



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

The Heartland Herald

HARTA's Newsletter

of Branch Events

HARTA's 10th Year

February Edition

Publisher: Ron Thompson

Volume No. 10

Issue No. 6 Date: February, 2022

A Branch of ARTA



For the Foreseeable Future, all events will be online until further notice.

2022 HARTA's February Executive Meeting Feb. 9th, 2022

HARTA's Executive Meeting will be on Zoom on Wednesday, February 9th, at 9:30 AM.

2022 HARTA's Devices Workshop February 16th, 2022

HARTA's Devices Workshop will be on Zoom on Wednesday, February 16th. It will start at 1:00 PM and is expected to last until approximately 3:00 PM. The presenter will be Stan Gerber with a workshop on Windows 10. There is no cost for the workshop.

HARTA's Presentation—March 9th, 2022

At 1:00 PM Lawrence Hrycan will be our guest. He will be giving a presentation on Public Interest Alberta (PIA). He will outline some of the concerns this group is advocating for. This presentation will be on Zoom.

HARTA's Presentation—April. 14th, 2022

HARTA's Presentation will be held on Thursday, April 14th, on Zoom. The presentation information will be forwarded when available.



Celebrating HARTA's 10th Year as a Branch of ARTA

HARTA's Mini-Conference on Zoom May. 4th, 2022

The HARTA Mini-Conference will be on Zoom. Start time 9:30 AM. Further details re: registration, cost and presenters will be available as details are worked out.

HARTA's 2022 AGM in Leduc & Drayton Val- ley—September 16th, 2022

The HARTA 2022 AGM will be at St. David's United Church, in Leduc and also in Drayton Valley as well as on Zoom. Start time 10:30 AM.

From the President

At the next HARTA Executive Meeting, I will be strongly suggesting to the Executive that all HARTA events be Zoom events. The present situation re: COVID is very unpredictable. It is likely Omicron will abate by mid February, however, until COVID variants no longer exist anywhere around the world, the possibility of new waves still exists. For that reason, I am recom-

mending that HARTA hold all its events on Zoom until September of this year.

Ron Thompson —HARTA President

From the Archives

During 2022, to celebrate the 10 years HARTA has been a Branch, the Newsletter Editor will publish historical information re: HARTA, and articles previously published in earlier editions of the HARTA Herald. I hope you find them of interest.

James Campbell Concert

On Saturday, November 30th, 2013. James Campbell performed at St. David's United Church. James Campbell is a renowned clarinetist who grew up in Leduc.

From the HARTA Herald, November 2013

Regional Workshop Day (HARTA's First Mini-Conference)

HARTA organized a one day workshop in Wetaskiwin on Tuesday, April 15th, 2014 at the Montgomery Glen Golf and Country Club.

Among the topics that were featured were: Life Without Driving, Staying Fit at Home, Osteoarthritis and Nordic Walking. Our presenters were; Jeanette Van Hyfte, Marie Mann, Bill Fraser, Mary Checkley and Shirley Crawford. For the workshops. Nordic Walking poles were available to the participants at the workshop.

.From the HARTA Herald, May 2014

How To Access Alberta's New QR Code

As of November 15, 2021, the Alberta Government now requires all persons who are vaccinated with COVID vaccines to carry identification with their personal QR code to prove they have been vaccinated with a COVID Vaccine. The following steps will help you to get your person-

al QR Code from the Government of Alberta Website. Before starting, gather the following information for you and whomever else you will get a code for:

- Personal Health Number
 - Date of Birth
 - The date of one of your vaccinations (Month and Year).
1. Using the website www.alberta.ca type in, "Alberta QR Code." in the search field and look for the response, "COVID Records Helpdesk."
 2. Click this link and scroll down the page until you see the phrase, "Get your vaccine record." Followed by an arrow.
 3. Click this link. You will come to a page entitled, "Alberta Covid Records." Below the title, you will see a picture of a mobile device and below this picture if you keep scrolling down, you'll come to a blue bar labelled, "GET STARTED." Press or click this bar.
 4. At this point you will come to a page with the headings, "Get Started, Complete the Form, and Save Record."
 5. Fill in the form with the required information: Personal Health Number, Date of Birth, The date of one of your vaccinations (Month and Year). Then check the box, "I am not a robot." Press or click the Blue Bar.
 6. Next the QR Code appears. Below the code two blue bars appear. Using the blue bar, "Save Your Code," you press or click the bar, and a printer menu appears allowing a copy of the QR code may be printed. (Depending on the quality of the printer, the best print quality may be had with a black & white printout.)
 7. You can also save a PDF version for your cell phone by changing "Destination" on the print page from the name of your printer to "Save as PDF". Then choose the file where you wish to save the QR code. If you

are saving it to ONE DRIVE, you may also wish to save it to a file that is physically on your phone. That way if you are somewhere that Wi-Fi is not available you can still access the file.

As of November 15th, this is the only acceptable form of proof of vaccination. You may want to print out your copy of this proof of vaccination and start using it in place of the earlier proof of vaccination. I have laminated my QR Code Proof of Vaccination as well to help make it more durable. I hope this information will be helpful.

Submitted by the Editor with suggestions from Iona Roberson and Laurie Semler.

Confusing Abbreviations

After you retired from teaching you probably noticed a number of abbreviations re: retirement. **ASEBP** (**Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan**) refers to the health benefits provided by various school districts. The **ARTA** (**Alberta Retired Teachers' Association**) **Plans**, are plans available to all ARTA members and Associate Members. The **ATRF** (**Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund**) is the fund that pays teachers' pensions to retired Alberta teachers. Retired teachers with concerns re: their pensions, should contact the ATRF re: these issues. **CPP** (**Canada Pension Plan**) refers to the Pension Plan provided by the Canadian Government. The **OAS** (**Old Age Security**) is a supplementary payment to every person over 65 years also created by the Canadian Government. As a review of these abbreviations, I have listed all these abbreviations with their websites where you can get more information on a given topic. The **ARTCF** (**Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation**) is ARTA's foundation to support various partners with their various projects to achieve their goals. **AIMCO** (**Alberta Invest-**

ment Management Corporation) is the Alberta Government's umbrella Investment Organization which also manages various Government Pensions)

Abbreviations

ASEBP: Provider of Health Care Benefits before 65 years of age: www.asebp.ca

ARTA: Alberta Retired Teachers' Association Provider of many services and Benefits to Alberta Retired Teachers and other Professional Retirees: www.arta.net

Branches: www.artabranches.net

ATRF: Provider and Funder of Alberta Teachers' Pensions: www.atrf.com **CPP** and **OAS:** Pensions provided by the Canadian Government Contact Service Canada at: www.Canada.ca

ARTCF: Alberta Retired Teachers' Charitable Foundation at: <https://www.arta.net/advocacy/artcf>

AIMCO: Alberta Investment Management Corporation at: <https://www.aimco.ca>

I hope the above information makes the retirement information world easier to navigate.

Emails from HARTA Members

Stan Gerber

I read Ron's message "From the President" in the January newsletter about coping with COVID. This has not been an easy journey for anyone.

We were on a cruise to South America and the Antarctic when COVID exploded on to this world!! We disembarked at Santiago, Chile and the ship turned around and went back to Buenos Aires to pick up folks for the last trip around the Horn and back to Santiago and on to Florida. It was this cruise ship that ultimately lost eight or nine souls due to Covid as they were heading back to Florida.

In the last year Elaine has had a sister of 68 years and a brother of 80 pass away. As well, her sister two years older than her had a stroke and is now in long term care. My niece of 61 passed away a couple of months ago. These were our hardest moments!!!

On top of this, Elaine had cancer surgery in **November 2020** on her tongue. This went well and she is doing quite well. One of her speech pathologists told her that the word tenacious was on her medical file. I am fortunate that Elaine is tenacious about getting back her health. She has found a good television program that she uses to do some of her exercising.

In **July 2021** I ended up in the hospital with an infection. I bruised my right knee while painting our back deck. Eight days in the hospital and six weeks of Home Care and all is well again.

Nobody in our immediate family has, thus far, been touched by Covid but there have been a number of relatives that have gotten affected by Covid. Fortunately, there were no deaths relative to Covid that we have heard of.

The Winter months are the hardest for Elaine and me. In the summer months we do a lot of cycling. Beaumont and Leduc have great walking and cycling trails. Up until **July 2**, I was riding a 21-speed bicycle and was getting out at least 3 or 4 times a week doing between 15 and 25 km per session. On **July 2** I purchased an electric assist bicycle and when I parked it in late November, I had logged 1,700 km on it. Elaine has a recumbent tricycle and we just had electric assist put on this vehicle. This will mean that she will be able to keep up or pass me in the coming spring, summer and fall. Because of her surgery her stamina was not as good as she liked so her cycling trips were shorter than mine. We are both excited about the upcoming season.

We started going back to the local recreation centre about six weeks ago. Both the Beaumont and Leduc Recreation centers offer free access for the 60 plus members between the hours of 1 and 4 **Monday to Friday** and free access all day for of us over 75 years of age. Beaumont's center was recently added on to so we were using the Leduc facility while the Beaumont was under construction.

We are now getting back into using this facility, but we pick our times when we know that they will not be too busy. We stopped going when the Christmas holidays came as there were more folks using the facility then. We probably will consider going back after school goes back in on **January 10**.

We are both fully vaccinated. Unfortunately, Covid like any war has divided families and communities. I have a younger sister and brother-in-law who adamantly will not get vaccinated. They both got Covid but fortunately it was, according to them, not that bad. Elaine has siblings that are not vaccinated. This has been tough as communication tends to be superficial and not all that open.

I have been a member of HARTA since its inception, but I am not an active member. This is mainly because I really do not know many of the HARTA members. We both taught in the Buffalo Trail School Division in Eastern Alberta and this past year we joined their retired teachers' association this past year. On the first day of school in 2021 we drove down to Mannville for their "The Hell with the Bell breakfast" on the first stay of school for that division. One of the activities that they have started is a ZOOM coffee session. We are really enjoying these as we are able to communicate with folks that we taught with or associated with through the ATA during our 23 years of teaching in that area. Topics vary but one of the most successful was folks sharing their gardening experiences at one of the sessions. We had a session last week where a lot of discussion was on

how we were all coping with the cold weather and of course, Covid.

I am an active recreational photographer and technology is and has been an interest of mine for many years. The Beaumont Library has offered, over the years, computer courses for seniors. I have had the opportunity of doing these in house until Covid arrived. I now do them using ZOOM and I find that this works quite well. In fact, Ron has had me do sessions over the last few years.

On **February 16** Ron has me booked to do a Windows 10 session. Very appropriate as Windows 11 is now available for users who have the technology to run this. Fortunately, or unfortunately, our two home computers are not robust enough to handle Windows 11. The bottom line is that you have the option to upgrade if you want to. I will be discussing this in more detail on **February 9**.

My next Beaumont Library computer workshop is on **January 18** – 7 to 9 p.m. Topic is “Using a Cloud Server”. I like to share my photographs and email just does not cut it for me!!!

I will be discussing Microsoft’s OneDrive, Apple’s iCloud and Google’s Google Photos. I just checked and there are still 5 openings. Following link takes to the registration site. This a FREE workshop.

[Using a Cloud Server - LibCal - Beaumont Library \(AB\)](#)

I know that this is a rather long email, but it is -28 and not conducive to getting outside and this is better than sitting listening to what is happening with Covid across Canada and the World!!
- Stan Gerber

Thank you Stan for responding to my invitation to share your thoughts re: COVID-19 and your life during the pandemic.

Automobile Insurance Changes

As of January 1st 2022 all auto insurance policies in Alberta will change. Laurie Bauer of TW Insurance did a session on Zoom on the

changes we need to navigate as a result of these changes. The session was on Zoom, Wednesday, January 12th, 2022. Laurie has furnished four links which can be found on HARTA’s website under News and Events. The website is ARTABranches.net/harta. Please turn to the end of the newsletter where Laurie has given us more detailed information re: Automobile Insurance Changes. Than You Laurie.

Member Welfare

If you know of anyone needing our support, please let the editor know. With COVID-19 having been with us for a while, this would be a good time to reach out to someone you haven’t heard from or seen in a while. Please keep well and keep safe.

Humour Corner

Some sentences for the Lexophiles among us. Lexophile—someone who has a love for sentences such as the ones below:

1. You can tune a piano, but you can’t tuna fish.
2. To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
3. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U. C. L. A.
4. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
5. A will is a dead giveaway.
6. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
7. Police were summoned to a daycare centre where a three-year-old child was resisting a rest.
8. When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
9. When chemists die, they barium.

10. I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

(These word-plays were sent to me compliments of Robin Stuart. For the best effect, you might want to say them aloud)

The Devices Workshop

On Wednesday, February 16th, the Devices Workshop will take place online at 1:00 PM. Because of the COVID situation, the workshop will be online only. The workshop will be a two-hour workshop (1:00 to 3:00 PM) on Windows 10. There is no charge for members to attend the workshop. The login link is included with the email to which this newsletter is attached. If you have a particular question regarding Windows 10, please email your question to me and I will relay it to Stan. My email for this purpose is rnthompson.harta@gmail.com.

HARTA Volunteers Needed

At various times during the program year, HARTA needs members to help with various tasks (when the Pandemic is over.) For the various lunches, we can always use extra help in preparing the room for our programs. In Drayton Valley check with Joan, In Leduc, Elaine or Ron T. and in Wetaskiwin either Ron H or Ron T. During this time of COVID-19 Social Distancing, another way to contribute is to provide stories and other news for our newsletter. You can submit to: The Editor: rnthompson.harta@gmail.com. It would be great to get more submissions for our readers.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

Other Branch Activities

ARTA has a website which provides information on events in other Branches throughout Alberta and the Okanagan Branch in BC. If you would like to find other Branch events, this website can help you. The website is:

www.artabranches.net.

Ron Thompson, HARTA President

Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation

Charitable Foundation Details

Our Mission:

“From classrooms and beyond, the Alberta Retired Teachers Charitable Foundation and its members are linked by one common purpose: to support Alberta Seniors in pursuit of Appropriate Housing, Health Services and English as a Second Language, to improve their lives!”

ARTCF supports the following Charities:

Parkinson's Association of Alberta - three ARTCF Tele-Support Groups

Alzheimer Society of Calgary - Funding for their Learning and Support Services

Alzheimer Society of Alberta / NWT - “Minds in Motion”, which is a fitness and social program.

CNIB - Community Education & Outreach Program

Operation Friendship Seniors' Society – Grant to support equipment for the facility

ARTCF, with your support, will make a difference. We have provincial status as an Alberta Society, as well Charitable Status (ability to give Tax Receipts) from Canada Revenue Agency. Join us in expanding our impact. Honor or Memorial gifts will be recognized, and all gifts will be Income Tax receipted. On-line donations, may be made at www.arta.net/cf-give

Cheques may be made out to **ARTCF** and mailed to:

ARTCF Office

15505 - 137 Avenue NW

Edmonton AB

T5V 1R9

Executive and Contact Info for the 2020-21 Program Year

Alvin Rurka: Past President (587)
274-4562 abrurka@hotmail.ca

Ron Thompson: President & ARTA Rep (780)
986-8349 rnthompson@shaw.ca (r n
thompson)

Elaine Merriman: Vice President Leduc (780)
467-0010 terry6@telusplanet.net

Ron Holmlund: Vice President Wetaskiwin (780)
352-4842 rdholm@hotmail.com

Susan Schwindt: Drayton Valley Rep.. (780)
542-4136 salschwindt@gmail.com

Janice Storeshaw: Secretary (780)
986-0056 jes90@telus.net

Connie Dublenko: Treasurer (587)
783-8588 ccdublenko@gmail.com

Lawrence Dublenko: Membership Co-ordinator (587)
783-8588 mayoprospector@gmail.com

Walley Porter: ATA Liaison—Wetaskiwin and Timber-
line Locals (780)
388-3849 walleyp@telusplanet.net

Gary Hansen: ATA Liaison—Black Gold and St.
Thomas Aquinas Locals (780)
986-1745 gbhanson@telus.net

The Goals of HARTA

- To carry on social activities, enabling our members to maintain contact with their colleagues.
- To provide information to our members about the resources available through the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association. (ARTA) and other sources.

Alberta Auto Insurance Changes

Starting January 1, 2022, all automobile policies in Alberta will include mandatory coverage for Direct Compensation Property Damage (DCPD). This coverage will make claiming damages to your vehicle faster and easier, as you will now deal with your insurance company directly, regardless of fault

What do I need to do?

There is no action required. As DCPD coverage is a change to the way that vehicle damage claims are handled in Alberta, it will automatically start on January 1st, 2022.

What does this mean for me?

If you are involved in a not at fault accident, your insurance company will pay for the repairs to your vehicle. This will result in a fairer and more customer service-oriented approach to claims. Damages will be repaired faster and without delays or complications that can arise when dealing with another driver's insurance company.

Damages to me and my vehicle

Regardless of who is at fault for an accident, there is no change to the process of claiming for injuries sustained because of a motor vehicle accident.

- If you are found 100 per cent not at fault for an accident: Any vehicle repairs and required loss of use coverage (rental car, taxi, etc.) will be paid for through your DCPD coverage.

- If you are found 100 per cent at fault for an accident: If you have collision coverage, damage for your vehicle will be paid through this coverage, subject to your deductible. If you don't have collision coverage, you will have to cover any costs for damage to your own vehicle out of pocket.

If you are found 50 per cent at fault: If you have collision coverage, 50 per cent of the vehicle repairs will be paid through DCPD coverage, and 50 per cent of the damages will be paid through collision coverage. You will be responsible for 50 per cent of your collision deductible.

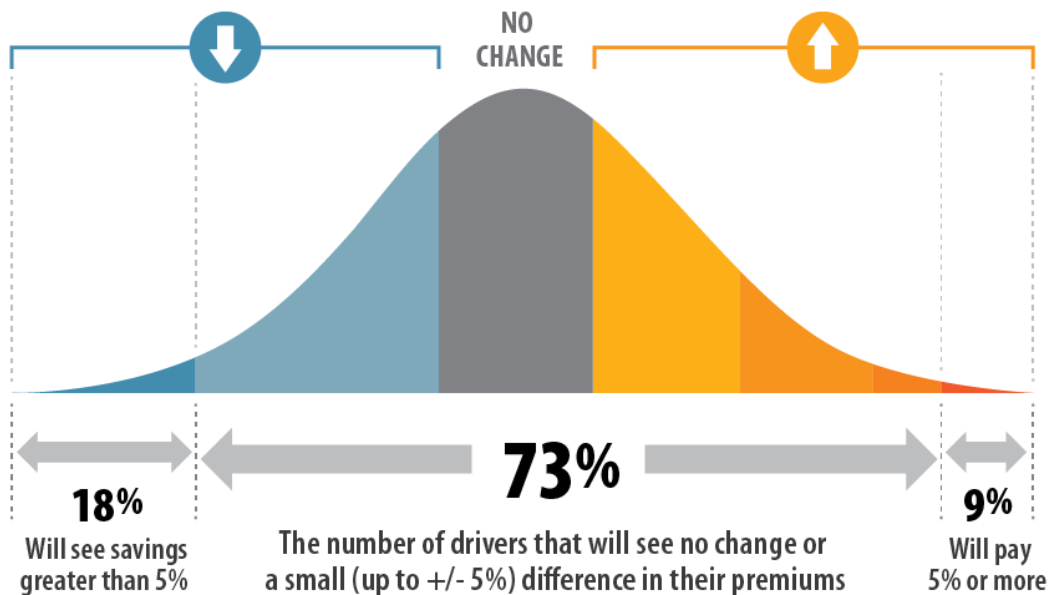
If you don't have collision coverage, you will need to pay the percentage of the vehicle repairs, equal to the percentage you are found responsible or at fault (for example, if you are 50 per cent at fault, 50 per cent of the damages will be paid through DCPD coverage, and you will be responsible to pay 50 per cent of the damages out of pocket.)

How will this impact my premium?

The expectation of this legislative change is that it will assist in steadying insurance premiums in the long run by aligning them with the costs associated with repairs for a vehicle. Generally, owners of less expensive vehicles that cost less to repair will end up paying less for their insurance. Similarly, owners of more expensive vehicles that cost more to repair may pay more.

Approximately 55 per cent of all policy holders will see either no change, or a reduction in premium due to this change. The graphic below outlines the expected premium impact for all automobile insurance holders in Alberta.

How DCPD will impact Premiums



Additional information about this change can be found on the following websites:

[Alberta Insurance Rate Board](#)

[Insurance Bureau of Canada](#)

We're here to help

One of our qualified brokers would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the introduction of DCPD coverage. Simply call our Broker Service Department at [1 800 272 5688](tel:18002725688) to speak with a broker.

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



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

A Branch of ARTA



**You're Invited to
HARTA's
Devices
Workshop on
Zoom With Stan
Gerber. at 1:00
PM, Feb. 16th.
The Session will
deal with
Windows 10**

**Zoom Annual Licence
Funded by ARTA**

Log On Details:

**Meeting ID: 886 3313 9926
Passcode: 681579**

Phone: 1 587 328 1099

**email:
rnthompson@shaw.ca
phone:
(780) 986-8349
Ron Thompson**

**We will be online only, Wednesday,
February 16th, 2022
Membership \$10.00 Per Year
New retirees \$10.00 for the Two Years
Zoom Workshop at 1:00 PM**



Heartland
Alberta
Retired
Teachers'
Association

A Branch of ARTA



Zoom Annual Licence
Funded by ARTA

**You're Invited to
HARTA's Zoom
Presentation
Program:
Lawrence Hrycan
Public Interest
Alberta
Who are they?
Who do they
advocate for?**



**Public Interest
Alberta**

email:
rnthompson@shaw.ca
(r n thompson)
phone:
(780) 986-8349

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 1:00 PM

**Membership \$10.00 Per Year
New retirees \$10.00 for the first Two Years
The presentation is free on Zoom**