



PEIRTA Newsletter

Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association

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FALL 2024

From the President

“Where did the summer go?” is the question on the minds of active teachers as I write this article. These teachers begin getting classrooms and materials ready in August. In the meantime, retired teachers like me don’t even know the day of the week and look forward to many more beautiful days to come. All the best to active teachers as they begin another year. For retired teachers, enjoy your fall.

In February, 2022, I wrote my first “From the President” section of the RTA newsletter. Now, six issues later, I am writing my last. My two-year term as president finishes in December. All members of the executive are so helpful, supportive, and professional in carrying out their individual roles. I feel blessed to be a part of the PEIRTA.

Besides representing the retired teachers of PEI, other highlights of

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my two years include travelling to Ottawa in June, 2022 and June, 2023 for the national meetings (ACER-CART), and travelling to Montreal for the East Coast Retired Teachers’ Organization meeting in October, 2022. Most of the regular meetings of both of these organizations were held by Zoom meetings. We advocate for and act upon issues that affect seniors—small and major. Together we make a strong voice for all seniors.

In December, 2023, Kent Hudson from the Community Foundation of PEI spoke to the executive about the process they use to manage the administration of scholarships. The Foundation does all of the advertising and checks that all the applications are complete. The executive chose Judy Hughes, Anne Marie Muise, and Kimball Blanchard to do the final selection for the RTA B.Ed./M.Ed. Scholarship. This is done for a small annual fee, currently set at \$40.

Cynthia MacDonald represented the PEIRTA at the Public Schools Branch retirement dinner in June. She presented teacher retirees with a package of information about belonging to the PEIRTA. We look forward to having the new retirees join our association.

Lise Morin and Cynthia MacDon-



ald attended the national meeting of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) on June 6 and 7. Retired teachers’ associations from across the country continue to advocate for seniors’ issues such as Pharmacare and aging at home. A more detailed report appears on page 4.

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to all the members of the PEIRTA executive. They bring much expertise to the group and work tirelessly on your behalf. Thank you to the PEITF staff for their assistance throughout the year and for allowing us to use their meeting room for our regular meetings. Thank you to Andy Doran as he continues in his role as president.

See President, 4

Visit our website at
www.peirta.com

From the Editor

I am constantly amazed at how many opportunities for entertainment are offered all-year-round in PEI, but especially in the summer. Whatever you enjoy-- eating out, camping/trailering, hiking, theatre/concerts, ceilidhs, touring, socials, sports (as a participant or spectator, competitive or recreational), boating, markets, or lolling on the beach, for example—there's something for everyone.

If you enjoy trail walking, and you enjoy music, you might have been in Morell last Saturday for Symphony PEI's "Tuning into Nature." This event was presented by Points East Coastal Drive and features PEISO and community musicians in the great outdoors, allowing spectators to, as PEISO puts it, "experience the organic merging of music and sounds of the natural world."

This year's walk was on the Meike Trail in Kelly Green park, Morell. The mostly woodland trail is an easy walk--well

maintained and about 45 minutes long, part of it along the water.

A variety of musicians were strategically placed along the trail. The first was Scott Parsons, the only one who was familiar to me. Along the rest of the trail we saw individual skilled musicians playing a variety of instruments: violin, trombone, horn, cello, pipa (a stringed instrument totally unfamiliar to me, but with a beautiful sound), Irish whistle, and Border pipes. There were also a Cuban combo, an Aboriginal group, and two people playing the spoons to Acadian music while a tiny wooden man step danced. He was very talented!

The first "Tuning into Nature" was a PEISO response to COVID restrictions. When performance halls and stages were dark, the event provided an opportunity for both performers and listeners to safely enjoy music in a natural setting. The event has been very popular, and I hope it continues.



PEIRTA Executive does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in material authored by those other than official representatives of the PEIRTA, and information about opportunities offered by others is for information only—no endorsement is implied.

Next issue mid-February, 2025. Submit material to margstewart@pei.eastlink.ca.

If you wish to read this newsletter online instead of receiving a hard copy, send me an email and I will let you know when each issue should appear on our site and on the PEITF site.

Letters to the editor should be a maximum of 200 words, must include a one-line bio, and may be edited for length.

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Executive Resolutions to AGM

After a recent review of our Constitution and Bylaws and Policies, the following amendments are being proposed in several resolutions to the AGM. Words will be struck, and new wording will be shown in bold italics.

1. Be it resolved, that Section 13 be amended by adding sub-section b.

Section 13—AMENDMENTS

- a. a. After a one-month notice of motion to amend the Constitution has been given to each Member, the Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members present at any regular session of the annual meeting of the Association.
- b. ***b. Editorial, non-substantive changes may be made by the Executive at any time.***

2. Be it resolved, that Policy Section 4.3.8 be amended by adding sub-section 4.3.8.5.

Section 4.3.8 Annual Honoraria

4.3.8.1 The President shall receive an honorarium of \$1000 to be paid in two installments.

4.3.8.2 The editor of the newsletter shall receive an honorarium of \$750 to be paid in two installments.

4.3.8.3 The webmaster shall receive an honorarium of \$250 to be paid in two installments.

4.3.8.4 The treasurer shall receive an honorarium of \$250 to be paid in two installments.

4.3.8.5 The secretary shall receive an honorarium of \$250 to be paid in two installments.

3. Be it resolved, that Policy Section 4.3.4 Travel Costs be amended by clarifying the heading to include expenses other than travel, by amending 4.3.4.1 to include non-executive members working on behalf of the Association, by amending 4.3.4.3 to provide for more frequent review of mileage rates, and amending 4.3.4.5 to include committee members.

Section 4.3.4 Travel costs *and other expenses*

4.3.4.1 Executive members ***and others*** incurring costs while working on behalf of the Association will be reimbursed for ~~travel~~ expenses.

4.3.4.3. Mileage rates shall be ~~reviewed yearly with mileage rates~~ set by the Executive, who will be guided by PEITF mileage rates.

4.3.4.5 Executive ***and committee*** members living in the Char-

lottetown area will ~~receive~~ ***be entitled to*** mileage to be paid annually.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS

Be it resolved, that the PEIRTA pay a small annual fee to the Community Foundation of PEI to administer the \$2000 PEIRTA BEd/ MEd Entrance Scholarship—a fee currently set at \$40.00

Nominees for RTA Executive Positions.

The PEIRTA Nominating Committee will submit the following nominees for the 2025-2027 executive positions on November 7:

- President:** Lise Morin
 - Vice-President:** Charlene Cain
 - Secretary:** Terri Mac Adam
 - Treasurer:** Dorothy Farish
 - Prince Rep:** Anne Marie Muise
 - Queen’s Rep:** Judy Hughes
 - Kings Rep:** Seana Evans-Renaud
 - Francophone Rep:** Gilles Benoit
- Phyllis Horne will stay on the executive as past president.

If there are further nominations from the floor, an election will be held.

If anyone is interested in serving on the executive, please contact Lise Morin (contact information is on page 2).

President (cont'd from 1)

Thanks to Wayne Denman for once again organizing the retired teachers' golf tournament. He has done this for a number of years. Donations from the tournaments are made to the Esther Finkle Walk for Kids Foundation which assists students in need by paying for equipment and registration fees.

Johnson Insurance continues to support PEIRTA with a \$5000 grant each year as well as other supports for some of our activities. Dale Weldon continues to support our organization and is always just a phone call away.

Our nominating committee has put forth a strong group of candidates for election to our RTA Executive at our AGM on November 7. Please see those names listed in this newsletter on p. 3.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our PEIRTA AGM on November 7. The AGM will be held at Red Shores in Charlottetown. The meeting will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Our guest speaker has yet to be confirmed. When we know, we will have the information posted on our website.

Rustico Resort Golf and Tennis Club

David Saunders, owner of the Rustico Resort, has extended a couple of generous offers to RTA members. These have been available since late June, and were posted on the RTA website. Some of our members have already been enjoying the benefits.

1. Show your membership card in Dhalia, the resort restaurant, and get a free drink with your meal.
2. Show your membership card and play golf for half price on Monday and Tuesday.

David, the son of two teachers, has suggested that there is a very good chance that these offers will be available again next year.

ACER-CART AGM *by Lise Morin*

On June 6 and 7, 2024, ACER-CART held its AGM ting in Ottawa. I attended on behalf of Phyllis Horne as a voting member along with Cynthia MacDonald as observer. Each member presented their report outlining various inspiring initiatives and current challenges, providing a global perspective to better inform our decision making at the provincial level.

The four ACER-CART committees who meet regularly on Zoom (Communication, Health, Political Advocacy, Pension and Retirement) presented reports aligned with the advancement of ACER-CART strategies.

An informative presentation by Gary Sawatzky outlined the 10 top trends in Canada affecting benefit plans.

Heidi Joy Yetman, president of the Canadian Teachers Association, delivered a truthful and passionate overview of the current working conditions of teachers in Canada and internationally.

As president Bill Berryman shared, it has been a challenging but productive and rewarding year for ACER-CART. The Association represents 88,234 members across the country. Although Ontario withdrew its participation in January, the remaining members showed an increase in membership. The organization continues to be a vibrant and effective voice for retired teachers and seniors at a national level in Canada, and that voice will strengthen as we work collaboratively with the National Pensioners Federation on national projects/issues affecting seniors in Canada.

The 2024-2025 ACER-CART priorities and strategies :

Priorities

1. To continue elevating the profile of our national association in our provincial associations and at all levels

of government and beyond;

2. In collaboration with like-minded organizations, to develop strategies for aging at home.

Strategies

- a. Advocate for the development and implementation of the National Seniors' Strategy which includes a universal national Pharmacare program and combats the move towards privatization;
- b. Advocate for a public health care system that prioritizes care properly supported in seniors' own homes for as long as possible;
- c. Support members in their efforts to achieve the full cost of living pension adjustments;
- d. Complete the strategic plan.

Executive

President: Bill Berryman, RTO-NSTU
Vice-president: Marilyn Bossert, ARTA

East: Kathrine Snow, QPARSE

East: Sharon Penney, RTANL

West: Helen Sukovieff, ARTA

West: Lawrence Hrycan, ARTA

Past President: Gerry Tiede

We currently have a seat on the Health committee and Michel Plamondon acts as consultant on the pension and retirement committee.

Meeting in person allowed us to discuss issues more in depth, learn from one another, network, and share some laughs. Cynthia and I are grateful for the opportunity to represent the PEIRTA. We returned highly motivated to advocate on behalf of our membership and seniors in general in collaboration with other like-minded associations.

Little Johnny

Teacher: "Johnny, your essay on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's.

Did you copy him?" Little Johnny:

"No, teacher, it's the same dog."



Seventh Annual PEIRTA Golf Tournament by Wayne Denman

Our 7th Annual PEIRTA Golf Tournament was held at Eagles Glenn September 4, 2024 with a shotgun start, which enabled the participants to mingle prior to going to their starting holes – a great way to start the day.

The team with the lowest score this year was the all-male team of Jim McIntyre, Darren Oliver, Paul Muise, and Walter Davidson (the The A-Muise-ing Team) with a score of 61.



The Karate Kids Team, consisting of Paul Cyr, Brenda Millar, Audrey Buchanan, and Harvey Mazerolle, won the mixed division with a score of 62.



The Eagle-Eyed Fore Some —Marie Rocheleau, Valerie Beer, Ginette Plourde, and Donna Sears —shot a 64 to win the women's division.



Thanks to a generous donation by a silent partner, Charlene Clark, Jayne MacDougall, Jane Murray, and Angela Profit (The Sh*t Show Shankers) won the draw for free entry to the tourna-

ment.

We had seven individual competitions for players to test their skills on the course. Closest to the Pin contests were won by Darren Oliver (Hole #4), Cathy Blanchard (Hole #6), Shaun MacCormac (Hole #11) and Carol MacMillan (Hole #17). Our Longest Putt winner on Hole #9 was Johnson [intact] and major sponsor Dale Weldon. The men's long drive contest was won by Gordie Cox, and the ladies' accuracy challenge (Closest to the Bucket) was won by Marg Stewart.

During the silent auction Gordie Ellis outbid everyone for a beautiful Henry Purdy framed picture; Donna Sears came out on top with her bid for four main stage tickets for the 2025 season donated by the Confederation of the Arts; Paul Muise took home a wooden train set donated by Edwin Callaghan's EC-TOYS; and a hand-carved cribbage board donated by Eagles Glenn was won by Audrey Buchanan.

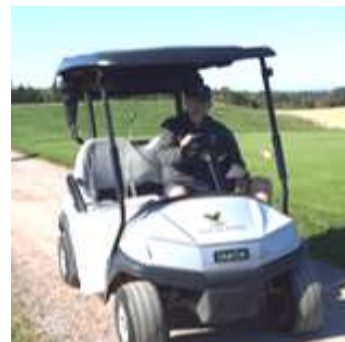
We are looking to all retired teachers for their feedback on how we can increase the number of golfers.

- 1) When should we hold this event?
- 2) Shotgun or regular tee times?
- 3) Team format/structure?
- 4) Attracting sponsors, prize, and volunteers?
- 5) Signage?
- 6) Par 3 spotters?
- 7) Course setup?
- 8) Providing more info re Esther Finkle Walk for Kids?
- 9) New ideas?

Thank you to our major sponsor Dale Weldon of Johnson [intact], and all those who donated prizes and items for the silent auction, to anyone who donated directly to the Esther Finkle Walk for Kids, and the donor who paid one team's entry.

SPONSORS: Johnson [intact], Henry Purdy, EC TOYS,

Confederation Centre of the Arts, Richard Wood, Island Stone Pub, Eagles Glenn, Anderson's Creek, Country View, Glasgow Hills, Belvedere.Golf Club, Holman's Ice Cream Parlour, SportChek, Indigo, Source for Sports, and the PEIRTA



Wayne supervises!



Michel seems to be in the bushes!



One more hole!

The nineteenth hole



PEITF Scholarship Winners/ Future Teachers



Allie Felix is from Gaspereaux, PEI, and has been enrolled in the Bachelor of Education, Intermediate/Senior English program.

Allie writes, “I am most looking forward to being able to apply what I’m learning in a classroom setting when I am a teacher myself. Becoming a certified teacher is what I am most excited for because I will finally be able to do what I love to do and teach content to students and be able to help them learn new things.”

Allie’s university experience includes being Vice President Academic of the UPEI Education Society, and Vice President of the English and Psychology societies. She also worked at the Writing Centre as a tutor.

In a thank-you note to the RTA,

Allie wrote the following:

“Thank you so much for this support. I am so thankful to be a recipient of a PEI Retired Teachers' Association Entrance Award. I was very pleased and grateful to receive this award as it will really help me financially throughout my B.Ed. degree over the course of 12 months. Awards like these really help aid those who are graduating and are figuring out what to do with their life or who are continuing their education.”



Derrick Coughlin is from Summerside, and is also a recipient of a RTA scholarship.

Derrick writes, “This scholarship represents more than just financial assistance; it is a validation of my hard work and dedication to my academic pursuits.”

While studying for his first degree, Derrick was a proud member of the UPEI rugby team, but because of injuries, he no longer plays. A

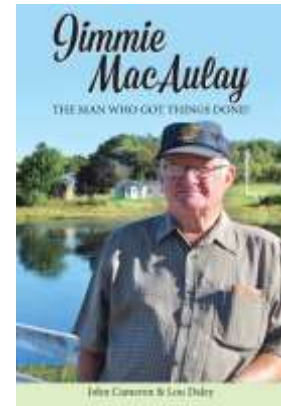
sports enthusiast, he tells us that he aspires to become a gym teacher, “eager to share the benefits of sports and fitness with [his] students.”

Derrick: “I am someone who has struggled financially through much of my life. As such, this support means so much to me as it helps me along my journey.

For this I want to thank you again.”

Jim MacAulay: The Man Who Got Things Done

As some of you know, John Cameron and Lou Daley have been working on a biography of Jim MacAulay. Jim is well known in PEIRTA circles, and has been honoured by the RTA for his outstanding contribution, not the least of which was his role in the incorporation of this organization.



The launch of this book may or may not have taken place by the time you read this. If it has, you will probably know

when and how you can get a copy if you want one. If not, watch for it!

Address Changes

If your address changes, or if you know anyone who has had a change of address and/or is not receiving this newsletter, please have him or her notify our membership chair (contact info on page 2). Your mailing address must include a civic address and/or PO Box number, and a postal code. Going forward, if you would like to read this newsletter online instead of getting a hard copy, send the editor an email with your request.



Andy Doran

Happy September!

We just finished what I call “a summer of no excuses.” The weather was so nice that there were few weather-related reasons not to get out and do anything you wanted to do. Let’s keep it rolling into the fall with the beautiful weather.

2023-24 was a very busy year for PEITF. We ran a successful Course Correction Campaign to bring awareness to some of the challenges Island teachers face in the classroom. Also, it was a bargaining year, and for the first time in recent memory, we negotiated a new agreement with meaningful improvements for teachers’ working conditions, as well as a significant increase to substitute pay (check it out; you may want to register to become a substitute teacher!). Our membership overwhelmingly ratified the agreement.

The highlight of the year for me was working with all the stakeholders in education to make changes and foster relationships. I feel that the Public Schools Branch, the Department of Education, the Minister and Deputy Minis-

ter of Education, and the provincial government worked as partners with the PEITF in the best interest of education.

At the Regional and National level, there were gains for PEITF members this past year. During our CAPTTO meetings, many issues were discussed and shared. Through these discussions, an agreement to share resources and cooperate during our media campaigns benefited our organization. At the CTF Annual Meeting in Vancouver, we elected a new president, Clint Johnston, from British Columbia, who will take over for Heidi Yetman in June 2025.

As we look ahead to the 2024-25 school year, we plan to continue to build on our relationships. There is much work to be

done to improve teaching conditions in our classrooms. An Island-wide cell phone policy is being introduced in September, and the implementation of the recently released Inclusion Report is among the top issues facing our teachers. We will continue pushing for our partners to address the impact of climate change, which is causing many classrooms to experience very high temperatures on those hot spring and fall days, as well as the overcrowding that many of our buildings are experiencing.

I welcome all the newly retired members to your organization. I hope your first year of retirement is everything you thought it would be. The PEITF is here to assist in any way we can. Have a great fall and take care.

Look no further for exclusive group savings



Prince Edward Island Teachers Federation (PEITF) members can receive exclusive home and car insurance savings and enhanced coverages.

belairdirect.
car and home insurance

Certain conditions, eligibility requirements, limitations and exclusions apply to all offers. Visit belairdirect.com for more details. Offers may change without notice. We offer car insurance and home insurance in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island and home insurance only in British Columbia. © 2023, Belair Insurance Company Inc. All rights reserved.

PEIRTA 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

November 7, 2024



Red Shores, Charlottetown

Registration—9:00 a.m.

Meeting— 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lunch will be provided

Guest Speaker TBA

**When the speaker has been confirmed, details will be posted on the RTA website. Please check the site at www.peirta.com for this information.*

Murray River School

Editor. Some time ago I received the following message from Rob Dairon. If any of you can give him any information, I'm sure he would be very happy to hear from you. You can reach him at Rob_dairon@hotmail.com

I see that there is some history of old school houses on your site.

My great grand mother taught at a schoolhouse in Murray River over 100 years ago. I have been able to locate the remnants of the schoolhouse twice, once in 2013 and again a week ago.

It is impossible to see from the street as it is so grown over and completely destroyed.



May, 2013



July 2024

I dropped a pin in order to locate the school location should any of my family ever want to try to see the site in the future. I was wondering if you had any information on the school house? The address I received from the pin drop was

Editor: I learn something new every time I do a newsletter!

How to Drop a Pin

1. Open Google Maps.
2. Find the location on the map where you want to drop the pin.
3. Zoom in to see the location clearly.
4. Tap on the spot where you wish to drop the pin.
5. A pop-up will appear with the coordinates and a name describing the area.

PEITF Travel Insurance

Our out-of-province travel insurance plan has a 90-day medical stability clause. This means that if you have a pre-existing medical condition, it must be considered medically stable for 90 days prior to your departure date if you are to be covered in the event of a medical emergency related to this condition while you are travelling.

A pre-existing condition is considered stable if the member, in the 90 days before the departure date, has not:

1. Been treated or evaluated for new symptoms or related conditions;
2. Had symptoms that increased in frequency or severity, or examination findings indicating the condition has worsened;
3. Been prescribed a new treatment or change in treatment for the condition.
4. Been admitted to a hospital for the condition; or
5. Been awaiting new treatments or tests regarding the medical condition (does not include routine tests).

Number 3 generally does not include reductions in medication due to improvement in a condition, or regular changes in medication as part of an established treatment plan—but each case must be reviewed individually. Call Medavie Blue Cross at 1-800-667-4511, Travel Department, for clarification if you are planning to travel outside PEI.

