
ELK ISLAND RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

President's Message



As I write this, the trees are telling me it is autumn. The colours are so vibrant in the bright sunlight. I know this time is short as winds will take the leaves and the ground will soon be white, but for now I revel in the crisp morning air and the scent of the leaves.

This branch was well represented at the ARTA AGM early in October. I was there with Denis Schell, Inge Coates, Ruby Okamura, Diana Millard, and Deb Gerow. The business of the meeting was informative as always. Elections gave us a new ARTA President – our own Deb Gerow!

When this edition of the newsletter reaches you, our second 'Walk in the Park' should have been completed. I hope many of you were there to share company. I regret not being able to attend.

Our numbers continue to grow. It was wonderful to welcome so many new members at the breakfast on August 30th. The event was very well attended and everyone seemed to have a great time. I look forward to seeing people again for our Christmas luncheon.

As the weather changes, people sometimes start to head into 'hibernation mode'. It may be more difficult for some to be out and about. Please remember to stay in touch with friends and family. That group includes all of us in Elk Island RTA. Feel free to reach out to say hello, chat a while, arrange a visit, whatever you need.

If any of you have not yet received notification regarding membership renewal, let us know. Our membership chair (Thelma Baumgartner) has sent out information to show when your fees will be due again. Proactive and practical!

As you watch the seasons change, stay positive and hopeful. Time passes much too swiftly to waste any of it. Consider...

AN OPTIMIST'S CREED PROMISE YOURSELF...

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To make all of your friends feel that there is something in them.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.

To forget the mistakes of the past and to press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and to give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the pressure of trouble.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

- Christian D. Larson

Fall Edition

October 2022

President's Report	1
EIRTA News	2
News from ARTA	2
THWTB Breakfast	3
Fall Walk	4
Winterize Your Garden	4
Passing Emergency Vehicles	5
"Snakes"	6
Puzzle Page	8

Elk Island RTA website:

<https://artabranches.net/elkislandrta/>

Elk Island RTA email:

newseirta@gmail.com

ARTA
ALBERTA RETIRED
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Like ARTA, Elk Island RTA supports an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centered services, advocacy, communication, wellness and leadership.

Elk Island RTA Executive

President Karen Atkinson

Vice President Denis Schell

Treasurer Dolaine Koch

Secretary/Compassion & Congratulations
Karen Bittner

Past President Inge Coates

Newsletter, Websites and Email
Julie Ginther

Membership
Thelma Baumgartner

Phoning Committee Chair
Dianna Millard

Social Committee
Sheila Busch

Ruby Okamura

Sylvia Roes

Karen Carlson

ARTA Reps: Dolaine Koch
Karen Atkinson

EIRTA Membership Fees:

After the two years of suspended membership, all members should have received an email informing them of their current standing with their membership fees. If you have not received a notification, please contact Thelma Baumgartner at thelbaumgartner@gmail.com

Please Keep Us Updated

Please register changes in your membership information if...

- You have turned 80 years of age. (Membership is free after this age if you have been a member for the previous 10 years.)
- You have moved. (We need your new contact information.)
- You are not certain if your membership has expired.

To register changes, contact Thelma Baumgartner at 780 464 4129 or email her at thelbaumgartner@gamil.com

News from ARTA



With another successful year behind us, we continue to drive our business forward and are well on the way to fulfilling our Strategic Goals.

From the new programs and initiatives that have been created by our board and committees to the contributions of our dedicated partners and staff, our mission of supporting an engaged lifestyle after retirement through member-centred services, advocacy, communication, wellness, and organizational excellence has become more of a reality.

Many thanks to all the board members, committee members, and staff for their valuable contributions over the past year.

Click on the link below to download a PDF copy of the ARTA Annual Report.

<https://www.arta.net/download/413/>

To Hell with The Bells Breakfast



Ahhh! What a great feeling to be able to roll over and go back to sleep while others must rise and shine and go to work! More wonderful than that, however, is waking up on a beautiful warm sunny morning knowing that you will, in a short while, be joining with friends and fellow colleagues to enjoy a delicious breakfast and stimulating conversation. For the first time since 2019 the Elk Island Retired Teachers Association was able to provide an opportunity for its teachers and professional staff to meet in person for fun, food, and fellowship. There was an electric buzz in the air as hellos and hugs and excitement abounded. On August 30th, over eighty members and guests of our association arrived at the Broadmoor Golf Course clubhouse to renew friendships and get reacquainted. Broadmoor has always been a beautiful venue with its big windows and awesome views. Tables were tastefully decorated with colorful autumn leaves, and the ambience was one of warmth and acceptance. The food was excellent, and there was certainly plenty of it. No one left hungry. Thanks to Broadmoor To-A-Tee Catering. Several new retirees joined our branch. All were delighted that they had now found out one of the secrets to post retirement happiness. Welcome to all our new members. We trust that you will continue to join us for more exciting get-togethers. Staying in touch with one another keeps us content and fulfilled. A fabulous time was had by one and all. EIRTA is looking forward to continuing its in-person gatherings with its Christmas luncheon being planned for Thursday, December 1st at this same venue. Hope to see you once again at that time.



Fall Walk

It is time, once again, to meet at Broadmoor Lake Park. Join us for another reunion with friends and colleagues for a good visit, along with coffee, hot chocolate with marshies, delicious cookies, and a walk around the lake. We are certain to enjoy the beauty of the fall leaves and, hopefully, mild temperatures.

Walk Around the Lake

Monday, October 24th @ 2 pm

Confirm by emailing Ruby

masandruby19@gmail.com

by Saturday, October 22nd



How to Winterize Your Garden

By Carol Gilbertson

When the leaves start to fall and the weather turns chilly, we know that winter is on its way. Here are a few tips I like to follow in the fall. The sooner you can prepare your garden for winter, the easier it will be in the spring.

Weeding in the fall prevents invasive weeds from dropping their seeds which will pop up in greater numbers in the spring. Make sure to also remove any dead or infected plants or leaves...

I find that perennials such as peonies, irises and daylilies do best if they are cut down to about 2 inches from the ground. Daylilies and irises get limp and slimy if left through the winter. Cut back dead or old growth so that new growth has room to emerge in the spring.

If you enjoy bulbs such as tulips, fall planting will allow them to bloom in early spring.

It is best to clear out all annuals and start fresh in the spring.

I like to leave tall grasses, so they pop up through the snow to give some visual interest to the snowy landscape. They should be cut down early in the spring to allow new shoots to emerge.

It may seem like a lot of work, but it will be so worth it when spring finally brings our gardens back to life again.

Carol Gilbertson is offering our newsletter a new feature. Carol has an amazing green thumb, and she enjoys spending time in her gorgeous garden.

Passing Emergency Vehicles - Current Laws

In the Summer, 2020 edition of our newsletter, I submitted the article, *Have the Rules for Driving Changed*.

In the article, I quoted an Alberta Government website: <https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-response-vehicles-and-tow-trucks.aspx>

Since that article, I have had several people tell me that the law has changed, and that vehicles in all lanes beside an emergency stop must now reduce their speed. If that is so, the website has not caught up! Regardless, I suggest that you always drive with caution, and you use the website above if you want to check on the rules of the road.

Here is a screen shot of the information on that site as of Sept 24, 2022:

Emergency response vehicles and tow trucks | Alberta.ca

Alberta

Q ☰

Motorists must reduce speed to 60 km/h or the posted speed, whichever is lower, when passing emergency vehicles or tow trucks that are stopped with their lights flashing. This law applies to the lane(s) immediately next to the stopped vehicles. The fine for speeding in these areas is doubled.

SPEED
FINES
DOUBLE

**MAXIMUM
60 km/h**
when passing
**EMERGENCY
VEHICLES**

Maximum 60 km/hour when passing emergency vehicles.

If you are not in the lane next to the stopped vehicles, you still need to be watchful and cautious.

Reduce your speed and leave lots of space between yourself and emergency personnel and equipment at the scene. Also, watch for the movement of personnel around the scene.

Submitted by Inge Coates

A few issues back, we asked for stories from our members regarding their teaching experiences. Thank you to Jim Walsh for his submission of his teaching story.

SNAKE!

By Jim Walsh

Teaching in a one room school had many rewards and many challenges. Add to the mix that it was a first appointment, was isolated geographically and socially. This was exactly where I found myself in January 1962: 22 kids from K to 6, no car, billeted 15 km from school, no age-appropriate human contact....and an ever changing mostly alien environment and you have the setting for my story.

The blistering summer heat began to subside by early that first March. I had some sort of routine going, though it was apt to break down without warning or reason. One afternoon, just as my 'well planned' social studies lessons were starting to hum, I chanced to glance out the window. The very breath whistled out of me. Out in the school yard and heading for the schoolhouse was, to my horror, an awfully long, very dangerous Brown Snake. I had never seen a live one before let alone be responsible for its destruction.

I had no choice. It could kill any one of the children and would make me at least very sick. I had to get to it before it reached the school. There was an open forty or so centimeter space between the floor and the ground. I ordered all heads down on the desk, and I took Greg and Lyn out into the entry hall. They were to keep order inside while I went forth to battle the invader!!! Then I rushed out to the wood heap for a long-handled shovel. It was all I could think of at the height of my panic.

Armed and scared, I circled the serpent. As I rushed towards it, I was beyond horrified as the reptile arched into the air and flopped back on its path. Now it was slithering straight towards me. As I broke off at a right angle, a voice broke the silence that was pounding in my ears, "Come at him three quarters on from behind."

In reflection, I had no idea what that exactly meant. But I must have understood at some instinctive level. He just kept heading for the fence; and, luckily, away from the school!!!

Seeing my chances of killing the thing, I moved in and slammed the shovel down with a vengeance. Stepping back to observe my victory I was stunned to see the snake continue its escape. Later I figured out that the groove in the bottom of the blade had fitted perfectly over the body without touching it.

Undaunted, I followed him to the fence. As the beast slithered through the chicken wire and between old logs, I drove the shovel into it...again and again. Pieces of snake flew every which way!!! Wasn't neat but effective. No humans bitten and one less 'joe blake' to worry about.

I marched back into the school to the cheers of my 'kids.' I didn't know just how they felt about me before that day. But from then on, I had at least some 'bush' skill. I could kill snakes. However, there was a downside to my moment of glory. Lyn took me aside and explained that, despite its multi wounds and severed pieces, the snake would not die until sundown. I never did confirm the fact or fiction of this gem! Urban myths were staple fare in the sticks!

(Continued on page 7)



("Snake!" Continued)

It may have been my first but not my last. However, before I sallied forth into battle again, I armed myself with a LONG pliable stick; a two-meter piece of Mallee Blue Gum. The value with that weapon was that it flattened out on the ground and so broke the snake's back. They were said, once wounded, to bite themselves. I never stood around long enough to verify!!! Later, I armed myself with a .22 rifle. With a ten-shot clip, one didn't have to get too close!!! Expensive but very effective. We kept the gun in the broom cupboard, the bolt in the medicine cupboard, and the shells at the post office. After Ted moved away, I kept the shells in the glove box of my car.

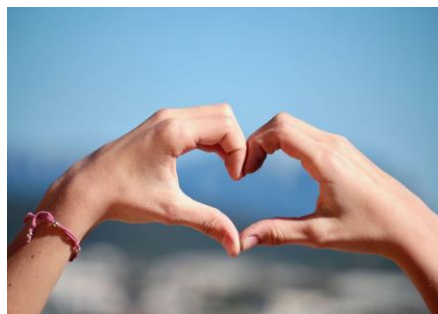
The gun was useless the day Janelle A burst into the classroom gasping that 'something' was behind the toilet seat in the girls' toilet. It was a baby 'possum that had taken refuge in there. I raked him out with a long stick. Their claws can do much damage in a short time!!! He was obviously sick and wouldn't survive. He had been severely bitten by a swarm of bees. We traced him back to a giant Yellow Box. The bees had taken over the hollow in which he lived.

One of the strangest snake incidences involved the mail lady. Most of our mail came on Monday and Friday by train. Mrs. Martin came by from Beckom on Tuesday and Thursday with a small amount of mail. However, her contribution to the well-being of all was the bread she delivered from the Beckom Bakery.

One Thursday, instead of reaching up to put the loaves in the mailbox, she got out of the car, opened the back door, then dashed into the school screaming a blue streak! As I nearly collided with her by the tank stand, I deciphered her screams: "Snake! There's a snake IN my car". Sure enough, there on the back seat was a small snake. It was, fortunately, quite dead. Seems Mrs. Martin saw it on the road and tried to use her wheels to kill it. The practice was to apply the brakes as you rolled over the snake. Apparently as she accelerated away, she flipped the thing up and through the open back window.

Kindness

Are you aware of a member who is struggling?
Please let us know, and we will reach out with a call or a card.
Sometimes, just a little touch of kindness makes all the
difference in the world.



Puzzle Page

For the past three issues of our newsletter, we've included the puzzle page. We hope you are enjoying the puzzles. If you are enjoying the puzzles, please let us know at newseirta@gmail.com.

The answer is included at the end of the newsletter. **Hope you enjoy!**

			2			7		3
	9			8			1	
	1	3	7					8
	4					8		1
			8	2	9			
3		8					5	
2					8	6	7	
	6			4			3	
1		4			6			

Answer key for Puzzle

121

6	8	5	2	1	4	7	9	3
7	9	2	6	8	3	4	1	5
4	1	3	7	9	5	2	6	8
9	4	6	3	5	7	8	2	1
5	7	1	8	2	9	3	4	6
3	2	8	4	6	1	9	5	7
2	5	9	1	3	8	6	7	4
8	6	7	5	4	2	1	3	9
1	3	4	9	7	6	5	8	2