



# NEWSLETTER

**May 10, 2018**

*Co-Presidents: Ardyth Garrison and Peggy Bergmann*

*Editor: David Flower*



Photograph: Joyce Keltie

**Get away from my wife!**

**BBQ and AGM**

## Welcome to the May 2018 meeting of STARTA – our annual BBQ and Annual General Meeting

It looks as though spring is finally on its way even if it seems a little later than usual. Acquaintances of mine argue quite vociferously that it is not time to start planting just because we have a couple of days in the twenty degree range, planting starts after Victoria Day though I am sure many would disagree. A neighbour of ours stopped her car to talk one evening while I was walking my dog and her final remark as she drove away was there is still time for another snow fall. The comment reminded me of our first spring in Alberta in 1967 when my in-laws arrived for their first visit to Canada. We drove to Calgary from Schuler to meet them at the airport, May 9, and it was snowing in Calgary and we had snow/rain mix all the way back to Schuler. Discussing it later in the week with farmer friends we were told that it could snow any month of the year in Alberta – and in our 50 plus years in the province we have experienced that fact.

So much for global warming say the sceptics, then along comes the story of the threat of the melting of the Thwaites Glacier in Antarctica that is currently in rapid retreat. The cause of this retreat may well be the warm ocean water reaching the glacier and accelerating ice melt. The thinning of the ice in the glacier has been measured at almost 40 centimetres a year. If such melting continues sea levels world-wide could rise by as much as 80 centimetres. However, to quote from a different story when the Pope asked God if there would ever be a female Pope, God supposedly replied “not in my lifetime, my son.” A similar answer could well be given to an old man’s fear of the effects of global warming!!

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### BBQ Details

The BBQ planned for Thursday May 10 at Sturgeon Valley Golf and Country Club will cost \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Doors will open (and cash bar) at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The plan is to start the Annual General Meeting around 7 p.m.

The menu will include chicken or steak, garlic bread, salads, beans and dessert platter. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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### Some interesting definitions

**Adult:** a person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

**Beauty Parlour:** a place where women curl up and dye.

**Chickens:** the only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

**Committee:** a body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

**Dust:** mud with the juice squeezed out.

**Egotist:** someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

**Handkerchief:** cold storage.

**Inflation:** cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

**Mosquito:** an insect that makes you like flies better.

**Raisin:** a grape with sunburn.

**Secret:** something that you tell to one person at a time.

**Skeleton:** a bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

**Toothache:** a pain that drives you to extraction.

**Tomorrow:** One of the greatest labour saving devices of today.

**Yawn:** an honest opinion openly expressed.

**Wrinkles:** something other people have, similar to my character lines.

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My tailor is happy to make a new pair of pants for me. Or sew it seams.



Photograph: Joyce Keltie

## DRIVE HAPPINESS

### Seniors Assisted Transportation

Drive Happiness is a volunteer program that provides assisted transportation to seniors with reduced mobility and limited resources. The majority of our volunteer drivers are **retired people who are interested in connecting with people**, but on a timeline that fits with their own schedule.

Our volunteer drivers select where and when they drive. Some drive daily, others choose to drive only a few times a month. The beauty of our volunteer program is that you create your own schedule. Your involvement is entirely up to you.

**So, here is our invitation to you . . . if you enjoy** chatting with seniors and like to drive, this might be the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. If you are interested in learning more, please contact us through our website [www.drivehappiness.ca](http://www.drivehappiness.ca) or call 780-424-5438 ext. 3. If you are wondering how this might affect your insurance go to

<http://www.seniorscouncil.net/uploads/files/InsuranceRequirementsVolunteerDriversMythsFacts.pdf>.

**We drive happiness . . . for seniors and for volunteers!**

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## 2018 Version of "1984" with Big Brother a corporation not a government

Caller: Is this Gordon's Pizza?

Google: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

Caller: I must have dialled a wrong number. Sorry!

Google: No sir, Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month.

Caller: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

Google: Do you want your usual, sir?

Caller: My Usual? You know me?

Google: According to our caller ID sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered and extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

Caller: OK! That's what I want.

Google: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten free thin crust?

Caller: What? I detest vegetables.

Google: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

Caller: How the hell do you know?

Google: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the results of your blood tests for the last seven years.

Caller: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

Google: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you only purchased a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once at Drug RX Network four months ago.

Caller: I bought more from another drug store.

Google: That doesn't show up on your credit card statement.

Caller: I paid cash.

Google: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

Caller: I have other sources of cash.

Google: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

Caller: WHAT THE HELL?

Google: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

Caller: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without internet, cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy in me.

Google: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired six weeks ago . . . !

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What is a thesaurus' favourite dessert? Synonym buns!

A relief map shows where the restrooms are.



## Picnic in the Park

Picnic Day is Wednesday, July 18, 2018. The picnic will be held at 5 p.m. in Lions Park Shelter and we can make merry until 9 p.m.

There will be usual menu if chilli and buns, rice, salads, desserts and beverages. Chatter and camaraderie will permeate the evening, and there is little better than meeting friends for an al fresco meal.

We, the usual standing committee, Susan Supruniuk, Helen Kieran and Eryl Jones, greatly assisted by Rachel St. Martin and Maurine Maslen, will be there at 4 p.m. to make sure that everything is A-OK.

Closer to the picnic date we will be contacting all members who have attended any of our breakfast meetings in the last twelve months to ascertain your attendance and your provision for the picnic. If you know of any other members who would like to attend please contact me, Eryl.

So, we hope that you will join us for an event of fabulous friendship, fabulous food and fabulous fun on July 18.

We remain yours in eager anticipation.

*Eryl Jones 780-459-8407*

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Photograph: Joyce Keltie House hunting!

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## What a Teacher Makes

*(The following appeared in The ATA News, January 14, 2003 and was forwarded for your interest by Brenda Kane).*

Some dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One guest, the CEO of a corporation, was explaining the problem with education.

“What’s a kid going to learn from someone who decided that his best option in life was to become a teacher?” he asked. In the same breath, he reminded the guests that it is true what they say about teachers: “Those who can, do. Those who can’t, teach.”

To illustrate his point, the CEO invited Susan, a teacher, to comment. “Susan, you’re a teacher. Be honest, what do you make?” he asked.

Susan, who had a reputation for being honest and frank replied: “You want to know what I make? I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I can make a C+ feel like a medal of honour and an A- feel like a slap in the face if the student did not do his or her best.

You want to know what I make?

I make kids wonder.

I make them question.

I make them criticize.

I make them apologize and mean it.

I make them write.

I make them show all their work in math and hide it all on their final drafts in English.

I elevate them to experience music and art and the joy of performance, so their lives are rich, full of kindness and they take pride in themselves and their accomplishments.

I make them understand that if you have the brains, then follow your heart . . . and if someone ever tries to judge you by what you make, you pay them no attention. You want to know what I make? I make a difference.

Susan turned to the CEO and asked: “And what do you make?”

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It’s a lengthy article about ancient Japanese sword fighters but I can Samurais it for you.

The police were called to the daycare centre -- a three-year old was resisting a rest.

## Letter to the Editor

When you turn 75 years old, you have to visit a doctor to be checked to see if you can still operate a motor vehicle safely. This is fair game. Why do tailgaters not have to visit a doctor to check if they can operate a motor vehicle safely when the vehicle in front of them is travelling the listed speed limit?

There is a requirement by the Provincial Motor Vehicle Branch that for an increase in speed you should increase the distance between you and the vehicle travelling in front of you. Why should tailgaters who cannot comprehend this be permitted to drive a car or truck?

Obviously they do not understand physics. The simple law is momentum = mass x velocity. This means the heavier the vehicle and the faster you are going, the farther you will travel when you apply your brakes. It is simple physics.

If drivers indeed comprehend the guidelines outlined by the Provincial Motor Vehicle Branch on speed restrictions and simple physics and chose to ignore them, then they are purposefully breaking the law and endangering the lives of others on the road. For any of these reasons, perhaps it should be mandated that a physician should determine whether they can indeed operate a motor vehicle safely before they receive a license.

*Emil Guzik*

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Photograph: Joyce Keltie

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## Test your Reactions

This simulates you in the driver's seat of a car.

You're driving down a road, when you see a big red hand flash in front of you.

You have to put on the brakes.

Then, the Reaction Time Test tells you how old you are, when it comes to driving.

The test is based on reaction times of 2,000 people ages 18 and over.

The Reaction Time Test plotted their reaction times by age; it matches your reaction time to those averages.

Some of their results may surprise you.

The Reaction Time Test found that left-handed people and men have slightly better reaction times than the average person.

To take this test hit ctrl (control on your computer and then

[Click on me](#)

Bet you try it more than once!

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## Sorry Oilers fans!!

This guy says to the bartender, "Can my dog and I watch the Edmonton Oilers hockey game here? My cable's out, and my dog and I always watch the game together." The bartender replies, "Normally, dogs wouldn't be allowed in my bar, but it's not very busy right now, so you and the dog can have a seat at the end of the bar. But, if there's any trouble with you or the dog, I'll have to ask you to leave." The guy agrees, and he and his dog start watching the game. Pretty soon, the Oilers manage to score a goal and the excited dog jumps up on the bar, barks loudly, does a back flip and runs over to the bartender and gives him a high-five. The bartender says, "Wow, that's pretty cool! What does he do when they win a game?" The guys answers, "No I've no idea, I've only had him for 3 years."

## Personal Reminiscence

On February 15, 1952, I sat with 210 other pupils in the hall of the Grammar School I attended and listened to a radio broadcast of the state funeral of King George VI. Seven years later I stood in that same hall as school captain and read the lesson at the close of the academic year. The reading was from *Ecclesiastes* chapter 3 and the words have stayed with me for nearly seventy years:

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance . . .*

Thus ended my school year and I have retained in memory those verses from *Ecclesiastes* on each occasion that I have moved forward.



Photograph: Joyce Keltie Something to look forward to in St. Albert Botanic Park

## ARTA News

### Overseas Teaching Opportunity

Alruwad International School is a K-9 private school located in Muscat, Oman, with over 800 students. The school is accredited by the province of Alberta, Canada, and offers the Alberta program in conjunction with the International Baccalaureate program.

Global Education Services (GES) is recruiting a number of teachers for all grade levels. For more information or to apply, please contact GES at [teachers.ges@gmail.com](mailto:teachers.ges@gmail.com).

## ARTA Golf Tournament

The tournament will be hosted by Foothills Retired Teachers' Association (FRTA) in High River, Alberta, on Jun 21, 2018, at Highwood Golf and Country Club. Golf Registration is \$125 per person which includes eighteen holes of golf with cart, lunch, dinner, PGA Tour golf shirt, swag bag and prizes.

For more information on times, prizes, activities for non-golfers, and registration, visit the Golf Tournament event page on the ARTA website.

## Second Wind Conference

Are you looking for an opportunity to celebrate retirement and all the associated benefits that may be yours? Then mark your calendar for Thursday September 6, 2018, and get ready to participate, learn and relax at this conference at the Chateau Louis Hotel and Conference Centre in Edmonton.

A few of the sessions being planned include:

- Cannabis: Medicinal Properties
- Computer and Internet Safety
- Nutrition and Cooking for One
- Gardening
- Coping with Loneliness
- Personal Directives: Project Green Sleeves
- Pet Therapy
- ARTA Benefit Plan.

Register by June 30 to take advantage of the early registration fee of \$85. For more information check the ARTA website and Online Registration Info.

A man tried to assault me with milk, cream and butter. How dairy!

I am reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

Alternative facts are aversion of the truth.