

CRTA
Suite 337
305—4625 Varsity Drive
Calgary AB
T3A 0Z9

E-mail:
cрта@calgaryretiredteachers.ca

www.calgaryretiredteachers.ca



Calgary
Retired
Teachers'
Association

CRTA Executive 2006-2007

President
 Charles Rose 288-5266

Vice-Presidents
 Jean Hutchinson 282-6179
 Gordon Cumming 288-5731

Past-President
 Marj Weerstra 251-9742

Secretary
 Lois Marchand 271-3036

Treasurer
 Paul Demers 286-8338

Membership
 Garry Jeffrey 289-2807

Newsletter
 Ena Beunder 288-3895

Technology
 Erich Berndt 286-2240
 Glen Roszel 293-2235

Social
 Irene Bruzga 255-4395
 Sheena Banks 251-0172

Pensions
 Jean Crawford 247-3664
 Mike Allen 281-4081

Benefits
 Ralph Levinson 948-3691

Members-at-Large
 Brad Adams 247-1268
 David Baker 242-6046
 Sandra Dunfield 281-6477
 Shirley Holmlund 271-3036
 Ron Nikiforuk 271-2854
 Jim Weed 239-4564

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2007

SPRING LUNCHEON

Wednesday April 11, 2007

Silver Springs Golf and Country Club
1600 Varsity Estates Drive NW

Cost: \$25.00 per person, including GST and gratuities.
PORK will be served

Confirm attendance between April 2 and April 5
Email: luncheons@calgaryretiredteachers.ca
Or

Phone one of the phone volunteers listed below.

Names starting with	Contact	Telephone number
A, B	Bernice Gaetz	252-5781
C, D	Earl Larden	281-5722
E, F, G	Tanis Lefroy	251-6214
H., J	Julie Biggs	249-1999
K, L	Mimi Hogaboam	288-2792
M, N, O	Gloria Rasmussen	271-3579
P, Q, R	Marion Kinney	271-1344
S	Marg Brucker	241-0244
T, U, V	Dave Thompson	249-9086
W, X, Y, Z	Marlene Marchand	271-3036

CRTA is looking for members to join the Executive as Members-at-Large. As you will read on page 3, our role is expanding and more hands are needed to serve our membership well. Consider assisting the very busy retirees, who are currently on the Board, during the next executive year 2007-2008. Phone Marj Weerstra or Ena Beunder for further information.

LUNCHEON NOTES

You are responsible for the cost of the luncheon once you have confirmed your attendance, even if you do not attend the luncheon.

When registering please be sure to indicate any dietary restrictions you may have. At the luncheon make your server aware that you have had a special plate prepared for you.

When registering please include your first and last name, as well as your phone number and e-mail address, where applicable. If registering for a friend or a guest, be sure to do the same. This will ensure that a name-tag has been prepared for you.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Santa greeted 135 members and guests at the Carriage House on December 13. Our thanks go out to Heidi Woods, director of the Lord Beaverbrook Choir and the members of the choir who presented a lovely and greatly appreciated program of music for all to enjoy.

During the business meeting,

- Dean McMullen, president of ARTA, brought greetings.
- CRTA passed a motion to contribute \$500 to the Catherine Nicholls Gunn Elementary program for the children of Inn from the Cold and to contribute \$500 to the Woods Home—The Exit Program
- Members were thanked for their contribution to the Veterans' Foodbank.
- Gordon Cummings announced plans for a Retired Teachers' Convention in April 2007

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS DECEMBER 2006

Heritage House Publishing
Book: Far Pastures
Helen Shworak

Annual membership CRTA
Diane Vogt

Calgary Zoo
2 passes to Zoolites
Eileen Thurlow

Flowers courtesy CRTA
Edna McNeil
Mary Tyrrell
Sharon Norem

CRTA Luncheon Door Prize
Al Snider

Glenbow Museum
Two Passes
Jeannette Veal

Heritage Park
Two Passes to
Twelve Days of Christmas
Patricia Edgar

Carriage House Inn
Two Brunch Tickets
Mary Lou Dewar

Johnson Insurance
Travel Blanket
Joyce Hunter

A letter was received from the Calgary Poppy Fund thanking our organization for its contribution.

CRTA CONTINUES TO GROW AND DEVELOP

Dr. Charles Rose, President

For approximately forty years, the CRTA has served member needs for affiliation and social networking. Today, however, we are challenged to address additional issues as the Calgary region grows, changes, becomes more complex and the 'boomer generation' enters what was once called the 'golden years'.

We are finding that people are retiring earlier. The average age for teachers is 57. Retirees are living longer and are generally more active. They do not view themselves as 'old' and are looking for new challenges and opportunities. At the same time, some are faced with a challenging range of personal, family, social and financial circumstances.

Health and wellness issues have become paramount, as has the need for re-educating people to a broadened concept of senior living and to the potential for continuing to utilize the many talents possessed by retirees.

In response to those needs and others expressed by our members, CRTA objectives are changing. We continue to serve member needs for social interaction and fellowship. We strive to reach new retirees, to serve those who have been retired for some time and especially, to connect with those who may be at risk. Our intent is to encourage retirees to resist isolation, to live healthy, active lives and to offer an alternative perspective on retirement in which they continue to be productive, contributing members of the community.

We also aim to facilitate communication between retired teachers and organizations offering services to retirees, as well as those requiring the services and talents possessed by many of our members.

In order to pursue these goals, we applied for status as a registered, incorporated society. We were granted that status on August 3rd, 2006.

There are a number of advantages to incorporating as a registered society.

- A society has a more definite and permanent status than an unincorporated group.
- A society is able to apply for government grants.
- A society may be entitled to tax benefits as a registered charity.
- A society may hold title to property and contract in its own name.
- A member of a society cannot be held responsible for a debt of the society.

As such, we have begun a number of projects, the most recent of which is a convention for retired teachers to be held on April 26th. Entitled "Steppin' Out 2007", the program is directed at wellness issues, financial matters, travel, fun, fitness and the like. Our advanced registration has reached the 100 mark.

We have also begun a travel partnership with Collette Travel. We look forward to some exciting opportunities for retired teachers, their friends, colleagues and other retirees.

The CRTA is also a branch of the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) and with that organization, addresses pension issues as well as member needs for a variety of insurance coverage, including Extended Health Care, Dental Coverage, Out-of-Province

Travel, Property and Vehicle insurance. Additional membership benefits will be announced shortly. In order to participate in the insurance plan, ARTA membership is required

Little needs to be said about our work to affect the return of LTD funds and other surplus moneys. We continue to await the court process in which the matter is embroiled.

In summary, it is an exciting time to be a part of CRTA. Our membership olds steady, around 800, with the expectation that between 400 and 600 new retirees will be eligible to join us in the fall.

A special thank you to those who serve as Executive members/Directors for our group and whose leadership allows us to pursue the aforementioned goals and objectives.

Thank you, our members, for you ongoing support and commitment. We encourage you to keep in touch with us, to address issues or concerns by e-mailing or phoning and above all, keep the suggestions and creative ideas for CRTA flowing.

**HOW TO REACH
SILVERSPRINGS GOLF
AND
COUNTRY CLUB**

By Car

Follow Crowchild Trail NW to Dalhousie Station, 53rd Street. Stay in the right hand lane. Go South over the overpass. Turn right unto Varsity Estates Drive. SSG&CC is on the left hand side.

By Bus

Travel to Dalhousie Station and take bus 22. It leaves Dalhousie Station at 11:13 AM. There is a bus stop at SSG&CC This bus goes only once an hour. You can also get off the C-train at Brentwood Station and take bus 122. It leaves there at 10:13 and takes you to your destination just before 11 o'clock.

**LET US REMEMBER THOSE
COLLEAGUES WHO SERVED
CALGARY STUDENTS AND
PASSED AWAY RECENTLY**

<i>Mary Shkuratoff</i>	<i>November 21</i>
<i>Carol Bates</i>	<i>December 13</i>
<i>George Garbutt</i>	<i>December 13</i>
<i>Patricia Curtis</i>	<i>December 13</i>
<i>Dorothy Gregory</i>	<i>December 16</i>
<i>Marion Hanson</i>	<i>December 23</i>
<i>William Arnold</i>	<i>December 25</i>
<i>Buffy Ainsworth</i>	<i>December 27</i>
<i>Francene Snukal</i>	<i>January 7</i>
<i>Nelda Lipman</i>	<i>January 9</i>
<i>Siobhan O'Toole</i>	<i>January 10</i>
<i>Marmie Longair</i>	<i>January 18</i>
<i>Father William Moran</i>	<i>January 18</i>
<i>Mary Poffenroth</i>	<i>January 18</i>
<i>Ray Rutz</i>	<i>January 24</i>
<i>Nathan O'Hare</i>	<i>January 31</i>
<i>Deirdre Wandler</i>	<i>February 4</i>
<i>June Willms</i>	<i>February 4</i>
<i>Bernice Gibb</i>	<i>February 18</i>
<i>Hazel Stonehouse</i>	<i>February 18</i>
<i>Mary Wiggins</i>	<i>February 22</i>
<i>Joan Sumner</i>	<i>February 23</i>
<i>Mary Stevenson Hood</i>	<i>March 4</i>
<i>Edith L.Hemphill</i>	<i>March 9</i>
<i>David S. Kennedy</i>	<i>March 12</i>
<i>David J. Anderson</i>	<i>March 13</i>
<i>C.Douglas Holeton</i>	<i>March 21</i>

**Belverdere-Parkway Elementary
School Reunion.
August 17 and 18, 2007**

If you were a student, teacher, secretary, principal or facility operator at Belverdere – Parkway from 1965-1971 WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!! Please contact: Karen Clayton @ 247-4969 or Charlene Grimm @ 288-1394

CRTA TRAVEL AFFINITY PROGRAM

CRTA is continuously seeking products and services that are of particular relevance to our members and enhance benefits. We recognized leisure travel as an area that would complement current benefits.

Management searched for an escorted tour operator whose travelers matched our member profile, delivered on value, product, price and service. Collette Vacations met the criteria.

Collette Vacations is a family owned company founded in 1918. In addition to its U.S. headquarters in Rhode island, Collette also operates offices in London, England , Toronto and Vancouver.

For 89 years, Collette has been a leader in the travel industry and offers quality escorted tours to premier destinations on all continents. Collette creates and builds its own tours. Travelers can choose from land tours and cruises, educational and faith-based travel, exciting adventures and relaxing getaways. Their tours feature high quality, centrally-located accommodations, enriching cultural experiences, many included meals and features, top-notch entertainment and memorable dining experiences that reflect the flavour of a destination.

With an air-inclusive Collette vacation, travelers receive complimentary airport to hotel and hotel to airport transfers at the beginning and end of a tour. Collette Tour Managers are full time employees who ensure a safe, educational and fun journey. Collette understands the needs of the mature traveler and ensures those needs are met.

We are pleased to announce that CRTA has secured member discounts on Collette Vacations escorted tours.

tions escorted tours.

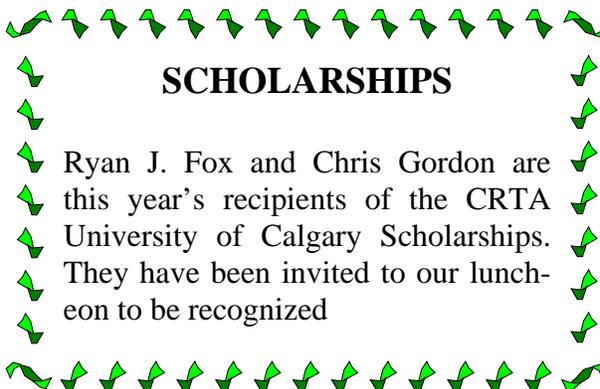
CRTA MEMBER DISCOUNT

- Land and river cruise discount 7%
- Air discount 7%
- Ocean cruises and Smithsonian Journeys Travel Adventures 5%

Above discounts are extended to family and friends of CRTA members.

Members can call Collette's Reservations at 1-800-468-5955 and speak with a Collette Vacations Reservations staff member.

A pamphlet is included with this newsletter that features 8 exciting Collette tours. For more information on other Collette Vacations escorted tours visit www.collettevacations.com



SCHOLARSHIPS

Ryan J. Fox and Chris Gordon are this year's recipients of the CRTA University of Calgary Scholarships. They have been invited to our luncheon to be recognized

MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM JULY 1 TO JUNE 30.

NO MEDICAL EXAM NEEDED when new retirees join ARTA's Johnson Insurance plan within three months after employer insurance runs out.

REQUESTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

CITY OF CALGARY PARKS

The City of Calgary Parks values volunteer contributions to their programs and facilities. They encourage volunteers of all backgrounds, abilities and experience to contact them to learn about what they have to offer. They will help you find a role to suit your lifestyle and time commitment.

Volunteer opportunities range from a brief, one-time-only two-hour commitment, to a weekly commitment on a year round basis. Volunteer opportunities are available in every area of the city. Currently there are positions available for Volunteer Park Rangers (greet the public with informative brochures, maps and rewards for those who are setting a good example for other park users), Adopt-a-Park (help maintain and care for green spaces, parks, flower beds or natural areas in your community) and the Neighbour-Woods program (general monitoring, watering care, planting and pest/insect management of residential street trees)

If any of the above items spark you interest, find out more by calling 311 or visit www.calgary.ca/parks. All volunteers are screened and receive an orientation, training and various forms of recognition.

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Calgary Public Library is looking for volunteers

1. who can help with ESL Conversation Groups that help new Canadians enhance their English conversation skills.
2. The Library also has volunteers positions for people who are interested in Career Coaching (job searching techniques),

3. deliver reading materials to homebound readers,
4. work with children in Grades 3-6 to develop reading skills and
5. assist struggling children in Grade 1-6 to discover the magic of reading

Contact Azmin Poonja, Central Library, Ph.260-2629

TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE AND CREATIVE KIDS MUSEUM

This organization needs experienced people, like retired teachers, to join its volunteer team of over 100 participants to further the educational experience of children and visitors.

It is very interested in potential volunteers who have some weekday time to spare. It offers flexible schedules that don't tie you down.

The Telus World of Science has run out of room and is ready to write the next chapter, therefore the centre is planning to open a new facility by the year 2011 which will see it double its size and programs offered. It needs help to prepare for this transition

For more information call 268-8339

The **CRTA Pension Committee** recently wrote a letter to Premier, Ed Stelmach, outlining concerns of our members and requesting a meeting with regard to:

1. the lack of voice with ATRF
2. The lack of Bridge Benefit
3. the effect of partial COLA
4. 1994-1995 Salary rollback
5. the unfunded liability