
Chronicles & Capers

Spring, 2024 Newsletter, Issue #96

BC Retired Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association



BCRPVPA News

The Executive wishes BCRPVPA Members safety & health always, especially when travelling.

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Annual General Meeting:
Wednesday, May 22, 2024

10:00/am; 9:30 ZOOM contact

Please continue to send newsletter articles to

info@bcrvpa.ca

2023 – 2024 BCRPVPA EXECUTIVE

President: Ted St. Pierre
Past President: Christine Johnson
Vice President: Marsha Arnold
Treasurer: Lanny Young
Secretary: Ian Kent

MEMBERS-at-LARGE:

Membership: Deborah Luporini
Communications: Marsha Arnold
Scholarships: Jeff Larcombe,
Christine Johnson, Ian Kent, Yolande
Martinello

Website Updates: Marsha Arnold,
Ted St. Pierre

Benefits/Affinity + Pension:
Marsha Arnold

Newsletter Editor: Ted St. Pierre

Sunshine: Bonnie Deren

Members-at-Large: Sher Baerg

Please consider joining the BCRPVPA
Executive 2024-2025.

It is an exciting retirement
contribution.

Contact: info@bcrvpa.ca

President's Letter, March 2024

Exciting Times with Spring, Health, &

Relations With BCRPVPA & BCPVPA

The beautiful weather encourages everyone to get outside. What a great opportunity to get exercise by walking, cycling, even running a bit.

A major focus in BC is safety with fires. Hot weather is approaching.

Much has passed since the last newsletter.

- 1) The bcrpypa.ca website enables applications for new BCRPVPA Members and Grade 12 Scholarships, to be filled out and sent in easy steps. We are working on updating our Google provider. We are receiving numerous Grade 12 Scholarship applications.

- 2) So far, we've had 830 "hits" on our website in the past 2 months. The most viewed are scholarships & the BCRPVPA home page. Also, many of our Members have questions about Affinity, Benefits, & Pensions. Our V-P Marsha Arnold does a great job resolving these.



- 3) **VOLUNTEER** is a strong focus this issue. Our guest speaker at the upcoming General Meeting Thursday, March 28, is on "Volunteers". Also, please see the article on VOLUNTEERS, later in the Newsletter.

I want to
volunteer

4) **Relations with BCRPVPA and BCPVPA:**

Magdalena Kassis (Acting Executive Director), & the BCPVPA President, Brian Leonard, met with BCRPVPA Executive Members Ted St. Pierre (President), Marsha Arnold (Vice-President), & Christine Johnson (Past President).

Magdalena presented the recent decisions of the BCPVPA Board of Directors:

- **FINANCES:** Effective April 01, 2024, the BCPVPA will no longer hold the finances or assist with accounting services for the BCRPVPA. We can provide suggestions of accounting firms and/or banking institutions you may wish to consider. **Effective March 25, 2024, we have received no suggestions regarding finances as promised! I have requested many meetings to discuss this issue. No reply.**
- **STAFF ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT:**
Effective immediately, the BCPVPA will not provide staff support for the BCRPVPA's technical, clerical, accounting, & financial requirements.
Staff at BCPVPA received gift cards for their excellent few minutes of support. We were told payment should have been to BCPVPA.
- **CONTACT INFORMATION:**
The Board recognized that the BCPVPA does not have the staffing capacity to answer phone calls or take messages on behalf of BCRPVPA.
The BCPVPA Staff received 7 phone calls from July 2023 to March 20, 2024.
We've removed BCPVPA phone numbers, address, from every aspect of the website bcrpvpa.ca.

- **CHAPTER COUNCIL ATTENDANCE:**
One BCRPVPA representative will be invited to one Chapter Council meeting each year, to increase BCPVPA members' awareness of the BCRPVPA.

Invite is Saturday morning only, with a 5-minute talk.

- **MEETING SPACE BOOKINGS:**
Bookings at the BCPVPA must be subject to cost, liability, equity, and finance.
Requests as to what costs will BCRPVPA be subjected to for meeting costs, coffee, and technical assistance have not received a single reply. A BIT FRUSTRATING!

Meetings have been requested with BCPVPA Members: (President; Accountant) with no response April 6.

The BCRPVPA Officers are exploring alternatives if BCPVPA will no longer accept our Association as a vital professional partnership.

Ted St. Pierre, BCRPVPA President



PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT, by Christine Johnson

March 2024 Election of 2024-25 Members of the Executive

Members of the BCRPVPA are warmly invited to join the Executive. You are free to apply for any position. The Executive works co-operatively in awarding scholarships, writing the Newsletter, providing members with updates, working on finances, and Taking Minutes. Other duties arise. Serving the needs of our members is our prime concern.

Look online for more information about our Association or email us at

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



Getting to Know Our Amazing BCRPVA Members



Spotlight on Ian Kent

Ian considers himself very lucky to have spent his entire career in education in the Sea to Sky School District, starting his teaching career in elementary classes. In the past forty years, Ian was very fortunate to have worked in almost every district school, first as a teacher, then as a Vice - Principal and finally as a Principal. Ian ended his career working at the School Board office as Assistant Superintendent. He is proud to have had the chance to work with many excellent educators.

Over the years, Ian served as both a BCPVPA Council rep and as a local Chapter President. Ian loved to interact with teachers, district staff, parents and most importantly students. The past eight years, Ian has served as an elected School Trustee, again for School District #48. After retiring as a Trustee, Ian saw a new opportunity to give back to his community by joining the BCRPVA. He jumped at the chance to be part of the Scholarship Committee to help students achieve their goals of a higher education.

Ian and his wife have recently moved back to North Vancouver to be closer to their children and four grandchildren. They are enjoying the ability to see their kids on a day-to-day basis and be part of their daily lives.

Ian and his wife love to travel and were disappointed when their scheduled trip to Africa was cancelled due to Covid. They chose to visit Australia instead as it seemed the safer choice at the time. They loved every minute of it and are still looking forward to visiting Africa when the time is right.

Travel Note: Thinking of joining us on a trip? Let us know at info@bcrpvpa.ca as we are always working with Trip Merchant to put trips together either for individuals, couples, or groups. Check out Trip Merchant's newsletter: - <https://bcrpvpa.tripmerchant.ca/> Password - BCRPVPA18

BCPVPA Chapter Councils, 2023-2024

Magdalena Kassis has informed us that BCPVPA Board of Directors will no longer invite BCRPVPA to its Chapter Councils.

Exception is one BCRPVPA Member will be invited to the first Chapter Council in November, on Saturday, for breakfast, & to focus for 5 minutes on the benefits of joining our Association.

BCRPVPA Student Bursaries/Scholarships 2024

The British Columbia Retired Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association (BCRPVPA) is again this year awarding up to 10 (\$1000) bursaries/scholarships, to students who graduate from the BC public school system, and who are continuing their education at an accredited post-secondary institution. (Students planning a "Gap year" should apply in the year in which they register in a post-secondary program.)

Applicants who are pursuing education in trades, technical and career field, as well as those entering universities and colleges, are encouraged to apply. Applicants will be judged on their academic achievements and demonstrated leadership and service activities both within the school and the community. The financial need of applicants will also be taken into consideration.

An application form (and application requirements) can be found at bcrpvpa.ca under scholarship information.

Canadian Dental Care Plan - www.Canada.ca/Dental

Qualification Requirements:

Eligibility for the CDCP is determined based on several criteria. Currently the program is expanding to seniors, children under 18 and people with disabilities. Eventually all Canadians who meet the following criteria will qualify:

- Lack of access to private dental insurance. (***we do have access through TPP***)
- Adjusted family net income below \$90,000. [Do you qualify - Canada.ca](http://www.Canada.ca/Do-you-qualify)-
- Canadian residency for tax purposes.
- Having filed a tax return in the previous year.

Application Process:

Applications will open in phases, starting with seniors aged 87 and above in December 2023, followed by other age groups through mid-2024. Eligible individuals 70+ will receive a letter with an application code and instructions. Online applications for other groups will be available from May 2024. **Some services will only become available in fall 2024.**

Refer to www.Canada.ca/Dental for more information as time progresses. It will be the most up-to-date source of information on the application process.

Issues not yet resolved:

- 1. Dentists have not yet been signed up for the programme** nor agreed to the governments CDCP fees as government is waiting to see how many people sign up.
2. It says only those that lack access through their pension or employer are eligible. ***"You're still considered to have access to dental insurance even if you choose to opt out of available benefits..."*** Quoted from government dental plan.

TPP has written the government to state that our dental plan is not subsidized and that the average TPP pension is \$33,000. More than 43% of members do not access the dental plan they offer, but presently **we do not qualify**. TPP asks to change the eligibility criteria.

There are many more questions still to be answered.

Recommendations:

1. Presently we are **not** eligible based on their criteria, but hopefully the TPP and other organizations' concerns will make a difference. You would not be penalized for applying.
- 2. Do not cancel your current dental plan** as the CRA know you are on a TPP pension that offers a dental plan and we do not meet the eligibility requirements.



“When it comes to retirement, it looks like 90 is the new 70.”

Why these Canadians waited until 70 to collect their CPP benefits (Globe and Mail)

Globe reporter, Brenda Bouw, explores the decisions behind the timing of when to take the government-sponsored pension plan. It’s often said that good things come to those who wait.

For Canadians eligible for the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) or Quebec Pension Plan (QPP), the “good thing” is more money. Canadians who hold off until 70 to collect their CPP benefits receive 42 per cent more than if they took it at 65, which is considered the traditional age to start – even though many more take it sooner. Globe Advisor spoke with four Canadians about why they waited, or plan to wait, until age 70 to collect their CPP benefits. Read the **full article here**.



Or use the HearingLife booking Link

<https://bit.ly/3wenb2c>

Mention BCRPVPA so our scholarship fund receives a royalty from your free hearing test.

Check out your many benefits at [Home - BCRPVPA](#)



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The logo for WestJet, featuring the word "WESTJET" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized green and blue winged arrow pointing to the right.The logo for Trip Merchant, featuring a stylized orange triangle with a white outline, followed by the word "trip" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and the word "MERCHANT" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.The logo for Humanworks, featuring the word "humanworks" in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a red grid icon. Below the main text is the tagline "something good™" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

Just for Laughs

Yesterday my son emailed and asked why I didn't do something useful with my time. "Like sitting around playing on my computer is not a good thing?" I asked. Talking about my 'doing something useful' seems to be his favorite topic of conversation.

He said he was 'only thinking of me' and suggested that I go down to the senior's centre and hang out with the ladies there. Instead, I went curling and when I got home last night, I decided to play a prank on him. I emailed him and told him I had joined a parachute club.

He replies, "Are you nuts? You are 72 years old and now you're going to start jumping out of airplanes!" I told him that I even got a Membership Card and emailed a copy to him.

He immediately telephoned and yelled, "Good grief, Mom, where are your glasses?? This is a Membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club!"

"Oh no, I've done it again," I sighed. "I really don't know what to do. I've signed up for five jumps a week!" The line went quiet, so his friend picked up the phone and informed me that my son had just fainted.

Life as a Senior Citizen won't be getting any easier, but sometimes it can be fun to torture your children!



Tax Tips:

You **cannot** claim the \$20 BCRPVPA annual fee on your taxes as membership is not a requirement of your job.

You **can** claim your teaching annual practice fee of \$80 as that is a requirement to work in BC, if you have continued to keep it active. [Ministry of Education and Child Care \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-child-care/)

Learn more about changes to important programs for seniors, and use this checklist to help you.

VIEW BCRTA'S 2023 TAX YEAR GUIDE AT THIS LINK:

<https://bcрта.ca/tax-tips-for-the-2023-tax-year-for-retired-educators/>

Dreams Really Do Come True(by Jeff Larcombe)

When our children were small, my wife and I decided to sponsor a 5-year-old child in the Philippines through World Vision. Over the next 8 years we enjoyed receiving updates about this young boy - who was one of 10 children.

From time to time, we received report card updates, updated photos and information from World Vision about the family and their situation. In addition, we received notes from the boy as he grew older.

After some 8 years our sponsorship ended, and we no longer had any contact with this boy for many years. However, it was always our dream to one day contact this now grown man (Sonny) to satisfy our longing to know how his life and that of his family had progressed.

For several years we tried off and on to find a contact for Sonny but alas, all leads led nowhere. After several more years my wife decided to try Facebook! Within 5 minutes she had found Sonny, and a photo of him (then around 53 years of age) surely matched some of the childhood photos we had treasured and kept all those years! Sonny soon confirmed that indeed he was the "little boy" we had been searching for.

Meanwhile on this side of the ocean, my wife and I had met, and have remained friends for over 20 years with a family originally from the Philippines. Once this family learned of our story regarding Sonny, they offered to host us in their family home north of Manila this past February, so that we could try to meet Sonny and his family.



Soon after we arrived in the Philippines and settled in the family home, we had an emotional meeting with Sonny, his wife Dr. Irene and son Neil. Tears were hard to hold back - but they flowed later on!

Sonny and his family turned out to be some of the most gracious people we have ever met. They could not do enough for us, hosted us for a weekend, and took us on trips to different parts of the Philippines. We felt like royalty!!

We also had the privilege of meeting three brothers and one sister of Sonny while in the Philippines and had previously met a brother of Sonny a couple of years ago while visiting Calgary.

We will remain in contact with Sonny and family and hope that one day we will meet again - don't know where, don't know when - but we hope and pray we can once again break bread with this amazing family!

V O L N T E E R
all that's missing is U!

Volunteers Opportunities:

Please see below for a message from our friends at [Children's Festival](#) if you are looking for more volunteer opportunities for the Spring:

2024 Vancouver International Children's Festival – Volunteer Call

Do you love art, theatre and working with children? Consider volunteering with the 47th annual Vancouver International Children's Festival this Spring!

From **May 27 to June 2, 2024**, the Vancouver International Children's Festival will welcome more than 25,000 attendees to Granville Island. Our 2024 Festival will feature dazzling performances from artists far and wide. From local treasures to international gems, these captivating performers will put a smile on your child's face and make you hoot with laughter.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- Get involved in an exciting creative project and open your mind to different perspectives
- Meet extraordinary people
- Learn and develop new skills
- Take part in a festive community event where you are encouraged to dress up every day you come to work
- Share your love of interacting by volunteering with kids
- Show that you care about your community
- Create wonderful experiences for kids, adults, and co-workers

WHAT ARE THE PERKS?

- Free snacks and treats at the Volunteer Centre, where you can rest, refuel, and hang out during your break and expand your circle of friends.
- Standby pass for all performances
- Free Friday night show for three shifts worked (this does not include the training/orientation)
- Extra Activity Village Wristband: You will receive one Free wristband at the Activity Village for each day you volunteer. This means you can bring your sibling or come back to the Festival at a later time.
- Signed Confirmation outlining that you volunteered "x" hours for the Festival. This is not a reference letter. It is a note confirming your participation in the Festival.
- School credit for hours volunteered. If you require Work Experience forms and Work Experience Evaluation forms completed, you need to volunteer a minimum of 21 hours. We have high school opportunities available.

- Reference Letter upon request for volunteers who contribute a minimum of 30 hours
- Prize draw for volunteers who have completed over 30 hours

WHAT MAKES A SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER?

- Good command of the English language.
- Strong communication skills.
- Reliable and dependable.
- Attend training session(s).
- Willing to give your time with a smile.
- Contribute to the best of your abilities.
- Flexible, patient, respectful, with a good dose of humility.
- Like to have fun!

WHAT POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE?



There's a job at the Festival for everyone, depending on your interest, commitment level, and skill set.

DURING THE FESTIVAL (May 27 to June 2) and the week before: We have a lot of positions to choose from, so we have categorized them in three groups depending on the time commitment and duties required. A full shift is approx. seven hours long. Apply now for the spots you want most!

Our volunteer opportunities:

- [Regular Volunteer](#) position requires a commitment of two shifts
- [Host / Chaperone](#) position requires a commitment of three shifts
- [Crew Captain](#) position requires a commitment of five shifts

Please take a few minutes to read about some of the positions available by clicking on the links above, then go ahead and apply. If you are applying as a Key Volunteer, Host, or Crew Captain you will be asked to upload a resumé on the application form.

Parlez-vous français? Voilà l'opportunité que vous attendiez!
 LE BÉNÉVOLAT EN FRANÇAIS/FRENCH SPEAKING VOLUNTEERS LA
 JOURNÉE FRANCOFUN! Jeudi 30 mai / Thursday, May 30.

For more information, or to apply,

visit: <https://www.childrensfestival.ca/about/volunteer-application-form/>

Contact Us:

If you have any questions about volunteering with the Vancouver International Children's Festival please contact Volunteer Services at volunteer@childrensfestival.ca or call 604-708-5655 - ext.105.

Best,

Kirith Bains, Co-Volunteer Manager Phone: 778-654-5054

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please continue to update changes in email and mailing addresses
by contacting: info@bcrpvpa.ca

No phone number available currently. Please email: info@bcrpvpa.ca

WEBSITE: <https://www.bcrpvpa.ca>

**Upcoming ANNUAL General Meeting:
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 (10:00/am)**

**BCPVPA Boardroom, 525 West 10th Ave., Vancouver
Broadway Canada Line Station. Zoom Link Forthcoming**