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Calgary
Retired
Teachers'
Association

CRTA Executive 2007-2008

President

Gordon Cumming 288-5731

Vice-Presidents

Marg Brucker 241 0244
 Jim Jarrell 281-3046

Past-President

Chuck Rose 288-5266

Secretary

Kathy Newman 288-4542

Treasurer

Paul Demers 286-8338

Directors

Garry Jeffrey 289-2807
 Membership

Ena Beunder 288-3895
 Newsletter

Greg Chitrenky 256-9364
 Website

Irene Bruzga 255-4395
 Sheena Banks 251-0172
 Social Conveners

Jean Crawford 247-3664
 Mike Allen 281-4081
 Pension Concerns

Ralph Levinson 948-3691
 Benefits

David Baker 242-6046
 Erich Berndt 286-2240
 Elizabeth Bourges 245-2035
 Juliette Hachey 279-7640
 Shirley Holmlund 271-3036
 Jean Hutchinson 282-6179
 Jeannie McCauley 275-8025
 Glen Roszel 293-2235
 Lorna Solaczek 255-6016
 Ron Nikiforuk 271-2854
 Jim Weed 239-4564

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Wednesday December 12, 2007

Carriage House Inn

9030 Macleod Trail S.W

Cost: \$25.00 per person, including GST and gratuities.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. No Host Bar

Confirm attendance between December 3 and 7

Email: confirmluncheon@gmail.com

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	Kay Samphire	271-3036

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS.

In order to stay in touch with CRTA do not forget to let info@calgaryretiredteachers.ca know of a change.

Message from the President

Greetings To All Of You

I am not sure if I can be quite as erudite as the last previous writer of this column, but the good news is that in the CRTA, an old Rose doesn't fade away. . . One becomes the Past-President and is always a quick phone call, or email away to dispense advice or provide information.

We are all in debt to Chuck for his commitment to retired teachers in this city and province. Under his leadership the range of activities sponsored by CRTA has expanded, as has representation to ARTA, ATA and the Provincial Government. Calgary retired Teachers' Association has become acknowledged as the 'Go-To' group if you want information on

Pensions, Benefits, Technology and Conferences . In particular, when seeking to correct and collect on past dues from employers CRTA has proven to be tenacious and ultimately successful.

As well, we need to give credit to the many other executive members that surrounded Chuck, and shared his passion and drive on your behalf. I will not try to name them all for fear of neglecting to name a member of the group. But they are all bright and shining lights.

In the manner of Ralph Klein, I will try to determine the direction the current, new and returning board members/directors are going ... sprint ahead... and pretend to be the leader.

Upcoming Highlights

Via this issue of the newsletter and via e-mail, you have received notice of the **Christmas Luncheon**. Good things are being planned by Irene Bruzga and her team. We hope to see you there!

Pre-Convention Tea

At this time there has been difficulty in confirming funding for this free activity. In the past the CCTCA sponsored this event, but can no longer do so due to budgetary restraints. Our committee, led by Shirley Holmlund, however, is persevering and investigating alternatives. When they have finalized a course of action, they will communicate to you by e-mail, as well as a notice on the Web site.

The Unfunded Liability and the Provincial Government

The potential resolution for the Unfunded Liability of the Teachers Retirement fund (TRF) is being studied closely by your Pension Committee. Although the plan tables addresses the major issue, there are still concerns for retired teachers:

- A) We need a place at the table and a voice in our pensions
- B) Bridge Benefits—no action has been taken to address the shortfall of benefits we receive until CPP eligibility at age sixty five
- C) Many members suffer diminished pensions because of the 5% Roll-Back

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Your committee has actively studied the current documents and highlights of this work are included in this issue.

From your executive, the Best of the Season to you and may 2008 bring health and happiness to you all.

Gordon Cummings.

FROM THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

PLEASE NOT THAT IF YOU HAVE NOT CANCELLED YOUR RESERVATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON PRIOR TO DECEMBER 10, YOU WIL BE EXPECTED TO PAY THE COST AS CRTA IS CHARGED ACCORDING TO THE CONFIRMED NUMBERS.

When registering please be sure to note any dietary restrictions you may have. At the luncheon make your server aware that you have had a special plate prepared for you. Please be sure to give your first and last name , as well as your telephone number.

If registering for a friend or guest be sure to do the same. This will ensure that a nametag has been prepared for you. Groups of 8 can also have a table reserved for them.

Every attendee will receive a Christmas gift in the form of their choice of a hard or soft covered book, This is still a part of our contribution to Servant's Anonymous.

**FROM THE DESK OF OUR TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT
Erich Berndt**

Please consider opting for delivery of your newsletter by e-mail. CRTA would save a considerable amount of money on postage and printing if more members would go this route. Also it would keep you connected to CRTA when away on "snowbird" vacations or travel-

ing. Currently only about 65% of those members who have submitted email address have opted to receive the Newsletter by email attachment.

Also, the current Newsletter will not be archived on the website until the next one is sent out.

Furthermore, in order to get the latest news on further de-mutualization refunds, updates of the pension committee's work, current job and volunteer opportunities, and early information on upcoming events, having an e-mail address on file with the membership director, Garry Jeffrey (gjeffrey@shaw.ca) is essential.

**FROM THE PENSION COMMITTEE
Jean Crawford**

As you are probably aware, the ATA and the Alberta Government have signed a memorandum of agreement regarding the unfunded liability in our pension plan.

To access the Memorandum of Agreement and the highlights of the agreement on the internet, go to

<http://www.education.alberta.ca/department/news/current/november/20071115.aspx>, look to the box at right and click on "Memorandum of Agreement" and also "Highlights of the Memorandum of Agreement in Principle".

The ATA website, www.teachers.ab.ca also offers information including a document entitled MOA Effects on Pension Contributions. Enter "MOA Effects on Pension contributions" in the Search space to find this docu-

ment.
 We recommend that all retired and active teachers read and study these documents.

You may also find on the internet The Report of the Education Minister’s Task force: www.education.alberta.ca/departement/ipr.aspx or www.education.alberta.ca/departement/ipr and then click on “Seeking Solutions: Report to the Minister of Education on the Teachers’ Unfunded liability”.

You must have installed **Adobe Reader** in order to read the documents. Adobe Reader is available free for all operating systems from www.adobe.com

REPORT OF FALL LUNCHEON

President Chuck Rose welcomed approximately 115 members and guests for the Fall Luncheon and first Annual General meeting held at the Dalton Conference Centre in the Greenwood Inn. Nina Tait began the luncheon by saying grace. Everyone enjoyed a delicious roast beef dinner, while visiting with friends and catching up on what happened over the summer.

A quorum was confirmed and the agenda for the meeting accepted.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Honorary Life Membership Posthumous

With great appreciation for his work in education and particularly in the ARTA, an Honorary Life membership in the Alberta Retired Teachers’ Association was granted to the late Gordon Vincent. On behalf of the Alberta Retired Teachers’ Association, CRTA Vice-President Gordon Cumming made the presentation to the Vincent family. In attendance to receive the honor were Ingrid Vincent and daughters Julie

Vincent, Ruth-Ann Manganaro, Geanine Robey and Cynthia Robey.

Life Achievement Award Posthumous

The CRTA presented a Life Achievement Award to the late Gordon Vincent in recognition of his outstanding service and leadership in education and to commemorate his contributions to the CRTA. On behalf of the Calgary Retired Teachers’ association, Gordon Branson made the presentations and along with President Chuck Rose, also presented Ingrid, Julie, Ruth-Ann, Geanine and Cynthia with an original Gregg Johnson water-colour painting.

CRTA Life membership

Past President Marj Weerstra was recognized for her lengthy service and outstanding leadership to the CRTA. On behalf of the membership Chuck Rose presented Marj with the certificate and an original Martha Henry glasswork

**DOOR PRIZE WINNERS
 OCTOBER 17, 2007**

**Lunch from CRTA
 Judy Stiert**

**One Year Membership CRTA
 Bev Cumming**

**Zoo Passes from Calgary Zoo
 Susan Myers**

**Park Pass from Heritage Park
 Joan McKenzie**

**Certificates from Sir Winston Churchill
 Cosmetology Department 777-7022
 Marlene Marchand
 Jim Jarrell
 Gordon Cumming**

**Honey from The Beehive 311-10 St. NW
 Elaine Cowley**

**Emergency Road Kit - Johnson Insurance
 Terry Allan**

MORE DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Flowers courtesy of CRTA
Ingrid Vincent
Shirley Gerling

Brunch Tickets donated by
Dalton's at the Greenwood Inn
Barbara Lengauer
And
???????????

If you know the name of the second lucky
recipient for brunch tickets please let
Irene Bruzga or Sheena Banks know.

**A REQUEST FROM THE SOCIAL CON-
VENERS**

Are there members out there who are will-
ing to help out Irene and Sheena with ideas
for door prizes? Please contact these hard
working ladies. Contact them by phone or
by e-mail bruzgav@hotmail.com and
smbanks@shaw.ca

BITS AND PIECES

The Calgary Poppy fund send us a Thank-
You letter for the food donation some of us
brought to the October luncheon.

Volunteers are always needed, especially
those who can teach. This time we will bring
to your attention the Calgary Catholic immi-
gration Society. This organization works
with people of all religious persuasions. They
have a need for teachers who can work with
adults and help them with developing skills
in reading and writing English. Please con-
tact Carolyn Arrell sreduc@cciscalgary.ab.ca

The Telus World of Science also would like
to find retirees who can help out with their
programs. Their hours are VERY flexible.

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

Sister Margaret Pilley, September 2

Marilyn Hamulka, October 1

Henry Vanetti, October 8

Marilyn Young, October 13

Patrick Gibson, October 16

Dorothy May Norton, October 22

Jean Ross, October 22

John Kovacic, October 24

Linda Burgess, November 13

Sister Mary-Jo Laffan, November 18

Helen Evelyn Baxter, November 21

If you are interested to find out more, call Con-
nie Cook at 268-8339.

Also visit our website where more volunteer
positions are listed.

Do you have a young relative who attends the
U of C in the Faculty of Education or is plan-
ning to go there? **Scholarship** money is avail-
able through a fund maintained by your CRTA.
One scholarship is awarded each year, up to a
value of \$2 800.

A committee has been struck to start the pre-
liminary work for putting on another Confer-
ence. The tentative date is April 29, 2008.

Some members of your executive are working on writing proposals to receive grants that will allow us to expand services to our membership. Stay tuned.

At the **last executive meeting** the Social conveners expressed concern with the prices hotels are charging for the use of a room in addition to the cost of a meal. They are trying to think of other places such as golf clubs and Community Halls where we could hold our lunches. The venue has to be able to accommodate a large number of people and have a commercial kitchen. If any of our members have good ideas on this subject, please make

contact with Irene Bruzga

Our **membership** director, Garry Jeffrey reported that we currently have 826 members. Tell your retired colleagues about CRTA. Together we form a force that can move pension issues, we sincerely hope.

Put January 9 on your calendar. That is the date Madam Justice Erb has set to rule on a dispute regarding a smaller amount of funds between the CBE and stakeholder groups of which CRTA is one.

Look on the internet for time and venue.



