



ST. ALBERT AND AREA RETIRED TEACHERS ' ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

November 15, 2023

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November: Making Connections with our community

1. *Snowflake Festival - Friday, December 1, 2023*
from **6:30 pm to 9:00 pm** in the **Downtown St. Albert District.**

Join us in the heart of downtown St. Albert for this **FREE** event, as we light up the Perron District with the warm glow of the Christmas lights with our annual Snowflake Festival. This family fun event is a great way to support local charities and give you a head start on your holiday shopping while sipping hot cocoa and strolling our beautiful downtown. Train rides, a petting zoo, street hockey, craft areas, and food trucks will help you keep warm and excited.

2. *Lighting the Way - a 2023 Fundraising Event*

Light-Up Event: **November 16, 2023, at 6 pm**

BUY A BULB or SPONSOR A TREE in **memory** of someone who has passed, in **honour** of someone who is fighting a life-limiting illness, or in **support** of compassion and palliative care. For a donation of just \$10, you can illuminate one of the trees surrounding Foyer Lacombe in St. Albert. This act of kindness brings comfort to those in hospice care and shines a beacon of hope for the entire community.

PARK in the St. Albert Parish / Catholic church parking lot (7 St. Vital Ave., St. Albert). and walk down the internal roadway to Foyer Lacombe Hospice (Road Access from McKenney Ave will be closed)

3. *Drive-thru Christmas Lights Display:*

Open from **Nov. 17, 2023 to January 7th, 2024** at **St. Albert Kinsmen Park.**

To purchase **TICKETS** go to <https://www.borealislights.ca/>

UPCOMING EVENTS: Breakfast Friday, Nov. 24, 2023

At Sturgeon Valley Country Club

9:00 AM- 11:00AM

Doors Open at 8:30 am.

NEW COST: MEMBERS \$26.00 or NON-MEMBERS \$30.00

Payment by cash or cheque at the registration desk **OR**
by e-transfer the Thursday prior to the breakfast. (see details below)

Please note – there will be no refunds on e-transfer payments.

MEMBERSHIP FEES \$10.00 per person for this 2023/2024 season, paid by cash, cheque or by e-transfer. Partners who are not retired teachers can purchase a membership as an Associate Member of STARTA for \$10.00 per person.

You may use an e-transfer to pay for your breakfast and membership fees. If you have set up e-transfer with your financial institution, you can send your payment to the following email address: startacontact@gmail.com

SPECIAL NOTES about e-transfers:

- Send payment **NO LATER** than the **Thursday** prior to the Friday breakfast meeting.
- **All members will still need to check in** at the registration tables upon arrival at the breakfast meeting.

If you have not been contacted about the breakfast by Friday, November 17, and you wish to attend, please contact Maurine at (780)418-8032 or text (780) 690-5644 ASAP!

PROGRAM: CELEBRATING 60 Years of ARTA:

Greetings from Deb Gerow, ARTA President,
and a Presentation by Vi Oko.

Fundraiser: Book and Puzzle Sale

(including gently used Childrens' Books)

BRING your CASH – ALL donations will be put towards our speakers and guests for Breakfast Meetings.



We will also be accepting **DONATIONS** of Cash or Food Items for the **FOOD BANK!**

Events in Review: Along with a delicious breakfast, at the October 27th breakfast meeting we celebrated both July and October birthdays and enjoyed a brief presentation on ARTA Membership Benefits. Our thanks to Jennifer Hope, Ashley White, and Kendra Liber from ARTA Marketing for reminding us of the goal of ARTA to **foster vibrant, engaged, and informed members and promote a healthy, active and enhanced quality of life for retired people**. They specifically highlighted following three initiatives of ARTA:

- **ARTA Perks** is a brand-new discount program for ARTA members.
 - With a focus on travel, health and wellness, shopping and entertainment, ARTA has been working hard at securing discounts on the services that mean the most to you. There is a selection of offers, both local and national.

- **Contests** that encourage and engage members
 - Photo contest that will happen in the spring
 - Wellness Challenge which has been reimagined to focus more on participation and less on competitiveness. The increased number of participants last spring certainly indicate the success of the changes.

- **Scholarship Programs**
 - ARTA has two annual scholarships that are awarded to students continuing their post-secondary studies: the *Degree Scholarship* and the *Certificate/Diploma Scholarship*.
 - The Scholarship Selection Committee selects six recipients per scholarship. The winners of the scholarships are direct relatives of current ARTA members.
 - ARTA also awards two scholarships for ARTA 101 Members (active teachers) and their relatives.

Did You Know? ARTA has recently received two 2023 Gold Quill Awards for Excellence in Communications and Consumer Relations, specifically for The ARTA Benefits website. They have been recognized also for the Installation of a Microhabitat Urban farm outside of the ARTA office, growing produce to support local food banks, as well as Canada's BEST Employers for recent graduates! Congratulations!

Another tidbit: ARTA's oldest member is 104 years old!

Looking Ahead: Save these Breakfast DATES:

Friday, January 26 Friday, April 26
Friday, February 23 AGM in May (TBA)
Friday, March 22 (NOTE: change of date)

SPECIAL NOTE: The executive is still looking for someone to 'HOST' our March or April breakfast meeting? Please contact **Wendy** if you are willing to **host and/or make a presentation** at either breakfast meeting.

REMINDER: We still need a Program Coordinator!

STARTA Members Travel the World

What are your most treasured travel experiences?

Where did you go? What did you see?

Members suggested that the News Bulletins theme this year be 'TRAVELLING'. We are asking members to send in a one-page commentary, complete with a few pictures, to share with colleagues in our membership. Send to pbergmann@shaw.ca

An Impactful Journey

By Ardyth Garrison

Back in the days BC (Before Covid), Bill and I took a journey that we reflect on every November. First, we travelled to the battlefields, memorials, and cemeteries of World War I. Then we cruised down the Seine to Juno Beach.

In the city of Ypres, we were deeply touched by a ceremony at Menin Gate. Every evening of every day since 1927, the local police band has paraded through the streets and held a wreath laying ceremony in memory of the soldiers whose names are inscribed under the arch. That is an astonishing 35,000 + ceremonies!! Also impressive was the restoration/reconstruction of the village that was ravaged by each of the three battles named for it. At first sight, I fully believed that the famous Cloth Hall had survived from the Middle Ages.

In this vicinity were several memorials to John McCrae whose poem never fails to bring tears.

The Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge is a very special place. Our first glimpse was of a white dot on the horizon that grew as we travelled west through the beautiful green countryside. Wartime tunnels, trenches, craters, and unexploded munitions still honeycomb the grounds of the site.

The breathtaking memorial took over eleven years to build. It was unveiled on [July 26, 1936](#). It was rededicated on [April 9, 2007](#) at a ceremony commemorating the 90th anniversary of the battle.



Cloth Hall, Ypres



John McCrae Memorial



Last post



Menin Gate, Ypres



VIMY



VIMY Monument



VIMY Mother



Wreath Laying at Menin Gate 2010



REMINDER: There is no breakfast meeting in December, so...

Wishing you a peace-filled and joyous season!

See you Friday, January 26, 2024 at the next breakfast meeting!



Thank you to all who have contributed to this News Bulletin!

Contact Information...

IF YOU HAVE HAD ANY CHANGES to your **CONTACT INFORMATION,**
please fill out and bring the attached form to the September breakfast meeting.
Thank you!



ST. ALBERT RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP Information 2023-2024

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

NEW MEMBERSHIP: _____ RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP _____

RETIRED TEACHER: _____ ASSOCIATE MEMBER: _____

Current ARTA MEMBER: Please circle one: YES NO

Membership Fee for 2023-2024 is \$10 for both a member and an associate member. An associate member is anyone who has purchased a membership in STARTA, but does not receive a pension from ATRF.

NOTE: Photos may be taken at STARTA events and may be published in STARTA media. If this is an issue for you, please discuss your concern with the photographer at the event.