

Spring

Happy Spring!

“Spring is when you feel like whistling
Even with a shoe full of slush.” Doug Larson

**NEARTA—Northeastern Alberta
Retired Teachers’ Association**

**March 2025
Newsletter
Volume 2, Issue 1**



NEARTA

NEARTA, provides an opportunity for friends and colleagues to meet, enjoy activities together, and pursue a healthy lifestyle.

NEARTA activities offer social connectedness, an avenue for retired teachers to remain in contact with their colleagues, enjoy meals, benefit from speaker presentations, encourage and participate in community volunteerism, and have fun!

Highlights from the March Meeting



* **President Larry Lambert presented his report:**

Review of the ARTA Board of Director’s February 2025 meeting; ARTA Retreat 2025 is for ARTA strategic planning; NEARTA / ARTA Wellness Walk on June 7th in St. Paul; ARTA General Liability insurance covers all branch events.

* **ARTA Presentation from Gary Sawatzky**, Chief Operating Officer. “Information about ARTA’s emergency travel insurance.” Thank you.

* **Guest Speaker: Mr. Todd Munday**, Lawyer from Wood and Munday LLP, Bonnyville. “Wills, probate, executors, personal directives, power of attorney.” Thank you.



Your NEARTA Newsletter

The NEARTA Newsletter is produced four times per year to share news, events, activities, and useful content. If you have suggestions or photos to share, please send them to our NEARTA email (northeasternarta@gmail.com) for possible inclusion.

Contact us:

Phone: President Larry Lambert—780-645-0376

Email: northeasternarta@gmail.com

Website: <https://artabranches.net/nearta/>

Follow Us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/northeasternarta>



**Come to the next NEARTA General Meeting:
Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 11 a.m. at the
Glendon Seniors’ Centre. See you there!**



***Save the Date!**

**ARTA
Heart and
Sole Wellness
Walk 2025**

The NEARTA Wellness Walk is taking place in St. Paul during Alberta Seniors’ Week. See you on Saturday, June 7th at 10 a.m. at Reunion Station by the soccer fields (4112-53 Ave). Stay tuned for more information.

**HEART AND SOLE
WELLNESS WALK**





Thank you!



Thank you!



Last December NEARTA had another wonderful meeting, with seasonal songs and fun, a beautiful setting, a great meal, and an informative session with our guest speaker.

We are grateful for your support. Your kindness and generosity are appreciated. Thank you from NEARTA!

- * **Laurier Levasseur**—for leading us in the Christmas Sing-Along.
- * **Paul Boisvert**—for bringing the gifts and leading music trivia.
- * **Ted Gerlinsky**—for making and donating the crib board for the silent auction to raise funds for the St. Paul Food Bank.
- * **Gilbert Perras**—Dean of Career Programs, Portage College; for attending our meeting and sharing information about the proposed Bachelor of Education program.
- * **Karen Amalia and the Glendon Seniors’ Centre catering staff**, thanks for a delicious Christmas Meal.
- * **Glendon Seniors’ Centre volunteers / staff** for always having the hall organized and beautifully set up.
- * **Roy Ripkens**—for organizing the 24-25 speaker schedule.



“If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb.”

You may be familiar with this bit of weather folklore. Weather folklore is as colourful as our imagination. While many sayings are based on careful observations and turn out to be accurate, others are merely verses or beliefs of the people who came before us.

People often believed that bad spirits could affect the weather adversely, so they were cautious as to what they did or did not do in certain situations.

Those beliefs often included ideas that there should be a balance in weather and life. So, if a month came in bad (**roaring like a lion**), it should go out good and calm (**docile, like a lamb**).

With March being such a changeable month, in which we can see warm spring-like temperatures or late-season snowstorms, you can understand how this saying might hold true in some instances.

We can only hope that if March starts off stormy it will end on a calm note, but the key word is **hope**.

Retrieved from: <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/the-truth-behind-in-like-a-lion-out-like-a-lamb>



NEARTA meetings feature informative and thought provoking guest speakers. Join us!

Coming June 10, 2025: Mr. Naheed Nenshi, Leader of the Alberta NDP. “Mr. Nenshi is focused on what is important to all Albertans, today and into the future. In 2024, he re-entered political life to run for the Alberta NDP leadership. He sees the potential for the province and for the party and that by working together we can do better for Alberta.”

Retrieved from <https://www.albertandp.ca/about-naheed>

Topics at NEARTA meetings enlightened & informed:

***Wills, personal directives, power of attorney:** a properly prepared will allows you to direct where your property will go after your death. A will can help relieve stress from your family during a time of grief, and can ensure your last wishes are followed.

***How a proposed Bachelor of Education program at Portage College is responding to a teacher shortage in rural Alberta.**

***Artificial intelligence and implications for education.** Teachers are using AI as a tool to enhance student learning, ease administrative tasks and foster a critical understanding of AI. By incorporating AI, teachers are creating more interactive and engaged learning experiences while also preparing students for a future where AI is an integral part of everyday life. Retrieved from: <https://teachers.ab.ca/news/alberta-teachers-have-mixed-views-ai>

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 **"Product of Canada" or "Made in Canada"** 

"Products of Canada" are subject to a threshold of 98% Canadian content.

"Made in Canada" products are subject to a threshold of 51% Canadian content; accompanied by a qualifying statement indicating that the product contains imported content, such as "Made in Canada with imported parts," or "Made in Canada with 60% Canadian content and 40% imported content."

For both, the product must have undergone its "last substantial transformation" in Canada. *Competition Act, June 23, 2022*

It's Tax Time! Canada Revenue Agency—Medical Expenses

The 2024 rate for Alberta residents is 54.5 cents/km. Travel must be a minimum of 80 km (return trip).

To find out more about CRA Medical Expenses see the online guide at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/rc4065/medical-expenses.html#toco>

This guide is for persons with medical expenses and their supporting family members. It gives information on eligible medical expenses you can claim on your tax return.



Are you thinking about buying more Canadian made products?



Websites and barcode-scanning apps are being created to help consumers search store shelves for Canadian made items. Here is information about apps and websites that you may be interested in using:

The Maple Scan app helps shoppers identify Canadian products by analyzing photographs of products to provide details about where they were made and whether they meet the government criteria for being labelled "product of Canada" or "made in Canada." When the app detects a product from outside the country, it offers users a list of homegrown alternatives.

The Shop Canadian app is a fast way to get product information by scanning barcodes. The app makes it easy to support Canadian businesses by giving access to the company and location info on consumer products. With a tap, you might be able to discover whether a product is locally made, further enabling your buying choice.

Buy Beaver is an app that scans the barcodes of everyday products to instantly discover how authentically Canadian they are. The app recommends alternative options with higher local content, empowering you to support Canadian-made products.

Check the Label is an app that helps Canadian consumers make informed decisions about the products they buy, helping verify whether the products they buy are made in Canada. The app allows users to scan a product's barcode and instantly see its origin.

Made in CA is a website <https://madeinca.ca/> founded in 2018, the website started compiling a list of products and services made in Canada—so consumers could feel confident that their dollars were making the greatest possible impact on the Canadian economy. The website recognizes that how "Canadian" a product is can vary—whether it's based on ownership, sourcing of raw materials, or where it's manufactured. The goal is to present as much information as possible and let the consumer decide.

Good Wishes for St. Patrick's Day



"May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back."

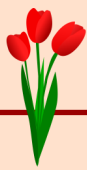


"May love and laughter light your days and warm your hearth and home."



"May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam."





6-WEEK WONDERS—by Paul Boisvert

If one was to take a close look at supply and demand of teachers throughout Alberta's history, there always seemed to be a shortage of teachers, especially for the isolated rural one room schools.

In 1954, during the fall sitting of the Alberta Legislature the *EMERGENCY TEACHER TRAINING ACT* passed, directing the University of Alberta to establish a program which would allow persons to take teacher training while being allowed to teach. The program was divided into 3 segments of 6 weeks each and were held during July and August. After successfully completing the first segment, one was issued a *LETTER OF AUTHORITY (LA)* which allowed one to seek a teaching position in Alberta. To continue to hold a valid LA, one had to successfully complete the next segment during the following summer. After completing the third segment and teaching for a third year, one would be granted a temporary teaching certificate for 2 years. Subsequently, upon the recommendation of a Superintendent of Schools, one would receive a permanent teacher certificate. Many of those who began their teaching career went on to use many routes to acquire courses which would eventually lead to a professional certificate and beyond. The program ended in August 1959.

It should be noted that the Education Ministry were not upset by the fact that some jurisdictions (especially the cities) refused to hire any of these "6-week wonders" as the real shortage of teachers was in the rural areas. The ATA also was not enamored by the program and for 3 years refused to have these teachers as participants in the pension plan and receiving salary increments. However, many rural jurisdictions paid an increment but smaller than fully certificated teachers.

While many of the participants were recent high school graduates, a significant number were immigrants to Canada who had foreign credentials which were not deemed satisfactory for this province.

Two factors precipitated the shortage in the mid-1950's. The baby boom following the end of WWII as Canadian military personnel returned from postings abroad and the large influx of immigration by what were called Displaced Persons (DP's).

Today, with the pressures imposed by uncontrolled immigration and changes to school programs laced with unrealistic expectations, many teachers are leaving the profession early while fewer are choosing teaching as a profession. A clear understanding of how this situation will be remedied has not been clearly spelled out by those with authority to lead public education.

by Paul Boisvert, NEARTA member and a proud member of the 6-Week Wonders!

Membership

Join NEARTA or renew your membership. Annual membership is valid from Sept. 1st to August 31st. NEARTA Membership is \$10.00 per year.



For the NEARTA Membership Form, go to: <https://forms.gle/bDTJ5tmemV4QpAtr6>



For more information about becoming a member of ARTA, go to:

<https://www.arta.net/join>



Easy Flower Seeds to Start Indoors: If it's your first time starting seeds, it might be nice to try some of these types that are easy to grow from seed. Favourite flowering annuals:

- ⇒ **Cosmos**
- ⇒ **Marigolds**
- ⇒ **Nasturtiums**
- ⇒ **Morning Glories**
- ⇒ **Sunflowers**

Easiest Seeds to Grow Indoors



Retrieved from:

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/yard/garden-care/seed-starting-essentials/>

