



ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

April 15, 2023

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April: Will April showers bring us May flowers?

SPRING by Sara Teasdale:

The spring is fresh and fearless
And every leaf is new.
The world is brimmed with moonlight,
The lilac brimmed with dew.

Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing -
My heart is fresh and fearless
And over-brimmed with spring!



Geese and mallards- Thanks Joyce

STARTA Breakfast: Friday, April 28, 2023

at Sturgeon Golf and Country Club

Doors Open 8:30 am & Breakfast starts at 9:00 am

Cost: Members \$25 Non-members \$28

Program : Yatin Patel, Director of ARTA Rx and possibly a guest speaker will help us understand the 5 W's of ARTA Rx.

Need some summer reading or some puzzles for rainy summer days?

Puzzle & Book Sale *fund raiser to support our activities for our breakfast meetings. Please bring gently used books and puzzles for other members to purchase.*

Cost ??? You decide what you will donate... please bring cash!

Looking Forward: AGM and B-B-Que on Friday, May 26th at 5:00 pm
at Sturgeon Golf and Country Club

Cost: Members \$30 Non-members \$33

*Salads, desserts, and a burger **B-B-Que** on a Friday Night at a beautiful Country Club with friends and colleagues– what more could we ask for?’*

AGM to follow dinner

Looking Back : March 31, 2023 Breakfast meeting with Guest speaker Lynne Duigou “I should have asked more questions!” when exploring Family Genealogy. Lynne’s presentation at our March meeting was highly informative and entertaining. Lynne included advice on effective strategies and interesting stories of places visited on her genealogy projects. She discussed resources and showed examples of her compositions. It was clear, from the number of questions asked and the number of members who gathered around her for a chat afterword, that it was a topic of great interest!

Lynne followed up with a handout for those interested. Here are her key points:

1. **Start with what you know.**
2. Make a **timeline** so that you can see where the gaps in information exist.
3. **Get Help** – Alberta Genealogical society – www.abgenealogy.ca
Library -14315 118 Avenue, Edmonton – Library – 780-424-4429
Daily research fee \$10 or yearly Senior membership \$45 for individual or family living at the same address. Open Tues., Weds., Thurs., and 3rd. Sat., 10:00 – 3:00 pm.
4. **Network** – join a **Special Interest Group (SIG)** with others searching the same area of the world. Edmonton has groups that meet to talk about: Canada/USA, Computers in genealogy, DNA, England/Wales, Scotland, French, German, Ireland, Ukraine, Eastern Europe, Postscripts and Writers Group. See www.edmontongenealogy.ca for dates and times.
5. **Write down where you found the information.** (Called citations) so that others could follow your research or you could go back and look for more information in the same area.

6. **Write up the stories** that you find or have heard from your parents, grandparents or other family members. Kids and grandkids may not be interested in them now but may be later in life. Stories not written down are lost to the next generation.

7. When you hit a **Brick Wall ask AGS Research Group** for help.

research@abgenealogy.ca These are volunteer researchers who will help you break down the wall but no guarantees. They can help in tough spots. They do charge for requested photocopies and other documents if the agency charges a fee. Donations are welcome.

8. A word of **Caution – Genealogy is addictive!**

If you would like a copy of the list of sources included by Lynne, please email pbergmann@shaw.ca with the request “Lynne’s Resources”.

OUR SURVEY COMMENTS: Thank you to attendees at the March breakfast meeting for their thoughtful responses to the Survey. The sound of discussion made it clear that people were sharing their thoughts and making suggestions.

What Brings You Out to STARTA Meetings? What do you most enjoy about being a STARTA Member?

- See friends and colleagues (5), Socialize (2), social aspect, visiting
- Good food (4)
- Camaraderie (3), Meeting new people (3), and Making connections (3)
- Interesting program & topics (3), speakers, always learn something new
- Lovely venue, great facility, beautiful–great windows
- First time today, already impressed by friendly atmosphere
- Gift, centerpieces—a nice touch
- Book and puzzle sale
- People sound happy
- Would a less expensive breakfast (continental) bring in more people?

How do we make STARTA meetings relevant and keep the Association Active? New Ideas? New Activities?

- Travel related topics, love book/puzzle sale, horticultural, local musicians/ singers as entertainment; new businesses speaking/setting up booths
- Programming keeps us up to date, Travel presentations, Space and Science Centre presentations, interesting personalities, cultural information
- Keep us updated on relevant matters, guest speakers are always very interesting
- Reps. from ARTA to tell us what is happening in Assoc., Health issues relevant to us, travel presentations, rep. from Seniors Centre to discuss programs, nutrition
- Topics of interest- something to stimulate your brain, people from the museum travel agencies, someone from law society, wine experts, indigenous speaker
- I think you're doing a very good job; Program ideas: Greenland Garden Center, Senior issues and available resources. Speakers this year have been very good.
- Always great to have people from outside, always meet someone new! FABULOUS.

- Too early to say. Will think about it.
- Doing a good job right now. Explore Artificial Intelligence, visits to museums/ Art Galleries

The Executive MUST fill the vacant positions to continue breakfast programming for next year. Do you have any suggestions of how to attract new people to the Executive?

- People must be approached individually. Appeals from the podium or by email do not work.
- We need younger retirees- maybe they'll have enthusiasm to do the work. Any chance possible let retirees know about joining STARTA
- Ask individually; bribery (limo to pick you up for meetings); fully stocked bar in limo.
- Think about perks - not money, but maybe STARTA jackets or other clothing
- supply lunch at executive meetings
- make it fun; have dinner meetings!

'Stories from the past' from our members:

We are so excited to continue publishing **'early teaching stories.'** If you have a story to share, please send any contributions on or before the 12th of each month to pbergmann@shaw.ca

Once upon a time, in 1959, I was just finishing my year of teacher training in Aberdeen, Scotland after having completed a university degree. Many of my colleagues were talking about going abroad to work. We were the generation that had grown up during World War II and in Post War Britain. We craved adventure!

I choose Canada, and in November of that year I set off for Vancouver where my older sister lived. My entire teaching experience had so far consisted of a six-week temporary stint in an inner city junior high in Aberdeen. My main assignment had been teaching Arithmetic every day, all afternoon, to a class of 40 grade seven boys.

Evidently someone had once thought that grouping was a good idea!

After a long and very exciting journey, I arrived in Vancouver in early December and set about finding a job. After a couple of interviews, I was hired to teach in a large junior-senior high school on Vancouver Island, starting in January. Sounded great! I was 22, fully trained- what could possibly go wrong?

I was to teach Social Studies and Language Arts to several grade eight classes. The classes were large, 36 to 40 in each and nearly all boys due to scheduling. Many of the students were 14 or even 15 years old. They were more interested in their next stint at a logging camp than in studying English Literature and the history of Canada, especially from a young teacher with a funny accent! Sadly, I did not have the skills to engage them well, so it was a bit of a struggle. However, many of them were really interesting characters and I did

develop a pretty good rapport on the whole, in spite of being left more or less to my own devices. A few of the staff were quite kind but there was no concrete help with the teaching part. The administration was not very involved – the principal had been in the Army in the war and always had to be addressed or referred to as “colonel”. I became pretty friendly with the only other young women on staff but as one taught Home Economics and the other taught Art, they could not help!

After about one month I was instructed to administer tests and issue Report Cards. As no records had been left by the previous teacher, I was on my own. I cannot imagine what my reports must have looked like but somehow, I managed!

There is one day I will never forget! As I walked in for the afternoon classes, the room was ominously quiet, so I knew something was up. Reaching my desk, I had to move some papers and there, in a coil, was a small snake! I realized in a spit second that my future depended on my reaction. I was -and still am- horrified by snakes! Summoning up ALL my courage, I calmly said to a boy near the front, “Oh, there’s a snake here. Please put it outside.” We were on the ground floor and the windows were open. So, to their great disappointment, the snake incident fell flat, and I survived! But the end of June could not come soon enough.

The next September found me teaching in Prince George, still quite a rough and tumble place in 1960. Again, I was in junior high, but a world of difference. It was a great school with superb administration. Many of the staff were young adventurers like myself and everyone was incredibly supportive. The admin. and the old hands really looked out for us greenhorns. Classes were still large, and it was very hard work, but we managed to have lots of fun both in and out of school. I made many friends there and began to learn what teaching was all about.

And just to top it all off, there was a young man named Ray on the staff. We have now been married for almost 60 years!

A teaching story and a love story! Thanks Allison!



“I told you we were too early!” Thank you Joyce!