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Www.calgaryretiredteachers.ca



Calgary
Retired
Teachers'
Association

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2006



FALL LUNCHEON

Wednesday October 11, 2006

Silver Springs Golf and Country Club
1600 Varsity Estates Drive NW

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

Confirm attendance between October 2 and 6

Email: luncheons@calgaryretiredteachers.ca

Or

Phone one of the phone volunteers listed below.

Surnames 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

THE JUNE LUNCHEON

Chuck Rose, our president, welcomed the guests. Those members who had served as phone contacts for luncheon confirmations were recognized and thanked. Prior to the serving of lunch, Nina Tait said grace.

After lunch, Erich Berndt and Glen Roszel were thanked for all their work in maintaining the CRTA Website. It was pointed out that the CRTA does not accept any liability for the Volunteer opportunities on the website in which members may participate.

There was an update on the work of the CRTA Pension Committee. The CRTA will be sponsoring two forums this fall, which will be advertised on the web site and in the newsletter.

The treasurer, Paul Demers, presented his report. He pointed out that escalating prices for our lunches has meant that some of the luncheons have had to be subsidized and may result in a need to increase lunch prices in the future.

Chuck Rose gave an update on the LTD monies and the number of people who had registered their name. The next court date has been set for June 28th at Court of Queen's Bench at 10:00 a.m. The distribution of the LTD money is still set for June 30, 2006.

Marj Weerstra presented the slate of officers for 2006-2007.

Don Williams and Friends entertained the luncheon crowd with a wide selection of songs that were thoroughly enjoyed by people as they quietly tapped their toes, smiled and laughed at the jokes and songs. It was a wonderful program to end our last luncheon before the summer holidays. We learned that our president is not only deft at running a meeting, but is also a formidable bass player.

See you all at our Fall Luncheon.
Submitted by Irene Bruzga

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Flowers from CRTA

Elsie Kushnir
Ann Ross

Calgary Gold Honey Products

Paul Demers 286-8338

10 Kg of Honey
Erich Berndt

Bar-U Historic Ranch

Highway 22 South

Bar-U Family Pass

Betty Rose
Sally Carr

Best Western Village Park Inn

Gift Certificate

Betty Fenerty

Heritage House Publishing

Www.heritagehouse.ca

Book

Mary Tillbrook

CRTA Luncheon Certificate

Nora Ming

One Year CRTA Membership

Lois Marchand

Johnson Insurance

Camping chair

Sheena Banks

***HELP US TO CONSERVE PAPER. REGISTER TO HAVE YOUR NEWS-
LETTER DELIVERED BY E-MAIL. Send your request to
erich@calgaryretiredteachers.ca. Erich Berndt will add your name to our
growing list of e-mail recipients.***

TEACHERS' GARAGE SALE

Lorraine Kupsch is organizing another garage sale. The event will take place again at Dr. E.P Scarlett High School. The date is October 14. For details please contact lorraine@costumesandsuch.com

ARTA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On October 4 representatives of ARTA's fifteen provincial branches will meet in Barnett House in Edmonton for the AGM. In the past two years the governance of ARTA has undergone a major revision., whereby now a Board of Directors, made up of branch representatives, gives direction as to the operation of ARTA. ARTA will be represented by Gordon Cummings, Ena Beunder, Irene Bruzga, Erich Berndt, Brad Adams and one other member. Paul Demers will attend in his function as treasurer for ARTA and Ralph Levinson as a member of the Pensions and Benefits Committee of ARTA..

PENSION INFORMATION MEETING

On September 20 about thirty people gathered at the Coast Plaza Hotel in NE Calgary to become better informed on issues concerning pensioners.

The meeting began with a summary of the work involved for members on the Pension Committees and the issues facing them. During lunch an informal discussion took place amongst the attendees. Afterwards the committee reviewed in detail the issues of unfunded liability, the problems with COLA (cost of living adjustment), or the lack thereof, the lack of a proper bridge benefit for retirees retiring at age 55 and the effect on pensions because of the 1994 salary rollback.

The meeting was also attended by four members of the Society of Pension Reform. They provided an update on their activities and their progress with legal action.

Another information meeting is scheduled for October 25 at the same location. Check our web site www.calgaryretiredteachers.ca for further information. or contact marjweerstra@shaw.ca

LET US REMEMBER THOSE COLLEAGUES WHO PASSED AWAY RECENTLY

Dale Arthur Bennett

John Kuzmar

Christine Welton

Laura Ellen Borgal

Zena Till

Besides the teachers mentioned above, several others passed away in June, July and August. Due to a computer crash those names are not available at this time.. If the names can be retrieved they will appear in the next newsletter. If you notice names that were missed, please be kind enough to mail them to cbeunder@shaw.ca. Your help is much appreciated.

LONG TERM DISABILITY SURPLUS ISSUE

The target date for the distribution of the LTD Surplus has now been set for October 30, 2006. However, courtroom antics also continue and with them, the potential for yet further delay and erosion of our monies. On September 22nd, with some 50 onlookers present, the matter of tax clearance was presented to the court, as was the dispute over CBE claims. The CBE seeks recovery from the fund of solicitor-client costs above what the court had previously ruled. On our behalf, the ATA objects to the notion that we are to pay for the CBE to stall and resist returning our money. The Honorable Justice Mahoney heard presentations and committed to rule on that dispute. His decision is expected shortly.

The escalating costs claimed by RSM Richter took centre stage for the remainder of the day as counsel for Richter inserted himself into the proceedings and initiated the process of testify/cross-examination in order to make the case for what Richter is claiming. With materials from Richter's counsel not provided in time to prepare a response, ATA counsel had no choice but to request and adjournment. The next court date has been set for October 19th and is anticipated to take a full day.

Once again we encourage ARTA members to be in attendance. It is our opinion that the stronger our turnout, the more likely the court is to appreciate our resolve.

Those who have followed this issue from the onset will recall that the CBE sought to maintain control of the fund and initially estimated their cost for distribution at just under a million dollars. Representing employees, The ATA asked the court to appoint Johnson Inc. as Trustee for the fund. Johnson committed to the task for about one quarter of the cost put forth by the CBE

In keeping with their pattern of action, the CBE opposed the ATA nomination and countered by recommending RSM Richter. CBE counsel was bitter in criticism of the ATA nominee and offered Richter as the *more suited and experienced* of the two.

As things worked out, the judge appointed Johnson Inc. and RSM Richter as Joint Trustees, each with half of the responsibility and with specific duties. But the costs were not reduced. Rather they were added together and when presented to the court in budget form almost a year ago, they totaled some \$510 000.00. While Johnson Inc. completed his responsibilities and stayed within budget, Trustee Richter's performance has been less than promised. Among other things, Richter sought a two-month delay and another \$70 000.00 to complete that part of the work.

The court sought the opinion of Johnson Inc., as to whether such costs were warranted. Johnson Inc. did not agree and Richter engaged legal counsel to fight for the additional money. Clearly, it appears far less than a joint operation.

It was more than a surprise for your representatives to find that RSM Richter is now seeking a sum of more than half a million dollars. Richter appears to be asking almost \$30 000 more than the total budgeted by the two trustees.

In our opinion, that kind of fee is not warranted. Not only have retired teachers assisted Richter by contacting most of the applicants, but we also facilitated the completion and witnessing of claims for a significant number of claimants at our luncheons last year. In addition, we were called upon to represent many individuals who, as a result of the less than complete records used by R.S.M Richter, were entirely left out.

To justify its claim to more money, Richter cited a number of factors. That retirees are old people, hard to instruct and requiring more time per person. This just does not serve as an argument as far as we are concerned. Nor does the line that the matter took more time and effort than anticipated. After all, Richter offered itself to the court and was presented as expert, competent and efficient. Richter as assigned but half the task and received a great deal of assistance from CRTA Executive, members and colleagues in other provinces. Those issues, notwithstanding, it is generally unacceptable that legal costs for bargaining be born by someone other than the individual seeking the increase.

So the saga continues and once again we seek your support and assistance in turning out for the next court session at the Court of Queen's Bench in Calgary. It is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., October 19, 2006. Please watch for e-mail updates and additional information on our website. We will confirm date and time.

CRTA EXECUTIVE 2006-2007		
President	Chuck Rose	288-5266
Past-President	Marj Weerstra	251-9742
Vice-President	Jean Hutchinson	282-6179
Vice-President	Gordon Cummings	288-5731
Secretary	Lois Marchand	271-3036
Treasurer	Paul Demers	286-8338
Membership	Garry Jeffrey	289-2807
Newsletter	Ena Beunder Helen Koch	288-3895 289-1193
Technology	Erich Berndt Glen Roszel	286-2240 293-2235
Social	Irene Bruzga Sheena Banks	255-4395 251-0172
Pensions	Jean Crawford Mike Allen	247-364 281-4081
Benefits Rep.	Ralph Levinson Paul Demers	948-3691 286-8338
Members.at Large	Brad Adams David Baker Sandra Dunfield Ron Nikiforuk Karen Read Jim Weed	247-1268 242-6046 281-6477 271-2854 249-9837 239-4564

MEMBERSHIPS

Many of our 2005-2006 members have confirmed their commitment to CRTA by renewing their membership for 2006-2007. If you have not yet done so return the enclosed renewal with you cheque for \$15.00 to Garry Jeffrey

NEXT NEWSLETTER will be mailed out on November 23, 2006. Any information for publication, including small personal ads must be forwarded to Helen Koch 289-1193 no later than November 16.