



PEIRTA Newsletter

Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association

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From the President

By the time RTA members read this newsletter, the weather should have turned the corner and hopefully be bringing sunshine and warmth.

Since our last newsletter, there have been some interesting and exciting events happening with PEIRTA.

In March, RTA Executive members Marg Stewart, Kimball Blanchard, Michel Plamondon, and myself met with Hon. Robert Mitchell, Minister of Health and Wellness, and Roy Cairns, Provincial Pharmacare, to discuss prescription drug issues for seniors. The biggest items discussed were the struggles seniors are experiencing with the high cost of drugs not covered, and the 30 vs. 90 day prescriptions which result in a fee of \$15.94 per drug every 30 days instead of every 90 days. A very good discussion and meeting was held. We all came away feeling that Hon. Robert and Roy were very

interested in easing drug costs for seniors. Robert made a commitment to continue to fight for a change to the days supply covered under Pharmacare. Since then there has been an election, and now we have a new minister of Health and Wellness, Hon. James Alyward, with whom we hope to set up another meeting in the fall for the discussion to be held again.

Wayne Denman (RTA Vice-President) and I attended the Pre-retirement seminars in Summerside (April 6) and Charlottetown (April 27) to introduce upcoming retirees to the RTA mandate and encourage them to become members upon retirement. It is so important for retirees to keep connected and be involved in continuing to advocate for seniors, especially for issues related to health and wellness.

I attended the 2019 Senior Class Awards ceremony at UPEI on May 9. The PEIRTA is a donor for a scholarship for a graduate of the BEd Program. This year's recipient was Jenna Moase. Congratulations to Jenna, and we send her wishes for success with her future plans. The RTA is also a donor for two bursaries for UPEI BEd students and two bursaries for Holland College second year Early Childhood Education students. The bursaries will be presented in the fall. The



monetary awards are well appreciated by the students.

On April 26, 2019, I attended a beautiful award ceremony at the residence of Her Honour, Lt. Governor Antoinette Perry. Senator Frances Medals were presented by Senator Brian Frances to 12 people nominated for their tremendous role in helping to make their PEI community a better place to live. As RTA president, I was invited as a guest to see Jim MacAulay, a member of the PEI RTA, receive his medal. It was a real pleasure and honor to be present at this

See **President**, 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2—To/From the Editor; Executive

Page 3—Music—Who, Me?

Page 4—ACER-CART

Page 5—How Do Retired Teachers Spend Their Time? RTA Golf Tournament

Page 6—Notice of Motion; Reading Recovery

Page 7—PEITF Corner

Page 8—Wanted: Membership Chair

Visit our website at
www.peirta.com

From the Editor

Having failed to come up with anything original, I have once again turned to CARP magazine for inspiration. CARP recently released its 2018-2019 Impact Report (www.carp.ca), an annual document that looks back at accomplishments of the past year and looks ahead to what they will advocate for in the new year. One part of the report in particular caught my eye. It references the results of a number of member surveys on a range of topics. Unfortunately I haven't been able to find out details on most of the surveys: i.e. how many were surveyed, how many responded, etc. So the percentages don't mean much—except, perhaps to enlighten us somewhat as to what seniors in Canada are thinking about, and prompt some thinking on our part. CARP uses these surveys to help inform their advocacy.

In the section of the report headed

“Our Members Tell Us...” the following survey results are reported (taken directly from report):

95% agree government should take steps to protect pensions when businesses go bankrupt;

1 in 3 know an older Canadian who has been abused;

88% believe the government should invest in elder abuse prevention and response;

41% are caregivers, and one-third dedicate more than 40 hours weekly to caregiving;

76% lost or had their prescription drug benefits reduced at retirement;

86% worry about their ability to access dementia supports;

90% are concerned about the time it takes to access medical specialists;

81% agree it takes too long to access diagnostic procedures like MRIs and CTs;

91% say there are not enough staff to care for residents living in long-term care.

In spite of all this, Stats Canada reported in 2018 (www.carp.ca) that seniors are more satisfied with their lives than those in younger age groups. Safety, quality of the local environment, and relationships are the domains for which they report most satisfaction. Social inclusion is given as a key factor in determining whether one lives a fulfilling life.

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 late September. 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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Music - Who Me? ~by Kimball Blanchard

Most people have had an opportunity to attend school band concerts to hear students display new found musical talents. People marvel at the fact that after only two months in grade seven the students can actually play as an ensemble and the tune is recognizable. As the students progress through the grade levels their musical talents develop to the point that by the end of grade 12 they are quite accomplished musicians. Their teachers have accomplished this with early morning practices, noon time practices, after school practices, and regular class instruction. From September to graduation in June these music teachers are involved in organizing rehearsals for concert bands and jazz bands, arranging concerts, attending band festivals, fund raising for band trips, managing instruments for all band members, and often working with as many as one third of the total school population. For many students, music helps them display their strengths, which serves to strengthen their classroom performance,

The question is what happens to these music teachers when they retire? The surprising but somehow logical answer is that they start another band. Allie McCrady and Rowen Fitzgerald were both music teachers in the public school system and made significant contributions to music education in the province. They also were active performers in various groups, including the UPEI Wind Symphony and the PEI Symphony. After retiring they got together with John MacDonald, a local musician and music patron, who

was perhaps the real driving force, along with several other interested musicians and want-to-be musicians, and they began the Second Chances Band, which is now completing its tenth season. John, Rowan, and Allie saw the need to provide an opportunity for people to begin or continue to play music in their communities.

And the community interest is obvious: the band membership generally ranges from 50 to 65. There is a seven-decade age range, as some members are just out of high school and others are in their 60s, 70s, and 80s, with one member over 90. He never misses a rehearsal. (His wife is a retired teacher and sees that he gets there on time). The age factor is never an issue as all members are united in their love of music. Retired teachers, retirees from other professions, and people from all walks of life—from students, to mechanics, to professionals—make up the group. If a person has car problems, animal issues, tax issues, health issues, educational issues, or language issues, the band has mechanics, vets, CPAs, EMTs, nurses, doctors, teachers, university professors, language consultants, and artists.

From a music perspective, the best description is that Allie and Rowan want the band to perform well, but they also know whom they are working with. Some band members had never played an instrument prior to joining the group. At the other end of the scale there are some very accomplished musicians. Between the two poles are varying levels of abilities. All that is asked of each person is to do what he/she is capable of and the conductors will live

with the results. The music chosen for performance is selected with a audience in mind but at the same time the intent is to challenge the musicians to continue to grow as players.

Retired teachers are always teachers and Allie and Rowan are great examples. Recently a UPEI music graduate joined the group in order to broaden his knowledge of the various instruments in a concert band and to gain some experience in conducting a concert band. Both regular conductors were open to this and the band members were happy to be part of his growth as a musician.

The Second Chances Band rehearses once a week on Tuesday evening at Queen Charlotte Junior High School. Having access to the school's equipment makes it possible for the band to function and the band appreciates the co-operation of the school administration and the music teacher, Sylvia Andrews, who will be joining our ranks in June. Usually two concerts a year, one in December and one in June, are held at UPEI Steele Recital Hall. As well, we join the Queen Charlotte Bands and Holland Welshman Band for various concerts.

Do you have a musical instrument that has been sitting on the shelf unused? Possibly it is time to get it down, dust it off, and join the fun in September. Some members indicated that they had not played for over thirty years, but the skills return quickly once a practice routine is established and the support of the band members is present. Intimidation is not part of the experience,

See **Music**, 8

Cont'd from **President, 1**

ceremony and see Jim accept this medal. Jim is a very dedicated citizen with an amazing dedication to his community, and has been very instrumental in the success of the PEIRTA. Congratulations to Jim and to the other 11 deserving recipients of this medal. It was a very impressive ceremony with very impressive recipients. I was so happy to be present and meet them all.

Until the fall newsletter, I wish all RTA members a safe and happy summer.

ACER-CART 2019 AGM

Wayne Denman and I attended the ACER-CART meeting in Ottawa June 6-8. On the June 6, as part of a group of RTA members from across Canada, we attended a session in the House of Commons for the presentation of the E-Petition # 2039. This petition was signed by 13,740 retired teachers from across Canada advocating for pension security for seniors in all walks of life. Thank you to the PEI members who signed this e-petition which was presented by Mark Warawa, MP for Langley–Aldergrove, BC. Hopefully it will receive a positive outcome in parliament. There will be a follow up to this e-petition at a later date.

Highlights of the Presentations/Activities

Roger Regimbal, Exc. Director
Orientation for New Directors
An excellent presentation for both new and experienced directors.

Sayward Montague, Director of Advocacy, Nat. Ass. Federal Retirees; and Candace Savack, Advocate Coordinator

Election Preparedness

An excellent presentation on preparing us, the RTAs, on how to effectively advocate for the priorities of ACER-CART (established for seniors) and to make sure that our federal politicians know our priorities when we meet and vote in the 2019 federal election.

Owen Adams, Chief Policy Advisor

for Can. Medical Association /Ontario
An update on Demand a Plan
The CMA addresses issues that Canadians and Physicians face every day—senior care, pharmacare, mental health, climate change, and health. Members are asked to pay attention to the Hoskins Report (Advisory Council on the implementation of National Pharmacare) due to come out soon. The CMA will be rolling out public awareness for this report.

Hon. Filomena Tassi, Min. of Seniors
Seniors' Portfolio

Hon. Tassi gave a quick synopsis of the Seniors' Portfolio. She outlined what has been put in place in the 2019 budget for seniors, what programs are available for seniors, and what grants are available for seniors.

Johnston's Team (Insurance)
Update

Richard and Bob gave an informative update on the emerging trends in Auto/Home Insurance. Particularly interesting was learning how insurance costs are negatively impacted: disasters in Canada and worldwide (storms, floods, fires, etc.), with huge claims; the rise in distracted driving and the rising cost of repairing vehicles with all of the electronics and sensors in all parts of the car. In regards to drug coverage, there are some questions about what may happen with the Pharmacare debate—what will be in the Hoskins report, what will be covered, who wins, who loses, etc. Again, watch for the Hoskin's Report and hope for the best.

Nominations and Election 2019-2020

There are no changes to the executive positions for the upcoming year. (See www.ACER_CART.org)

Banquet

A banquet (sponsored by Johnson Insurance Inc.) was held at the Ottawa Marriot on Friday, June 7. Presentations were made to members and I received my certificate of appreciation for my service as director of ACER-CART as the PEI representative. It was

certainly appreciated and it has been an honour to be a part of this wonderful national organization.

The CTF went over the top in looking after us. They prepared us a BBQ lunch on Friday and served a catered lunch on Saturday, as well as providing coffee, tea, and snacks for both days. It is wonderful to have this great partnership between CTF and the retired teacher organization of Canada.

SENIORS' ISSUES FOR THE 2019 FEDERAL ELECTION

ACER-CART, in collaboration with other senior organizations, has developed a brochure to outline key issues for the upcoming 2019 Federal election. The issues and key messages are stated here but further explanation can be seen in the brochure on the ACER-CART website. RTA members are encouraged to talk to their MPs and state their concerns about any or all of these issues.

•**Making Retirement Income More Secure:** Canadians deserve a secure and dignified retirement, with a guaranteed and sufficient source of income.

•**National Pharmacare:** All Canadians should have access to the medications they need. A universal, public, comprehensive, accessible and portable national Pharmacare program would cut costs and lead to a healthier population.

•**Opposition to Privatization of Medical Services:** Access to medical support should not be dictated by an individual's means to pay. Medicare is based on the five principles contained in the Canada Health Act: public administration, universal access, comprehensive coverage, accessibility without extra charges or discrimination, and portability across provinces.

•**National Seniors Strategy:** Canada needs a National Seniors Strategy that optimizes health, financial security, affordable housing, and social inclusion so all Canadians can age with dignity.

How Do Retired Teachers Spend Their Time?



Rowan Fitzgerald, left, and Allie McCrady, right, direct the Second Chances Band. In the centre, Jennie Likely is shown playing the French horn. All are retired teachers. Thank you to Kimball Blanchard, also a retired teacher and a member of the band, for pictures. See Kimball's article on page 3. For more information, go to www.secondchancesband.ca.

THE PEIRTA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT IS BACK !! ~by Wayne Denman

By popular demand the PEIRTA will be conducting its 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 (Yes, the day you would be returning to work for the 2019-20 school year!). The event will be held at Eagles Glenn of Cavendish Golf Course with a shot gun start at 9:00 a.m.

Who can play? PEI retired teachers and their spouses/partners/friends, PEITF Executive—past and present, PEI Department of Education Personnel, teachers from visiting provinces, text book/resource/computer agents. This is a chance to reunite with former co-workers.

Teams are composed of 4 members—female, male, or mixed. The fun starts upon your arrival. Registration fees are \$55 per person plus HST

which includes green fees, power cart seat, and range balls. A steak with Island spuds and a Caesar Salad and roll can be had for \$20—this can be spoken for when you register by THURSDAY, AUGUST 29. If you prefer something lighter we offer homemade soup, chile, hot dogs, German sausages, or sandwiches from our everyday menu.

You can register online commencing June 15 by connecting to www.eaglesglenn.com and going to Events. Register as a single, two-some, threesome, or foursome. If not registering as a foursome, indicate whether you wish to play on a like-gender team or a mixed-gender team. If you prefer, you can phone 902-963-3600, or drop in and ask for Chris to register in person. The first 128 golfers will be accepted—register early and avoid being disappointed!

There will be lots of fun, with prizes for different activities on the course

(not all including golfing skills). Last year we had a pop quiz. This year??? There is a strong possibility of a car/truck/??? being up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize. Beat the Pro may have a different wrinkle this year as will the putting contest and a few new events. Funds raised will be donated to support the Esther Finkle Walk for Kids—this organization assists children K-12 with financial support to help them pursue their dreams. We raised nearly \$1000 last year and hope to increase that total this year.

Sounds interesting but not a golfer—we need volunteers to assist with the planning and on site assistance during the event. Contact Wayne Denman if interested in either/both of these opportunities. Email at werdenman48@gmail.com, or phone 902-436-6260. Stay tuned for more info on Social Media.

Come renew friendships with colleagues from the past!

REMINDER

Going forward, members of our group insurance plan will not need a doctor's referral for massage therapy or physiotherapy.

The plan covers 80% of the cost of a massage, to a maximum of \$40, for 20 treatments over 12 consecutive months.

Coverage for physiotherapy is also 80% of cost, to a maximum of \$40 per treatment, but there is no limit to the number of treatments.

Both practitioners must be licensed and certified or registered to practise.

If you have questions about coverage, call Johnson Insurance at 1-800-371-9516.

RTA AGM November 2019

The 2019 PEIRTA AGM will be held at Red Shores, Charlottetown, on November 7, 2019. All RTA members are welcome and encouraged to attend. More information will be available in the fall newsletter and on the RTA website.

Notice of Motion for the AGM in November

After much discussion among the executive, it was decided that if the RTA is to continue to fund the things that the association does and to have representatives attend meetings at the Atlantic and National levels as a PEI voice, an increase in the dues would be needed.

The PEIRTA executive will bring to the AGM, for discussion and a decision, a motion to raise PEIRTA membership dues to \$2.00/month and to have dues deducted monthly from members' cheques

First President from PEI Appointed to the Canadian Institute of Reading Recovery (CIRR) ~by Sheila Barnes

Sheila Barnes, retired teacher, administrator and former PEI Dept. of Education Elementary Education Coordinator, was recently appointed President of the Canadian Institute of Reading Recovery (CIRR). Sheila is the first CIRR President from PEI!

The CIRR oversees the Reading Recovery English and French implementations in all of Canada and the Cayman Islands.

Over 5300 PEI grade 1 students have benefitted from this reading and writing individually designed intervention. Two hundred teachers have participated in Reading Recovery's professional learning and training. Once certified, these highly trained teachers can teach anywhere in the world where RR is offered.

Celebrating 20 years of Reading Recovery in PEI ~by Sheila Barnes

A wonderful celebration was held in the Provinces Room at the Rodd Charlottetown Hotel on June 5, 2019 to celebrate 20 years of Reading Recovery in PEI! Powerful perspectives about how Reading Recovery positively impacted their lives were heard from current and former students and parents. Other speakers were Heather Cudmore, Principal at L.M.Montgomery; Sherri Campbell, Reading Recovery

(RR) Teacher at Morell Consolidated; Georgina Clow, first RR Teacher Leader in PEI; Lorna Ansems, RR Teacher Leader in English; Yvette Heffernan, Bilingual RR Trainer, Atlantic Region; and Dianne Stuart, first Reading Recovery Trainer. On behalf of French Reading Recovery implementation, René Hurtubise (French RR Liaison Administrator and Director of French programs at the Department of Education and Lifelong Learning) offered congratulatory remarks.



Sheila Barnes, President of CIRR, presented Lorna Ansems and Jeanine Tremblay (RR Teacher Leaders) with Certificates of Recognition. In the photo above, a number of current RR teachers join in the presentation.

The event was well attended by active and retired teachers, principals, teacher leaders, liaison administrators, trainers, and Department of Education and Lifelong Learning staff, as well as students and parents. Minister Trivers was there and offered congratulations to all for the success of RR PEI!

Folks enjoyed eating celebration cake, taking photos, and sharing stories.



Aldene Smallman



Aldene Smallman was elected as PEITF President on May 25. We don't yet have a picture for the newsletter, but we do have a message from the new president. Picture will be forthcoming.



This year brought snow storms which started in November, fol-

lowed by a winter that seemed to go on forever. These included bouts of melting and freezing, leaving school playgrounds to resemble skating rinks. With April's rainy and cold weather, teachers seemed to be stuck in a perpetual loop of indoor days. I'm sure you need no reminder of how enjoyable those days can be! It appears that those days are behind us now, but as you know, June brings its own challenges in schools...

Speaking of challenges, it seems that around every corner these days, there is a new initiative facing educators in this province. Our teachers are to be commended for being the stabilizing force

for our students in a sea of change.

This past year the Federation ratified a new agreement with the government which was then followed by a historic election result. It awaits to be seen how a conservative minority government will impact the learning environment of our students and the working environment of our teachers. As indicated through the appointment of my predecessor Bethany MacLeod to the position of Deputy Minister of Education and Life-Long Learning, this government appears to be willing to listen to the

concerns of teachers; only time will tell.

Though I am in the role now to conclude Bethany's term, my term as President will officially begin on July 1. I am thankful for the support and advice received over the years from the Retired Teachers' Association and look forward to working with you in the future.

Have a great summer.
Aldene

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).

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Music (cont'd from 3)

but having fun and making music is. Since the origin of the band the musical growth has been significant, and the fact that many members have been there from day one indicates that people are enjoying themselves and that a love of music is lifelong.

Maintaining an active lifestyle is important as we age and the Second Chances Band provides an opportunity to be involved, to interact with people, to provide entertainment for themselves and others, to cooperate with others, and to grow as people, even as the years creep up on us.

NUNAVUT IS SEEKING TEACHERS STARTING IN AUGUST 2019.

Categories: Elementary, Middle School General, High School General, Principal and Vice-Principal, Learning Coach, Student Support Teacher . Base Salaries \$76,000 - 119,000. Northern allowance: \$15,000-34,000. Relocation Allowance (if applicable). Subsidized Staff Housing. Federal Superannuation. Professional Development . All available teaching positions posted on educationcanada.com .

This information is also posted on the RTA website, under Opportunities.

Nunavut Contact : Department of Education, 867-975-5600, Fax: 867-975-5103. www.gov.nu.ca

From Pat—re computer glitch

Due to either a computer glitch or printer glitch some names on the membership list got changed throughout the list. If your name is not correct please contact me by email at patri-cia.mccardle@pei.sympatico.ca, or phone 902-892-1915.

Membership Chair Candidate

The PEIRTA is seeking an interested RTA member to be the chair and caretaker of the RTA membership list. Pat McCardle, the present chair, will be completing her term at the end of 2019. The main responsibility of the chair is to manage the membership list using an Excel program (changes in addresses, new members, deletion of members who no longer belong, etc.). In addition, a list of members is managed for the mailouts of newsletters three times a year. We would expect the interested person to meet with Pat during 2019 to become familiar with the role and observe the process of the mailouts. Interested members can contact one of the PEIRTA executive who are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.

Group Insurance Booklet

Please note that you can find the details of our group health plan online at www.peitf.com. opening page.

PEITF Travel**Insurance: Update on Pre-Existing Medical Conditions**

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 traveling.

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 indicate 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. A change shortly before departure, for example, with a subsequent reaction, might present problems. So if you have any doubt, call Medavie Blue Cross at 1-800-667-4511, Travel Department, for clarification if you are planning to travel outside PEI..