember Medicare?

Our introspective question might be: have we been complicit in the process? Many teachers regard themselves as apolitical, because one must work effectively under whatever regime is in power. But perhaps in a single party state, that may not be such a great stance to take. I mean that the most educated segment of society is opting out. Perhaps that might even have something to do with the state of the good ship: Education. Just what is it that we worked our whole lives for? How does the

institutionalised narcissism of the computer age fit into our perception of the corporate New World Order; Mephistopheles? "The price of freedom truly is eternal vigilance"! Have we been asleep at the switch? Or, is it that the task seems so impossible? Should one actually throw in the towel without a bit of struggle? But then it really is a heart and soul thing, is it not? If we don't care, "Bob's your uncle!"

Any comments are welcomed by Nick Gass, who takes full responsibility for this article.  
403-282-6179 or jeannick@telusplanet.net

THE NEWSLETTER invites any other members to submit an article on a topic that is dear to their heart. It may be either in rebuttal to Nick's words or to open up another debate. Send it to [crtanewsletter@calgaryretiredteachers.ca](mailto:crtanewsletter@calgaryretiredteachers.ca)

**CALGARY RETIRED TEACHERS'  
ART SHOW AND SALE  
St. Andrew's United Church  
924 Heritage Drive SW  
Saturday, March 27  
10:00 am—4:00 pm**

The CRTA is hosting the second annual **ART SHOW AND SALE**, showcasing the talents of retired teachers and friends. Come view the display of art by the many talented artists who are participating. Light refreshments and door prizes will be provided.

While limited parking is available adjacent to St. Andrew's Church, there is also ample additional parking at the LSD church directly south across the street. The venue is wheelchair accessible.

**We appreciate cash or cheques only for purchases made.**

### **CRTA PENSION COMMITTEE**

Jean Crawford, Jim Weed, Ralph Levinson and Chuck Rose are longstanding members of the Pension Committee. They have done the "heavy lifting". Is there someone amongst our membership, who is interested in relieving one or two of the members? [crawfordjean@shaw.ca](mailto:crawfordjean@shaw.ca)



# CruisePlus

From the desk of Shelley Good

As the CEO of Cruise Management I look forward to joining you at the 2010 “Steppin-Out” Conference on April 30. For those of you who may not have met me last year, you will very quickly realize that I am very passionate about cruising and know that I am lucky to love what I do!

My goal is to get you as excited about travel as I am. Now that you are retired, it’s time to enjoy life and relax and see the world. Imagine the sun set over turquoise seas and waking up to a new, exotic destination every morning.

There have been so many changes in the cruising world over the past year and I will walk you through the “what’s new” and the “what’s hot” in the industry. If you are new to cruising and have lots of questions, you’ll find Cruising 101 a very informative resource. During Cruising 101, you will learn about the distinguishing feature that differentiate the cruise lines and the exciting itineraries that are sure to awaken your inner travel bug!



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\*\$300 per couple. Choose from over 30 tours.

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\*\$300 off per couple/\$150 off per person offer is valid on new air-inclusive bookings only  
on Collette tour to Europe made between 2/3/10 and 5/31/10



The following organizations are sponsors for our “Steppin-Out 2010” Conference

- ARTA
- JOHNSON INC
- COLLETTE VACATIONS
- VIA RAIL
- PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
- ALBERTA LOTTERY BOARD
- CRTA