

# Chronicles & Capers

issue 73 • december 2017

Double-decker Test Bus

351 BRIDGEPORT STN

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## In this issue:

- President's message p 2-3
- Scholarships 2016 pp 4-5
- Bill C-27 p 6
- Winter Volunteering p 7

- Travel Agency Tribes p8
- YAMMER for BCRPVPA p 9
- Just Kidding p 10
- Executive Committee p11



# CHRONICLES & CAPERS

BC Retired Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association

Issue 73 • December 2017

## Dear BCRPVPA Members by Eileen Phillips



I am writing this on Remembrance Day, 2017 - a day to honour the memory of those who gave their lives so we can live in a world with choices; a day to think of Peace and how to maintain it in an increasingly chaotic and volatile world. It is

also a day, I have always believed, to honour those who guard our welfare and safety - physically, emotionally, spiritually, economically, etc. It is a day to appreciate those who have contributed to what successes we have known in our own lives. Please take a few moments to acknowledge the lessons you have learned from those who have touched your heart, who have contributed to your sense of worth, and to those who continue to provide you a safe and respectful environment. Who are those who stand by you - no matter what?

The 17-18 year has begun with lots of energy. We:

- have selected our 4 **scholarship recipients**. (See information about these students in this newsletter.)
- have had a guest speaker, Gerry Tiede, discuss our pensions and the concern that many are feeling about **Bill C-27**. (Graham Mulligan has uploaded this presentation on Yammer: pensions group.) If you haven't joined Yammer, you can do so through our website.
- have supported the start of the new **BCPVPA mentorship program** for recently appointed

Principals and Vice-Principals in our province. Please watch for the second start - likely in January/February 2018 - and consider applying to be a mentor. As long as you are experienced and remain interested in education issues, we are keen to have you apply to be a mentor. Watch for further information on this. So far, the mentors have enjoyed the training sessions and are now actively in phone or Skype/Face Time contact with their mentees.

- are having discussions with **Travel Agency Tribes**, a service that we hope will become an Affinity Partner with the BCRPVPA and hope to have a presentation about this at our January, 2018 General Meeting.

As the year continues, we will aim to bring you articles and speakers on topics that members have indicated are of interest to them - e.g., health, extended medical plans, travel, travel medical plans, legal issues, financial planning, volunteer opportunities, educational issues, the success of BC education in local, national, and international contexts.

We are also expanding our draw for \$25 Gift Cards from Chapter's/Indigo that we do following our General Meetings. We will draw 2 names following each meeting, using a random number generator, from our complete membership. This is because we realize that many of our members cannot make it to our General Meeting /AGM for reasons of distance, health, other commitments, etc. We hold these raffles to help create a closer sense of community for our members and for pure fun - an element we all need. If you win one of these draws you will be contacted by phone to confirm

your address and to give us permission to print/announce your name. Likely the call will come from our Past President, Vivian Rygnestad.

We also hope to reach out to members who have a need for Sunshine. Please contact Leanna Garner, our membership/sunshine coordinator with the information (e.g., sympathy, celebration, congratulations, address) LeannaMGarner@gmail.com

I want to encourage you to explore our website regularly [www.bcrpvpa.ca](http://www.bcrpvpa.ca) and to join our member's only Yammer network. Increasingly, our communication will be on-line and web-based. There has been a change in the way our newsletters are produced: Graham posts articles as they arrive and some of them are compiled, seasonally, into a newsletter. But, increasingly, the 'old' newsletter format will be phased out. Let us know your opinion on this. And, if you have an idea for speakers, topics, and/or a member to highlight, please let us know about these things too.

#### Goals this year:

- i. Increase Membership in BCRPVPA
- ii. Continue to strengthen our ties with BCRTA
- iii. Support the Mentorship Pilot Program
- iv. Communicate with our membership through Newsletters, telephone, the BCRPVPA website, Yammer, and MailChimp
- v. Continue our close relationship with BCPVPA
- vi. Begin to collect and curate our history

If you can make it, please try to attend at least one of our remaining meetings for 17-18:

#### General Meetings/AGM

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Thursday, May 3, 2018 (lunch will be provided at the AGM)

All meetings, unless otherwise notified, will be held at the BCPVPA office:

#200 - 525 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver and start with a social at 9:30 a.m.

**My best wishes to YOU - keep in touch!**

[info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca)

And, as this season progresses and turns into winter, many of you will be planning trips and adventures to see family, friends, new places or places of comfort and familiarity. Take care and, looking ahead: may your holiday time be happy and may the Year 2018 be good one! Let's hope our paths continue to cross - if not in real time, then via our communication technologies.

**Travel Well, Stay Healthy, and Happy Holidays!**



#### CHAPTERS / INDIGO GIFT CARD WINNERS

After each General Meeting we do a draw for a \$25 Gift Card, The winners of the draw following our Oct, 24, 2017 meeting were: Fred Nienaber of Maple Ridge and Joseph Varro of Port Coquitlam. Congratulations to these members. Vivian thoroughly enjoyed talking to each of you!

# Meet our 2016 Scholarship Recipients



## Reid Davidson

Reid Davidson is a French Immersion graduate from Peter Ogden Secondary School in 100 Mile House. He has the distinction of being on the honour roll every report card of his secondary school educational career.

While maintaining his high academic standing, Reid demonstrated his dedication to school and the local community by putting in countless hours of contribution in sports and leadership activities. He was the captain of both the soccer and basketball teams during his senior years. Reid was also the coach of an elementary school's boy's basketball team. Despite his busy schedule, Reid found time to be a mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters In School Mentoring Program.

Reid was a valued member of the Peter Ogden's school community, who lead by example of hard work and dedication. According to his principal Geoff Butcher, Reid has a kind heart, always tries to do his best in whatever situation he is placed in and is thorough and dependable, excellent qualities for a recipient of a BCRPVPA scholarship. Congratulations Reid on your outstanding secondary school career and being awarded this scholarship.



## Matthew Miller

Matthew is a true Renaissance man! He is a graduate of the French Immersion program at Edward Milne Community School in Sooke. Matthew was the top academic student in grades 9,10,11, and 12. He received the Governor General's medal of excellence in his final year.

In addition to his academics, Matthew is a musician, an actor, a talented artist, winning the outstanding junior artist award. Matthew is a talented woodworker and he is an accomplished athlete in both soccer and swimming. Matthew finished off his grade 12 year by being the Valedictorian for his graduating class.

According to Patrick Swinburnson, his principal, Matthew was a perfect ambassador for EMCS. He was always willing to help tutor students in math and science, assisting in the school's food drives and a student ambassador for the Thailand student exchange. As a result of his active participation, Matthew was twice awarded the school's Outstanding Citizenship Award.

In the community, Matthew was involved in public speaking and refereeing soccer from the house league level to the adult level. He is also a Youth Advisor at the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

We fully concur that Matthew is a true Renaissance man and are pleased to award one of the BCRPVPA scholarships to Matthew Miller.



## Benjamin Hagkull

Being highly involved in wheelchair basketball while graduating with honours and being involved in his community and helping others, including a stay in Mexico to help to build homes for those in need, are only some of the many accomplishments of Benjamin Hagkull. Visiting other schools to talk about the power of determination is accompanied by time spent volunteering at the library in his Chilliwack community and in various charitable fundraisers and he still finds time to play bass in a youth band. One of his letters of reference says that “Ben is one of the most inspiring young men I have had the privilege of watching grow and mature” while another says “Ben would be an awesome choice for your scholarship”. We wholly concur and are pleased to award one of the BCRPVPA scholarships to Benjamin Hagkull.



## Elise Mehrassa

Graduating with Honours from Thomas Haney Secondary and being named Top Student in a number of academic areas did not hinder Elise in her efforts to improve the lives of others. Recounting her most memorable experience while working at community dinners provided for impoverished families ends with the words, “I was humbled”. That sense of humility and wonderment runs through many of the activities with which Elise became involved, including the Random Acts of Kindness Club and being a Big Sister, and her future goals focus on the area of children’s rights. The Principal of Thomas Haney has no doubt that she will accomplish her goals and neither do we. One of Elise’s letters of reference begins with the words, “I have been blessed to know Elise Mehrassa since 2011 . . .” We too are blessed to have a young woman of her calibre as a winner of a 2017 BCRPVPA scholarship.

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*Jeff Larcombe, Christine Johnson, Allan Buggie*

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*Scholarships Committee*



## Bill C27

### Presentation to BCRPVPA General Meeting (October)

Gerry Tiede presented an information session on Bill C-27 at the October 24 General Meeting. The session was well-attended but not all members could make it to Vancouver to hear this important up-date. BCRPVPA recorded the session and are making it available to all members on YouTube.

Go to the BCRPVPA website and click on the image at the top of the article to open the video in a new tab. You can download the handouts that were provided at the meeting by clicking on each one.

Go to the BCRPVPA Presentations Group in Yammer and click on the YouTube link there. You can also download the documents there as well.

The video is about 46 minutes and concludes with an appeal to members to contact your Member of Parliament

The video of that session is on YouTube. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QV6c9KNQY08&t=60s>



# Winter Volunteering

by Gerald Soon

How are you enjoying retired life? For me, school life in December was full of Christmas concert preparations, report cards, canned food drives, and dreaded days when it snowed!

Contrast the busy-ness of school life with unlimited time to do whatever you want to do! For the past few years, from late November – December, my wife and I have been volunteering at the Surrey Christmas Bureau. We discovered the opportunity to serve at the bureau when our friends, a retired administrator and a retired teacher introduced us to it.

Almost totally run by volunteers, save for two or three employees, the Surrey Christmas bureau is a volunteer-run, non-profit, charitable organization that supports low income Surrey families, so that they will have food and toys at Christmastime.

The mission of the Bureau is to help families that just don't have enough. Any money donated to the Surrey Christmas Bureau is used to purchase and distribute age-appropriate toys. Parents can pick out toys, games, stuffed animals, sports equipment, and winter clothing for their children at the central depot. Grocery cards are also distributed according to family size, to be used for nutritious food.

So what can one do volunteering at the Bureau? I am a registrar, screening clients, to ensure that they are eligible for support. Once approved, they are entered into the computer, and given a date when they are to return to select toys. Families on social assistance are automatically given a file number and their children are registered. Families are also asked if they wish to be "adopted" or sponsored by an individual, families, or companies. Later, in December, I am a cashier, ensuring that they receive the gift cards to purchase nutritious food. Other people who volunteer stock shelves, or help parents be shoppers, when they arrive to pick out brand new toys in the toy depot.

Some choose to collect brand new toys from the Surrey Fire Halls, where the public can drop off new unwrapped toys. Others volunteer to match families with the large number of families and companies that wish to "adopt a family" at Christmas.

The opportunity to assist those who are needy is rewarding. Perhaps there is a local Bureau in your community where your talents can be utilized. If you are interested in learning more about the Surrey Christmas Bureau, check the website:

<https://christmasbureau.com/what-is-the-surrey-christmas-bureau/>



# Travel Agency Tribes

CONTENT • MARKETING • TECHNOLOGY

## **New Affinity Benefit for BC Retired Principals and Vice Principals Association members Announced!**

In 2018, the BCRPVPA will have a new Affinity benefit for members. Travel Agency Tribes is currently working on a travel website for members who wish to access travel option savings.

Our travel Affinity benefit will be of interest to all members who wish to access opportunities to travel with Cruise lines, River Cruise companies, Adventure travel Operators, Escorted Tour Companies, Hotels, etc.

The travel website will regularly have new offers, travel articles, and travel videos. When the travel website is completed, members who sign up for the benefit would receive an access code to use to access it.

If a member chooses to travel using one of the offers, friends can travel along and have the same perks! Groups can be formed, with all getting reduced pricing.

**Watch for further details!**

If you are interested in access to the benefit when it launches, email [bcrpvpaaffinity@gmail.com](mailto:bcrpvpaaffinity@gmail.com)

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*Gerald Soon*

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# Join the Yammer revolution

Over 200 members are now on the Yammer network.  
It's a private 'members only' network. BCRPVPA exclusive.  
No ads. Just member's posts.  
Stay current with colleagues. Find 'lost' friends again.  
Start up a Group and make it Open or Closed.  
Share your thoughts about Association business.  
Comment on BCRPVPA Presentations now on-line.  
Share your travel stories, recommendations, photos.

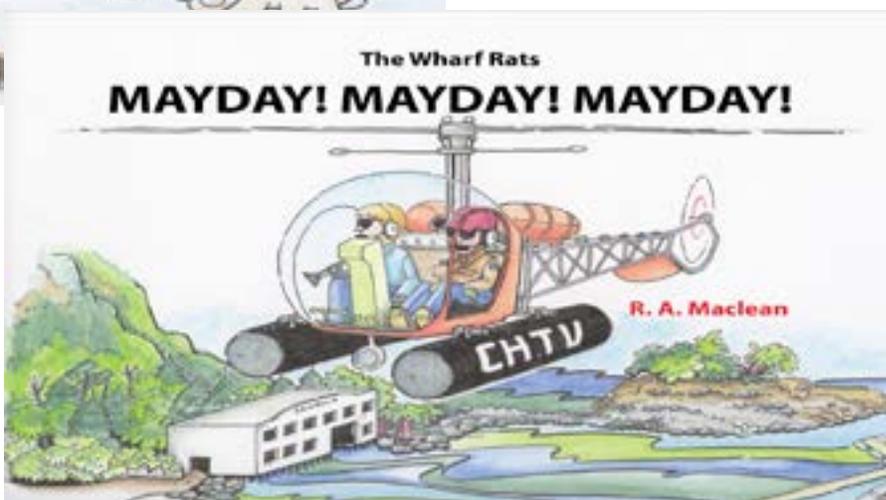
Contact [info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca) and ask for an invitation to join. We'll help you find your way around when you get into Yammer.



# Just Kidding

I retired my Just Kidding website in August. After almost 20 years of developing those cartoons, I decided it was time to move onto other things, in particular, writing and illustrating my series of children's stories -The Wharf Rats (pic below). I'd like to thank you and all the folks at BCRPVPA for using Just Kidding cartoons for these many years. It's been a privilege for me to serve you.

Cheers, Rod



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# 2017-18 Executive Committee

**President**  
Eileen Phillips [email](#)

**Vice-President**  
Ted St. Pierre

**Past President**  
Vivian Rygnestad

**Secretary**  
Celina Mau

**Treasurer/Social**  
Lanny Young

## Members-at-Large

Membership/Sunshine  
Leanna Garner

Program/Speakers  
Executive

Scholarships  
Ted St. Pierre (ex officio)  
Christine Johnson  
Jeff Larcombe  
Allan Buggie

Communications/Technology  
Graham Mulligan [email](#)

Affinity/Pensions  
shared position  
Gerald Soon  
Gerry Tiede

Observers at BCPVPA  
Chapter Council  
Eileen Phillips  
Ted St. Pierre

Refreshments for Meetings  
Lanny Young

## History Committee

Nick Parker-Jervis  
Gord Wallington  
Joy Ruffeski  
Vivian Rygnestad  
Graham Mulligan  
Rod Giles

### General Meetings

Tue. Oct. 24, 2017

Thurs. Jan. 18, 2018

Tue. March. 13, 2018

#### **AGM**

Thurs. May 3, 2018

Please mark meeting dates in your planners.

Social: 9:30 a.m.; Meeting: 9:45 a.m.;

Program/Speaker: 11:00 a.m.

No-host lunch to follow at a local restaurant. Meetings are held at the BCPVPA Office unless otherwise noted.