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# ELK ISLAND RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## President's Message 2023

How can this be? Time really does seem to speed up as we get older, doesn't it? The past year held so much on its brief journey. There were good times and bad, changes welcome and feared, losses and gains. I suspect the coming year will bring surprises. I hope they will be good ones for you all. I am glad the opportunities for in-person gathering were available again. So many of you were able to join together to celebrate, remember, refresh. There will be more of that in the months ahead.

The pandemic seems to have taken a back seat in news and discussions, but I maintain a reservation regarding its lessening impact. The disease continues to mutate and find new ways to challenge medical science. Vigilance is still part of my routine. I hope you have had a chance to update your vaccination status to raise all the barriers you can against serious illness.

I think I can already see the days lengthening. Perhaps it is wishful thinking. The winter always seems darkest in the first months of the year. Soon, though, it will end. I am looking forward to the next season, but I am willing to wait for it. Time can slow down again and let us enjoy it all.

Take good care of yourselves, please. Have fun. Keep in touch. Wishing you all a very good year.



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Elk Island RTA website:

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

Elk Island RTA email:  
[newseirta@gmail.com](mailto: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 780 915 6168 <a href="mailto:ka88@telus.net">ka88@telus.net</a>
Vice President	Denis Schell 780 761 9136 <a href="mailto:djls@shaw.ca">djls@shaw.ca</a>
Treasurer	Dolaine Koch 780 477 0170 <a href="mailto:dolainekoch@shaw.ca">dolainekoch@shaw.ca</a>
Secretary	Elaine Whitford 780-464-0943 <a href="mailto:samdenwal@gmail.com">samdenwal@gmail.com</a>
Compassion & Congratulations	Karen Bittner 780-417-3023 <a href="mailto:kkbittner@shaw.ca">kkbittner@shaw.ca</a>
Past President	Inge Coates 780 257 6961 <a href="mailto:elkislandrta@gmail.com">elkislandrta@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter, Websites and Email	Julie Ginther 780 998 2079 <a href="mailto:newseirta@gmail.com">newseirta@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Thelma Baumgartner 780 464 4129 <a href="mailto:thelbaumgartner@gmail.com">thelbaumgartner@gmail.com</a>
Phoning Committee Chair	Dianna Millard 780 464 4121 <a href="mailto:dianna.millard@shaw.ca">dianna.millard@shaw.ca</a>
Social Committee	Sheila Busch 780 449 0043 <a href="mailto:sheilacolleenbusch@gmail.com">sheilacolleenbusch@gmail.com</a> Ruby Okamura 780 416 1055 <a href="mailto:masandruby19@gmail.com">masandruby19@gmail.com</a> Sylvia Roes 780 463 2845 <a href="mailto:roesjane@telusplanet.net">roesjane@telusplanet.net</a> Karen Carlson 780 464 1349 <a href="mailto:karencarlson@me.com">karencarlson@me.com</a>
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](mailto: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](mailto:thelbaumgartner@gamil.com)

## News from ARTA



**Why Join? What's in it for you? Being an ARTA member comes with many advantages, including:**

- ARTA *news&views*, a quarterly magazine
- **ARTAfacts**, an email newsletter
- Special rates from ARTA's home and auto insurance partner
- Affiliation to ARTA branches that provide localized community activities, networking opportunities, and a conduit for effective communication to all ARTA members.
- Boom Group discount program
- Scholarships for family members
- A life insurance plan specifically for ARTA members

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# Christmas 2022 Luncheon

On December 1st, the EIRTA Christmas luncheon was held at the Broadmoor Golf Course Clubhouse. All seventy-seven attendees were happy to be back together after a three-year hiatus due to Covid. Besides our regular members, we also had several invited friends, and representatives from ARTA and TWI Insurance. What a marvelous festive experience we had!

Upon entering the clubhouse doors there was an air of expectancy with warm welcomes, beautiful decorations, delicious aromas, and a colorful Christmas tree...all of which awaited our members and guests. Hugs abounded, and friendly chatter was continuous. A wonderful turkey dinner was enjoyed by all with many compliments and comments on the unending amount of delectable food. Several lucky people had their names drawn for awesome door prizes and pretty poinsettias. After the meal, we had the good fortune to have Bob Adamson and his great niece, Melanie Schattle, to entertain us with Christmas songs and carols. Of course, several our members became participants at the front of the room to add to our laughter and enjoyment as we sang along. What fun!

One important part of the luncheon was participation in gifting those less fortunate than us. A table laden with toys and monetary gifts was destined for Ukrainian children new to the Edmonton area who will be experiencing their first Christmas here. A collection of more than four hundred dollars was donated to the Strathcona Christmas Bureau. Thank you to all who expressed their generosity through their donations. Our luncheon ended on a high note as Christmas greetings and more hugs, along with promises to see each other again soon, concluded our happy time.

Stay tuned to find out what the executive members will plan next...perhaps another walk around the lake, and a super 'spring fling'!





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## A Labour of Love!

Last year was time for firsts as the world reopened to pre-pandemic life. Many of us began to get together, we began traveling, or we returned to work outside of our home. Those of us who are retired found the years of isolation were a time to try new hobbies or crafts to fill our time.

At the Christmas Luncheon our members donated toys and money to those in need.

I was especially touched by one of our members who began quilting during isolation. Karin Bittner completed her first quilt during 2022 and she donated this special quilt to a Ukrainian child at our Christmas Luncheon.

The quilt made with love is certainly bringing warmth and comfort to a child in war torn Ukraine.

Thank you, Karin, for such a wonderful donation.



# Puzzle Page

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

## PUZZLE 37

## WINEMAKING TERMS

BARREL

FINISH

PIPE

BOUQUET

FORTIFY

PRESS

CLARIFY

GENERIC

RACKED

CRUSH

LEES

RED

DECANT

NOSE

REHOBOAM

FERMENT

OAK

SEC

FINING

OENOLOGY

SEDIMENT

S E D I M E N T G C R U S H

SOLERA

W H P J S X E S V S G O H U

SOMMELIER

D I T O C U E I Y S L X Z L

SPARKLING

I E N N Q C N K Z E S D Y L

SPLIT

G C C U T T L E R R A B F A

TANNIN

S N O A A N F A O P R S I G

ULLAGE

O B I G N I L K R A P S T E

VARIETAL

M H E N N T W A C I K Z R N

VAT

M H F I I I N K T R F S O E

VINTAGE

E A S L N F E E N E E Y F R

WINERY

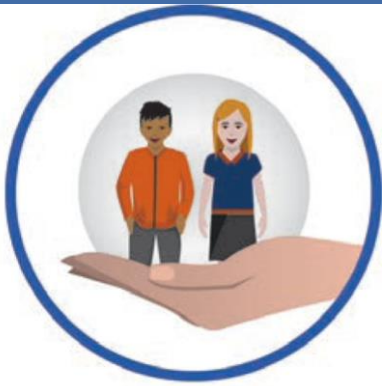
L H P E B D M I M E I D E I

YEAST

I S R H O U P T L R P R F C

E Y R E H O B O A M E I A J

R Y G O L O N E O V Z F P V



## Travelers' Rights

*The news the past few months has been filled with stories regarding delays, lost luggage and cancellations. If this situation strikes you or has already struck you. What are your rights? Our member, Inge Coates, recommended this article for all members and readers of our newsletter.*

**Published Dec. 24, 2022 9:41 a.m. MST**

Canadians attempting to travel during the holidays this week have faced a number of challenges getting to their destinations, thanks to the arrival of intense winter storms.

Major Canadian airlines cancelled hundreds of flights across the country Thursday, Friday and Saturday amid freezing rain, blowing snow and strong winds.

In response to the storms, Air Canada announced on Thursday it would implement "goodwill refund policy" that allows customers to request a refund or travel voucher if they purchased a ticket no later than Dec. 21 for travel to or from a Canadian airport between Dec. 22 and Dec. 26.

"If you're scheduled to travel during the affected period, you can retrieve your booking to request a refund up to two hours before departure, free of charge on your Air Canada flight," a statement on the airline's website reads.

Outside of goodwill gestures, many Canadians are left to wonder what their rights are in such situations. In Canada, air passengers can be compensated for flight delays and cancellations under the Canadian Transportation Agency's Air Passenger Protection Regulations (APPR). APPR regulations can be tough to parse out, warns Gabor Lukacs, an advocate for Canadian air passengers and the president of the non-profit Air Passenger Rights.

This month, Air Passenger Rights submitted a report to the House of Commons recommending an overhaul of the APPR, including by simplifying the language and definitions within the regulations.

"The terminology itself is creating a lot of confusion," Lukacs told CTVNews.ca during a telephone interview on Friday, adding that the APPR is "extremely complicated."

To make it less complicated, CTVNews.ca breaks down what rights passengers have when a flight is delayed or cancelled, including due to bad weather.

(Continued page 6)



## **OUTSIDE THE AIRLINE'S CONTROL**

Sometimes, as is the case for many Canadian travelers this week, a flight is cancelled or delayed for reasons outside airlines' control. Those reasons can include weather conditions, war or political instability, instructions from air traffic control, medical emergencies, a security threat and other factors.

In the case of a cancellation, denial of boarding or delay of three hours or more, airlines must provide passengers with alternate travel arrangements or a refund. If passengers opt for alternative travel arrangements, airlines must provide a seat on their next available flight or one operated by an airline with which they have a commercial agreement, within 48 hours of the original departure time.

"If [the airline is] unable to deliver the passenger on its own network within 48 hours of the original departure time, then, in the case of large carriers like Air Canada, WestJet and Swoop, there's requirements under the law to buy the passenger tickets at another airline," Lukacs said.

If the cause of the cancellation, delay or denial of boarding is outside an airline's control, the airline is not legally obligated to cover the cost of food or lodging for affected passengers, nor offer any financial compensation.

## **WITHIN THE AIRLINE'S CONTROL**

Lukacs said passengers have more options for compensation when flights are cancelled or delayed for reasons within airlines' control.

In the case of a cancellation or a delay of two hours or more, if passengers are informed less than 12 hours before their departure time, airlines have to provide food and drink in "reasonable quantities" as well as a means of communication. Passengers who are denied boarding are entitled to these rights immediately. If passengers have to wait overnight for their flight, airlines have to offer hotel or other comparable accommodation free of charge, as well as free transportation to the accommodation.

Airlines must also provide alternate travel arrangements or refunds in the event of a cancellation or a delay of three hours or more. If the cause of the disruption is within their control, though, they have less time – nine hours – to arrange alternate travel within their own network before they're required to book on another airline's flight.

"If a flight is cancelled due to crew shortage, which is within the carrier's control, then they have to rebook you on flights of other airlines if they cannot rebook you on their own network within nine hours," Lukacs explained.

Passengers informed of a cancellation or delay 14 days or less before their departure time, or who are denied boarding, are also entitled to **financial compensation** up to \$1,000. The amount of compensation given depends on circumstances such as the length of the delay and the size of the airline.



## RIGHTS OF PASSENGERS STUCK ON THE TARMAC?

Sometimes bad weather or air traffic issues will ground a plane on the tarmac with everyone on board for hours before takeoff or after landing. Whether they're in the terminal or stuck on the tarmac, passengers are entitled to the same rights outlined above in the event of a delay or cancellation.

The airline also needs to provide passengers stuck on the tarmac with access to toilets, proper ventilation and cooling, the means to communicate with people outside the plane where feasible and food and drink, "in reasonable quantities," taking into account the length of the delay.

Once a flight has sat on a tarmac for three hours, airlines are legally obligated to let passengers disembark. The exception is that if takeoff is imminent, that window of time can be extended by an additional 45 minutes.



## PLANTING BULBS

By Carol Gilbertson

*Carol Gilbertson has an amazing green thumb, and she enjoys spending time in her gorgeous garden.*

Planting your bulbs in the right conditions will ensure a glorious show of colourful spring blooms. For the most part, this can be done either in the fall or in the spring. Just ensure the ground is warm and thawed when you plant.

There are three major types of bulbs:

- True bulbs such as hyacinths, daffodils and tulips
- Tubers such as dahlias and some begonias
- Corms such as crocuses and gladioli

Plant the bulbs according to the instructions on the bag. Create a dramatic effect by planting bulbs in masses. You can choose vivid, contrasting or more subtle combinations. I suggest you lay the bulbs out on the ground before planting to get a sense of your colour scheme. After the blooms have faded cut them off before they go to seed. This will ensure that the bulbs conserve and store up all their energy to produce new blooms the following season. Consider the annuals and perennials that you have (or will have) surrounding the bulbs so that they coordinate with and are not hidden by larger plants. Remember that most bulbs only produce one bloom so you will want other plants to bloom in that area when they are done.





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.

Answer key for Puzzle

