



Volume 2 Issue 2

Spring News

Spring 2023



President Charlene's Message

Dear Members,

The 2022-2023 NWARTA year has been a time of new beginnings for many of us. Life is starting to feel more "normal" as defined by pre-COVID ways, and I am pleased that we were able to meet in person again and resume social interactions.

I speak for all the NWARTA Executive Team when I say we have enjoyed planning events for you, and we thank you for your engagement.

A picture does indeed convey a thousand words, so I am not going to review the year for you. As a celebration of our year's gatherings, please enjoy the pictures in this newsletter and the *NWARTA's Photo Album* found on our website

<https://artabranches.net/nwarta/photo-gallery/>



I wish you all health and a summer full of sunshine!



Charlene Ungstad

Reminder



June is the final month for the Wellness Challenge. Take photo of your June calendar; send it in by **July 3rd**.

For NWARTA members -- submit your photo to nwarta.president@gmail.com

For ARTA members – submit your photo to contests@arta.net

Are you a member of both ARTA and NWARTA?

Submit your calendar to **BOTH** emails.

YAY! You have 2 chances to win.

The June NWARTA prize is a \$20 gift certificate to any monthly *LUNCH OUT*.

This month, there's also a final participation prize – a ticket for the St Nicholas Luncheon in December.

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Upcoming

Back-to-School Breakfast ... aka "To Hell with the Bells"



**Join Us For
Breakfast**

Tuesday, September 5th
9:00am
 at the **GP Golf and Country Club**
 711040 Resources Road, GP

\$15

Breakfast is subsidized by
 the Northwestern Branch
 of the Alberta Retired
 Teachers' Association



Watch your August email for further details.



SCHOLARSHIPS

**FOR ATRA MEMBERS'
DIRECT RELATIVES**

*Direct relatives are children, grandchildren,
1st and 2nd generation nieces and nephews*

There are two ARTA Scholarship categories:

- ARTA-TW Insurance Degree Scholarship
- ARTA Certificate/Diploma Scholarship

Scholarship values are: \$5,000.00, \$3,000.00, and \$2,000.00.

Scholarship applications must be received at the ARTA office no later than **July 31st** and successful applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by September 15.

Visit the ARTA website for application criteria.

<https://www.arta.net/member-services/arta-member-advantages/scholarships/>

In addition, ARTA has recently introduced two \$2,500 scholarships for active teachers who are current members of *ARTA 101*. Check the details at <https://www.arta.net/member-services/arta-member-advantages/scholarships/>

St Nicholas Luncheon and Entertainment

What great fun and a time to reconnect at the St Nicholas Luncheon held on December 6th at the Royal Canadian Legion, Grande Prairie. Entertainment was provided by the Charles Spencer Choir. There are many more pictures for you to enjoy in *NWARTA's Photo Album* <https://artabranches.net/nwarta/photo-gallery/>



Considering Travel Options

On Wednesday, May 3rd, members met in the Al Robertson Room at Centre 2000 to hear from one of ARTA's Affinity Travel Partners. Ryan spoke via Zoom of the opportunities Travel Merchant provides to ARTA members.



There was time to socialize and later an opportunity to ask questions. Coffee and morning snacks are always a treat.

Note the contact information on the slide.

There are more pictures for you to enjoy in *NWARTA's Photo Album* <https://artabranches.net/nwarta/photo-gallery/>



New for NWARTA This Year – **LUNCH OUT**

In the “new normal” of the post-Pandemic, members are re-engaging in different ways. Cultures of many organizations have changed, and such is the case with NWARTA. From a survey conducted by President Charlene, members relayed preferring shorter gatherings. So, perhaps the retirees’ conference, New Frontiers (or its next generation), *may* return. At this time, members are preferring short presentations and activities that allow them to socialize.

The **LUNCH OUT** was introduced in January, and it’s been enjoyed by several different members. Changing the venue each month has proven to be a positive decision.



Who doesn't enjoy an occasional lunch out?



Royal Canadian Legion on
Thursday, Jan.26 at 11:30 a.m.

Royal Canadian Legion on
Friday, Feb 24 at 11:30 a.m.

The Old Trapper
10622 99 Ave by the Holiday Inn) on
Wednesday, March 22 at

The Golden Star (10112 101Ave)
Friday, April 28 at 11:30 a.m.

**The Sun Rise Diner in Beaverlodge (The old
Soups location – 908 Second Ave.) on**
Friday, May 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Join NWARTA friends for lunch

CHECK YOUR EMAILS!

Keep watching for emails from President Charlene announcing the month’s date and location for the **LUNCH OUT**.

Charlene also posts upcoming events on NWARTA’s FB page
www.facebook.com/groups/796535143807419







A NOTABLE QUOTE from an article in Spring 2021 *news&views* (p 48, 49) – *Reflecting on Learning and Creativity*

submitted by Linda Manwarren

“There is a fountain of youth; it’s your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of the people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly defeat age.” (Sophia Loren)



NWARTA appreciates the contributions of the – **Grande Prairie Live Theatre, South Peace Regional Archives, Grande Prairie & District Genealogical Branch.**

ARTA’s Spring Retreat in Jasper (May 2023)

Following the Victoria Day Weekend, representatives from each the 18 ARTA Branches gathered at the Jasper Park Lodge. The Retreat is a time to strengthen connections with the ARTA executive, staff, and members of other branches. It is also a time to celebrate the year’s work, explore ideas, and be energized by top-level keynote speakers.

Threatening fires and family concerns in the northwestern region prevented President Charlene from attending in person, but she was able to join the Board of Directors meeting via Zoom.

Pictured at the right is ARTA Past President, Lorna McIlroy, and NWARTA representative, Martin Hanam.



NWARTA’s Annual General Meeting

The June 15th meeting held at the Philip J Currie Dinosaur Museum was productive with both reflection on the past year and suggestions for the coming year.

Those in attendance approved the motion to elect a slate of nine candidates for the 2022-2023 NWARTA Executive Team. At the first meeting in September, the president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary will be appointed by the Team.

The **branch president’s role** is especially important because he/she “also serves as a member of the ARTA Board of Directors, which meets quarterly to help make decisions concerning current operations and the future direction of the Alberta Retired Teachers’ Association.” (Deb Gerow, ARTA President) The NWARTA President must be a regular member of both NWARTA and ARTA..

The following members were elected by acclamation to the NWARTA Executive Team for 2023 – 2024:

- Judy Brewster***
- Karen Goad***
- Martin Hanam***
- Julie Légaré***
- Maxine Maxwell***
- Gail Schau***
- Perry Schofield***
- Charlene Ungstad***
- Grace Walton***



According to NWARTA Bylaws, the past president (Joan Godbout) continues to serve on the Branch’s Executive Team making a total of 10 on the Team.

Following the business portion of the AGM, members had the opportunity to engage in an **intellectual wellness activity** as they listened to a presentation by Dr. Emily Bamforth, PJC Dinosaur Museum's curator and resident paleontologist.

Members enjoyed lunch at *Café on 43* (PJC's restaurant) followed by a tour of a few museum exhibits and collections, ending with a walk through the Fossil Prep Lab.

Enjoy the photos in **NWARTA Photo Album** found in the Photo Gallery of the website
<https://artabranches.net/nwarta/photo-gallery/>



Ecosystem Jenga: What Tiny Fossils Tell Us About a Massive Extinction

“Was the bolide (meteorite) impact to blame for the dinosaur mass extinction, or was there already an extinction going on?

And why did this bolide impact cause extinction when other bolide impacts did not?

... and in particular, Dr. Bamforth's research discoveries have important connotations for understanding the impact of climate change in today's Sixth Mass Extinction.



You may be keen to hear Dr Emily's presentation – check the [YouTube](#) link to her March 15, 2023 online presentation.

SPEAKER SERIES

2023
ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Diw9zfYSMa0>



Do you know colleagues who are retiring this year?

Tell them about NWARTA -- membership to both NWARTA and ARTA is free the first year after retirement.

An Important Reminder About Memberships

- Yearly memberships expire every June 30th
- Membership is free the first year after retirement
- **Memberships are \$10/year** and may be paid for up to 5 years at a time
- Those who are 80 years or older become lifetime NWARTA members and membership is free
- Pay for your membership by **e-transfer** to nwarta.treasurer@gmail.com
or mail a cheque to NWARTA Treasurer,
 Box 1435, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z2

NWARTA membership forms are available online
<https://artabranches.net/nwarta/membership/membership-application/>

And check for ARTA membership
<https://www.arta.net/member-services/arta-eligibility/>