



# ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS BULLETIN

October 29, 2018

## *November 2, 2018 Breakfast*

Location: Sturgeon Valley Golf and Country Club

8:30 am: Doors Open (*Please do not arrive earlier!*)

9:00 am: Breakfast

Cost: \$22 for STARTA members & \$27 for non-members

*Please bring correct change if possible.*

10:00 am: Program:

Guest speaker Carman McNary is a retired Canadian Naval Reserve captain who will speak to Remembrance Day topics. He is also a well-respected lawyer who has chaired United Way campaigns, and the Edmonton and Alberta Chambers of Commerce, and is involved with the board of Edmonton Screen Industries, amongst others.

### Upcoming Programs

**December:** We are looking forward to a presentation from Josh Classen, meteorologist for CFRN News.

**January:** Tim K, stand-up comedian will share his quirky, intelligent and insightful comedy style with us.

**February:** Stacy Maurier, a local lawyer specializing in wills and estates will speak.

STARTA members who helped with this Bulletin are Peggy Bergmann, David Flower, Debbie Kelley, Marian Oberg, Laura Heatherington, and Mike Dickinson

**The Face of Education**

At the recent ARTA AGM, Greg Jeffery, ATA President, and Dennis Theobald, ATA Executive Secretary, spoke with passion about the future of education and expressed concern about issues in the upcoming provincial election. Members of ARTA were referred to the website [www.IBelieveinPublicEd.ca](http://www.IBelieveinPublicEd.ca) where we were encouraged to sign the pledge in support of public education. Information on this campaign can also be found in the October 16, 2018 *ATA News* on Page 10 entitled “The Face of Education”.



STARTA will purchase a wreath to be placed at the St. Albert cenotaph for Remembrance Day.

### **ARTA Benefits Updates**

If you subscribe to the ARTA Benefits Plan, be aware there are several updates which have been approved by the ARTA Board of Directors and will take effect November 1, 2018. A few to note are:

- Increases in maximums in several areas
- Limit of 1000 diabetic test strips a year
- Added coverage for nebulizers
- Coverage for ankylosing spondylitis and psoriatic arthritis managed under Enhanced Specialization process
- Fluoride varnish treatment eligible
- Shringrix covered
- ARTACares is a new program to help you address your or a loved one's health issues.

Personalized notifications of the above changes were sent by mail, but if you'd like to know more details, contact Marian at [startacontact@yahoo.com](mailto:startacontact@yahoo.com) for a copy of the ARTA Health Benefits Committee Report.

### **Notes to Snowbird Benefits Plan Members**

- You are now able to submit your request for a greater than 100 day supply of drugs directly to your pharmacist without any additional paperwork.
- Plan members are reminded that **each** person returning to Canada to renew their 92 day absence trip duration **MUST**:
  - Return to their home province
  - Have “proof” of the date of return. If you are part of a couple, you each need your own receipts.
- Excluded from travel coverage are “Any cardiac catheterization, angioplasty, or cardiovascular surgery **unless approved in advance by Allianz Global Assistance**” We were assured that in a real emergency this would not apply. It seems that certain hospitals particularly in the US tend to pile on procedures that are not immediately necessary.

*And a few items from David Flower... thanks David*

### **A story related to immigration**

In the early 1970s a local Alberta superintendent decided that he wanted a different summer break. He volunteered to go to Jamaica to help build houses for the local people. He paid his own expenses. When he returned he asked whether my Grade 12 Social Studies class would be interested in a slide presentation he had made on his trip. His presentation took the whole period as he explained what he had seen and done. He stayed to talk to me after class. He was greatly disturbed by what he had experienced on his first trip abroad. He described the way of life of the people and commented on the poverty he had experienced. He described the countryside and the orange ponds that he had seen polluted by the aluminum plants. He lamented the exploitation of the land and the people suggesting that he could see the time when those people would look at Canada, see how well by comparison we lived and decide that they wanted to live the same way. They would simply come north to settle. His story now fits the current march into Mexico of hundreds of people from Guatemala and Honduras heading for the U.S. border. Europe has experienced similar migrations from Africa and the Middle East promoted no doubt by the "glamorous" images seen on television and in the movies and by the lure of wealth and safety. Is it really so surprising?

From Genesis: "And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth." Then God made the earth round and He laughed and laughed and laughed!

### **On the Lighter Side !!!**

A wife asks her husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy one carton of milk and if they have avacados, get 6?"

A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk. His wife asks him, "why did you buy 6 cartons of milk?" He replied, "They had avacados."

### **U.S.President and elephants**

Earlier this year U.S. President Donald Trump reversed a ban made by his predecessor on importing remains of African elephants killed by trophy hunters. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supported the removal of the ban stating, "hunting is a tool of sound wildlife management" and encouraged wealthy big-game hunters to kill elephants thus aiding the survival of the vulnerable species. Additional "fake news" is available on the numbers of elephants. In 1910 there were five million elephants in Africa. By 2010 there were 400,000. Between 2010 and 2012 more than 100,000 elephants were killed – for the thrill? for ivory? for whatever!