



PEIRTA Newsletter

Prince Edward Island Retired Teachers' Association

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From the President

Since taking over as PEIRTA President, I have become much more aware of the tremendous work that is carried out at the Provincial, Atlantic, and National levels of retired teacher organizations. These organizations work diligently at advocating for and addressing the concerns and interests of retired teachers and seniors as a whole, especially in the areas of senior housing, health, and drug care. This work by all organizations representing retired people needs to be ongoing to help alleviate the concerns facing many seniors (us) in our province and country. We are so blessed to have our retired teacher organizations working so hard on our behalf.

Since the last newsletter there have been a few opportunities for me to attend or begin to plan for RTA events. I attended the Holland College Social on January 31 for students and donors of Holland College bursaries. The recipient of the PEIRTA bursary was Kala Chappell, a former Bluefield student. I gave a short RTA presentation at the PEITF retirement seminar in Summerside on April 14. Wayne Denman, RTA Vice-President, gave the same presentation in Charlottetown on April 21. I will be attending the ACER-CART (Canadian Association of Retired Teachers) meeting in Ottawa May 31-June 2. The PEIRTA will be hosting the Eastern Canadian Retired Teachers Association October 24-25 in Charlottetown. PEIRTA members are asked to mark Nov. 1 on their calendars for our PEIRTA AGM which will be held in western PEI this year (more info later).

After ten years of teaching B.Ed



courses and supervising student teachers at UPEI, I am retiring. It has been a wonderful experience. Some of the students I mentored through their practice teaching were students I taught in their elementary years. I taught grade one for only one year in my career and that was at Westwood Primary. From this experience, something special happened last year. A shy little grade one student from that class in

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Visit our website at
www.peirta.com

From the Editor

Thanks to our Group Insurance Trustees and the approved rate decrease in 2017, members saw a significant reduction in their group insurance premiums last year. Keep up the good work.

Still no action on the days' supply of "maintenance" drugs. It seems that all that has to happen is that some drugs be reclassified so that

they are classed as maintenance drugs, and can therefore be dispensed in 60 or 90 day supplies instead of only 30 days. These are drugs with proven efficacy and no or manageable side effects, which will be used long term by patients with chronic conditions. We are not talking about one-time prescriptions, opioids, or other drugs intended for short time use. We were optimistic in November at our RTA

meeting when we were given the impression that a change was imminent, but we're still waiting.

Thank you, MLA Matthew MacKay, for challenging Government's fascination with standardized assessments for our students. We may be seeing the beginning of a new cycle. If Ontario is reviewing its student assessment strategy, can we be far behind?



Red fox and red-haired Anne, official and unofficial emblems of PEI, hang out in the back yard while Holly Holstein peers through the bushes, thinking sadly that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, and reflecting on what might have been!

PEIRTA Executive does not necessarily agree with opinions expressed in material authored by those other than official representatives of the PEIRTA, and information about opportunities offered by others is for information only—no endorsement is implied.

Next issue October 1. Submit material to margstewart@pei.eastlink.ca.

If you wish to read this newsletter online instead of receiving a hard copy, send me an email and I will let you know when each issue should appear on our site and on the PEITF site.

Letters to the editor should be a maximum of 200 words, must include a one-line bio, and may be edited for length..

PEIRTA Executive and Officers 2016—2018

President: Cynthia MacDonald (902-566-4680)

Cynthia.macdonald38@gmail.com

Vice-President: Wayne Denman (902-436-6260)

Werdenman48@gmail.com

Past President: Joyce McCardle (902-436-6960)

joyce.mccardle@pei.sympatico.ca

Secretary: Ruth Sudsbury (902-436-6664)

southfieldsuds@gmail.com

Treasurer: Denise Gaudet-McPhail (902-892-7766)

mcphailhome@eastlink.ca

Representatives by County:

Prince (English): Phyllis Horne (902-853-2872)

Phyllishorne1@hotmail.com

Queens (English): Emma McQuaid (902-583-2978)

mcquaid@pei.sympatico.ca

Kings (English): Ronald C. McIntosh (902-687-2996)

ronniemcintosh@hotmail.com

Francophone: Maria Bernard (902-724-5123)

mariarose@eastlink.ca

Membership Chair: Pat McCardle (902-892-1915)

patricia.mccardle@pei.sympatico.ca

Group Insurance Representative: Kimball Blanchard

kimballb@eastlink.ca

PEIRTA Webmaster: Bill Oehlke

oehlke@islandtelecom.com

Newsletter Editor: Marg Stewart

margstewart@pei.eastlink.ca

Pension Commission Rep: Michel Plamondon (902 368-2224)

michelplamondon@hotmail.com



Pat McCardle (retired from Kinkora Regional in 1999) is shown at Fridheimar, a working greenhouse and restaurant in Reykholt, Iceland, in April, 2018. In a unique dining experience, food is served among the tomato plants (four different varieties), and everything on the menu is made with tomatoes—including the ice cream.

How Do Retired Teachers Spend Their Time?



In the picture above, Rudy Croken (retired from Queen Elizabeth Elementary in 2003) receives a PEI Heritage Foundation Award on Feb. 20, 2018 at Eptek Centre in Summerside, with Lieutenant-Governor Antoinette Perry making the presentation. Rudy was recognized for researching and publishing a piece of Island history—when the automobile was banned on PEI from 1908 to 1913 and partially banned from 1913 to 1919. Titled *BAN THE AUTOMOBILE: Instrument of Death*, it was published in May, 2017. The book was also awarded the Publication of the Year Award by the city of Summerside during their Culture Summerside Heritage Week awards ceremony on Friday, February 16, 2018.



During a trip to the Dominican Republic in the spring of 2018, Cynthia MacDonald had an opportunity to visit an elementary school in Puerto Plata. She is pictured above with some of the smiling, welcoming students.

(More on p. 5)

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1996 showed up 21 years later in my practicum group for B.Ed. I supervised her as a student teacher in the same classroom in which we were together in 1996 as teacher/student! She proved to be a fantastic, creative student teacher! I watched her cross the stage at UPEI with her B.Ed in her hand in 2017—happy tears

were flowing!! This is surely one of my many special stories of teaching! Through the B.Ed program, I met so many smart and dedicated future teachers (from both local and international settings) who will make a difference to many students in many different parts of the world. I would still love to continue with this work, but there comes a

time to just let go. As of graduation day, 2018, this chapter will have closed. And I am OK with that.

The next newsletter will be in October, so on behalf of the PEIRTA, I wish all RTA members a healthy and safe summer. Hopefully we will have lots of warm and sunny days over the next few months!

1ST ANNUAL PEI RETIRED TEACHERS GOLFING TOURNAMENT

Eagles Glenn of Cavendish Golf Club

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Shotgun start at 9:00 a.m.

Fee of \$70 includes green fee, power cart, and meal.

Without meal fee is \$50.

A scramble format will be utilized with teams of 4 golfers.

Male, Female, and Mixed (2m and 2f) divisions will be offered.

RTA and Associate RTA members and spouses are welcome.

Please register early as we have a cut-off set at 124 golfers. First paid-up golfers accepted! We will need names of all team members as well as their indexes. There will be a division for those without an index.

Registration will be conducted online by going to the Eagles Glenn website at www.eaglesglenn.com or by contacting Chris Croken at chris@eaglesglenn.com.

There will be Gross, Net, and Special Competitions in each division, with prizes. A putting contest will be a fund raiser!

Inquiries—contact Wayne Denman at 902-436-6260 or 902-963-3600, or at werdenman48@gmail.com

Jeux 50+ Acadie 2018

On September 13-16, 2018, the villages of Wellington and Abram-Village, in cooperation with the Association des Franco-phones d'Âge d'or de IPÉ, will host the **Acadian 50+ games**. This is the first time they will be held in PEI. These games offer **recreational, cultural, wellness and athletic activities**. If you're interested in participating or want more information, please check our website at www.jeuxacadie50plus.com.

Les jeux 50+ de l'Acadie auront lieu du 13 au 16 septembre 2018 dans la région Evangéline. Si vous êtes intéressé(e)s à participer, faire du bénévolat, ou avoir plus d'information veuillez consulter notre site web www.jeuxacadie50plus.com.



Group Insurance Booklet

Please note that you can find the details of our group health plan online at www.peitf.com. The link is on the opening page.

Elementary School in Dominican Republic ~ by

Cynthia MacDonald

In March 2018 during a trip to Dominican Republic, my sister and I took a taxi tour of Puerto Plata. Part of this tour was a walking tour about town. In passing one of the buildings, the tour guide happened to mention that an elementary school was in there. Well, Cynthia's ears perked up and she asked if it was possible to visit the school. After obtaining permission from the principal, we were allowed to tour the three classrooms (grades 1-6). Neither teachers nor students spoke English, and we did not speak Spanish, so the tour was visual only. The experience brought me immediately back to my years as an elementary student at Pisquid West School in the 1950s! The classroom had desks, a blackboard, a map, and some student drawings on the wall. That was it! I gave the thumbs up sign to the students for their work in their scribbles (they were doing times tables). They smiled and gave me a hug. The only playground equipment was a yellow painted tire buried upright in cement. The students ran around making up their own games. They seemed so happy! I showed my phone to the principal and indicated/asked if I could take pictures. When the principal nodded yes, the students immediately circled me to get their pictures taken! They were beautiful children. The only indication of technology in the classrooms was that the older children had cell phones and at recess were sharing with each other. There were no cell phones at Pisquid West School!!

PEI Newcomers Volunteer Tutor Program

The PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada has created a Volunteer Tutor Program to support low income refugee and immigrant students. The pilot project will support students at Birchwood Intermediate and Colonel Gray High School and will run in three cycles during the school year. Tutors have the flexibility to volunteer for as many, or as few, as their schedules will allow. EAL Tutor Training includes an online 4 hour course and a classroom session. For more details on the program please contact Project Coordinator Jill Olscamp at jill@peianc.com or 902-628-6009 ext 223.

Change of Address: Pension & Benefits

Pensions & Benefits asks that you keep your mailing address up-to-date.

Each year, the Pensions & Benefits office distributes pay advice slips, T4A's and newsletters directly to pensioners of the Teachers' Superannuation Fund (TSF). To ensure that pensioners don't miss any mailings, and to receive TSF related mail in a timely manner, please remember to keep your mailing address up-to-date with Pensions & Benefits. Please contact the Pensions & Benefits office by phone at (902) 368-4200 or by e-mail at tsf@gov.pe.ca to provide updated information and be prepared to provide your name and date of birth to confirm your identity.

Optional Critical Illness Insurance

~by Dale Weldon, Johnson Inc.

Added protection for you and your family

Most of us know someone who has been diagnosed with or suffered from a critical illness. The effects can be far-reaching....worry, treatments, and the financial burden of unexpected expenses.

That's where your Optional Group Critical Illness benefit comes to your assistance. It supplements the coverage provided by the PEITF Group Insurance plan for retired members—giving you an extra layer of financial protection.

With Optional Critical Illness Insurance you can decide to purchase an amount of coverage that is right for you and your family. If you, your spouse, or your dependent child is medically diagnosed with a covered condition, the plan will pay a lump-sum cash benefit that you can use in any manner you wish. It is a tax-free payment that you can use for other treatment options, debt reduction, specialized equipment, or any other purpose important to you.

Why purchase Optional Critical Illness Insurance?

- One in 2.6 Canadian women and 2 in 5 men will develop some form of cancer during

their lifetimes.

- More than 140,000 new cases of cancer occur each year.
- Approximately 300,000 Canadians are living with the effects of stroke.
- More than 75,000 heart attacks occur every year.
- Canadians have one of the highest rates of multiple sclerosis in the world.

Optional Critical Illness offers you

- Affordable group rates,
- Flexibility to choose the amount of coverage right for you,
- Coverage for you and your spouse if you wish,
- Coverage available in increments of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$300,000,
- A multiple event coverage benefit that continues coverage if you are unfortunately diagnosed with more than one of the covered conditions.

Covered Conditions:

Coverage for critical illness applies only to those medical conditions that are defined within the terms of the contract with Manulife Financial. Definitions for covered conditions are available by contacting Johnson Inc.

The specific covered conditions are recognized within the medical profession as being critical in nature. Some examples of the 29 covered conditions are the following:

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Benign Brain Tumour
- Life-threatening Cancer
- Heart Attack (Myocardial Infarction)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Parkinson's Disease
- Stroke
- And many more.

As with most insurance, there are several conditions that apply and they are detailed in nature. Please contact Johnson Inc. and discuss all aspects of the Optional Critical Illness plan, including the monthly premiums for the amount of coverage you may be interested in. They can send you an application form following your discussion if you decide to apply for this coverage.

The PEITF Group Insurance Trustees are pleased to offer this type of additional coverage to members of the Retired Teachers' Association.





Bethany MacLeod

Once again we are more than half-way through another school year! The “May Day” is behind us, which typically signals that the end of the school year is quickly approaching. It has been a busy year preparing for our upcoming contract negotiations. My school visits and conversations with teachers continuously remind me that the job of being a teacher is becoming more and more difficult. Class size and composition are still some of the most prominent issues affecting teacher workload, and we are hopeful that our government will respond accordingly to the increased demands of today’s classrooms.

Substitute teacher shortages have been a growing concern for schools across the Island. We are very appreciative of the efforts of retired teachers who are helping in this regard by agreeing to substitute. As it stands right now, teachers are coming into work when they are sick, or sometimes absences remain unfilled. Teachers are being asked to cover classes on top of their teaching assignments. We continue to raise this concern with the employer and government.

The PEITF held the annual pre-retirement seminars recently in Charlottetown and Summerside with strong registration at both events. We are thankful for the RTA’s representation at these meetings. Particular thanks go out to Margaret Stewart who continues to do a masterful job at presenting on the psychological impact of retirement.

PEITF hosts two national conferences this year. The CTF Women’s Symposium was held in early May, with the theme “Women and Union Leadership.” Women from across the country gathered in Charlottetown to exchange ideas and strategies regarding election campaigns, work/life balance, and collective bargaining and mentorship initiatives. The National presidents congregate in P.E.I. at the end of May. Presidents from

member organizations across Canada will meet to discuss pressing issues and challenges prevalent in today’s classrooms.

Spring, though delayed, is coming, and we are hopeful that another beautiful Island summer is not far behind. Please take the time to get out and enjoy the warmth and long sunny days on the Island and continue to enjoy your well-earned retirements. Thank you to the RTA for all you do in supporting PEITF and Island education.

Address Changes

If your address changes, or if you know anyone who has had a change of address and/or is not receiving this newsletter, please have him or her notify our membership chair (contact info on page 2).

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History of the PEI RTA

Editor's note~ Joyce McCardle has over a period of time compiled a lot of information about the RTA in PEI. Much of the information has been taken from minutes of meetings.

PEIRTA 2005—2007

2005-2007 Executive (Kings County)

Past President: Fred Ripley

President: John Rowe

Vice-President: Jim MacAuley

Secretary: Evelyn McLure

Treasurer TBA (Thane LeLacheur was named later)

Members-at Large:

(Prince) Joyce McCardle

(Queens) Pat McCardle

(Kings) Frank McQuaid

The PEITF President was Seana Evans-Renaud, and Minister of Education was Gerard Greenan.

April 22, 2005, minutes show Government committing to 90% funding status over a maximum of 20 years. To that end Gov't will issue to TSF an interest bearing (4.87%) promissory note equal to \$160 million, to be retired over a 10 year period (i.e. TSF would receive 10 annual payments of \$16 million and first payment would be adjusted to make it effective April 1, 2005. See April 22/05 minutes for full article.)

It was decided that the Dept. of Education would transfer the administrative duties for the TSF from the Department of Education to the Pensions and Benefits Section of the PEI Public Service Commission (also April 22 minutes).

Fred Ripley was elected as an Atlantic Director of ACER-CART.

On Nov. 16, 2006, it was noted that Thane LeLacheur is now the RTA treasurer. There was more discussion re the difficulty of getting memberships due to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

On February 8, 2007, it was decided that professional, laminated membership cards be purchased and given out once. There are now 685 members.

Secretary Evelyn MacLure passed away on June 22, 2007.

On Mar. 15, 2017, it was decided to try one regional get-together in September.

At the Oct. 25, 2007 AGM John Rowe thanked Joyce McCardle for her efforts at member sign-up. (Note: The number of members increased from 300 to 800+. This was mainly due to the efforts of Joyce and Patricia McCardle who addressed and sent letters and sign-up forms to all who weren't members. Fortunately they were lucky enough to have a list of teachers before the Privacy Act came into effect.)

Several important resolutions were moved at this meeting:

1. That an executive member must be a retired member in good standing of the PEIRTA
2. That the annual membership dues of PEIRTA be set at \$10/year
3. That an annual honorarium of \$1,000 be paid to the president of RTA
4. That a newsletter editor be engaged to help publish three newsletters annually and that he/she would receive an annual honorarium of \$500.

It was also passed that hence forward a nomination list for PEIRTA executive would be generated from across the Island instead of choosing the majority of the executive from one county. (There was no need for a Constitution change as the present system developed informally.)

A new slate of officers for 2007-2009 was installed.

PEITF Travel Insurance: Update on Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

Our out-of-province travel insurance plan has a 90-day medical stability clause. This means that if you have a pre-existing medical condition, it must be considered medically stable for 90 days prior to your departure date if you are to be covered in the event of a medical emergency related to this condition while you are traveling.

A pre-existing condition is considered stable if the member, in the 90 days before the departure date, has not:

1. Been treated or evaluated for new symptoms or related conditions;
2. Had symptoms that increased in frequency or severity, or examination findings indicate the condition has worsened;
3. Been prescribed a new treatment or change in treatment for the condition.
4. Been admitted to a hospital for the condition; or
5. Been awaiting new treatments or tests regarding the medical condition (does not include routine tests).

Number 3 generally does not include reductions in medication due to improvement in a condition, or regular changes in medication as part of an established treatment plan—but each case must be reviewed individually. A change shortly before departure, for example, with a subsequent reaction, might present problems. So if you have any doubt, call Medavie Blue Cross at 1-800-667-4511, Travel Department, for clarification if you are planning to travel outside PEI.