

# Vernon Teachers' Association VOICES

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[www.vernonta.com](http://www.vernonta.com)



Have a wonderful summer everyone! Enjoy your time with family and friends, and most of all we hope you enjoy some much deserved R & R. See you at the BBQ!!

*Speaking for Teachers in the North Okanagan*

# ***Reflections.....***

## **Dear Colleagues,**

In February, I started with "It is hard to believe that the February edition of Voices has rolled around. Time seems to be flying by." Well, welcome to June. This is a month of celebrations. Whether it is graduation, transitioning from Grade 7 to Grade 8 or finishing Kindergarten in preparation for Grade 1, June is filled with excitement, anticipation and festivities. For our colleagues who have reached that milestone in their careers and will be moving on to retirement, congratulations. I have to yet to hear that a retired teacher has needed help coping with the withdrawal of preparing lessons or writing report cards. I am sure that the Retired Teachers' Association would be able to help if you find yourself in that situation.

For our colleagues who are waiting for the layoff and recall process to get rolling, this year, I think, will be the real test of the new language that was negotiated two years ago. Postings are up for 2 days instead of 3. Here is hoping that it speeds things up.

Thank you to VTA members who agreed to sit on district committees. There are too many to mention but teachers can know that their voice was represented on many different committees this year. Teachers in Vernon also have some dedicated individuals who have put in countless hours on their behalf. To the Staff Reps at our schools, thank you for your efforts. You do important work in addition to your teaching assignments. Know that you are appreciated. To the VTA executive, you have also done double duty to represent Vernon teachers at the local level (executive and Representative Assembly meetings) and at the provincial level (Summer Conference, RAs, AGMs). To the incoming executive, I am excited to see the experienced members return to work with new members and "old new" members returning to the executive. It will be a good team next year. To the outgoing executive, thanks for your efforts. Your work has also been greatly appreciated. You have made a difference to teachers in Vernon by your presence on the executive this year. To Alana Pethick, our office manager, you do so much more than "manage" our office. From organizing our meetings and our social events to running the office, thanks for everything.

June is also a month of changes. As I will be transitioning from president to classroom teacher, I am excited to return to my teaching roots - French and French Immersion at Seaton. And the experience that I have gained won't be lost as I return to the executive as Past President next year. Lisa has an excellent executive to support her as she comes into this office.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my family and friends who have supported me during these last two years. It has been a rich and rewarding experience that was not without its challenges. But the support that you gave to me has made all the difference in the world, thank you.

In solidarity,

***Heather***

## Vernon Blood Donor Clinics

### @Trinity United Church at 3300 Alexis Park Way

Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-5:30 pm

Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-5:30 pm

Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-6:00 pm

Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-5:30 pm

Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup> from 12:30-5:30 pm

Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-5:30 pm

Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-5:30 pm



#### Before you donate:

Be sure to take the eligibility quiz before donating at: <https://www.blood.ca/en/eligibility-quiz> or call 1888 2 DONATE ( 1888 236 6283) to ask any questions about travel in the last year outside of Canada and the US (some areas are malaria zones and to check call our 1888#) , tattoos, piercings, medication to prescreen yourself prior to your donation. Visit us at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) for more information about blood donation. This helps us to ensure you can donate and if you are not able to please ask someone to donate on your behalf.

#### Booking your appointments:

[www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca)

1. Call 1 888 236 6283

2. Download the NEW GiveBlood App to manage your appointments

If you wish to have more information for your organization, team or book club please contact Gayle Voyer at 250 448-4022 or [gayle.voyer@blood.ca](mailto:gayle.voyer@blood.ca) to book a presentation today!

#### To prepare for your donation:

1. Be well hydrated before your donation

2. Eat before you donate

3. Be generally feeling well

Bring PHOTO ID and names of any medication you are taking (to prescreen your medications can call 1 888 236 6283 to ensure you are eligible)



Canadian Red Cross  
Croix-Rouge canadienne

Gayle Voyer, Territory Manager  
Canadian Blood Services  
P 250 448-4022/C 250 979-8053  
E [gayle.voyer@blood.ca](mailto:gayle.voyer@blood.ca)



## Your PD Funds

**PLEASE BE REMINDED** that if you are changing schools you **MUST** contact your current PD Rep and ensure that the balance of your available PD funds are transferred to your new school in September. It is your responsibility to ensure that your funds 'travel' with you.



*These are just a few of our 2014 — 2015 Inductees to the VTA (and in some cases, the BCTF) . Everyone enjoyed a wine & cheese social at the Schubert Centre with members of the VTA Executive and guest speaker Carole Gordon, BCTF Member at large.*

*Welcome to the VTA, we hope you are enjoying your time at SD#22!*

## New dental benefits kick in July 1

As part of our most recent collective agreement, the Federation successfully achieved improvements to several aspects of our extended health and dental benefits. On July 1, 2015, all local dental plans will see the per-person coverage for Orthodontics (Plan C) increased to 75%, with the per-person lifetime maximum rising to \$5,000. There will be no changes for local dental plans that already include or exceed these coverage and limits.

In addition, while members have been able to access dual coverage for the provincial standardized Pacific Blue Cross Extended Health Benefits plan since inception of the plan, beginning July 1, 2015, dual coverage for local dental plans will also be allowed for partners who are both B C T F members.

For information about additional benefit improvements that will come into effect in 2017 and 2018, members can access two documents-*Improvements in benefits* and *Questions and answers about the benefits improvements* inside the MyBCTF portal.

### VERNON TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

## **Year End/Retirement BBQ**

THURSDAY, JUNE 25<sup>th</sup>

3:30 TO 7:00 PM at PADDLEWHEEL PARK HALL

**Hosts: Harwood Elementary  
Staff**

Hamburgers ~ Refreshments

Snacks ~ Drinks \$3

*Departing Cab Service Available*



# VT A RETIREES

## 2014 - 2015

### JOHN BENNET

Arriving from Fort St. John in 1988, John began his SD 22 career at Vernon Secondary where the staff was full of very positive supportive people. It was exciting to be part of computers being introduced to district back in the days of MAC's with disks in and out with 64K being lots!

Highlights of his career included coaching for 34 years, camping trips to Mable Lake, a couple of short Vice-principal positions, teaching in a variety of departments, having his children attend VSS (teaching them and seeing them grow), and working as Department Head for many years, and moving into the new VSS. John has been a committed teacher who has coached many athletic teams throughout his years with the majority of his coaching in volleyball and rugby.

John's immediate plans include stepping off the wheel, straightening out his slice, visiting family and friends, traveling more, and get a perspective on the future.

John started and ended his career at Vernon Secondary and says "See you on the links or water or mountains."

### BLAIR COMPTON



Blair has taught the majority of his career at Vernon Secondary, but did start his career as an elementary teacher before moving to teach French at the secondary level before leading the District Career Challenge Program. He impacted the lives of many students at risk in this program. After this program was collapsed a number of years ago, Blair returned to his roots teaching Junior French.



## DIAN CORNIES

Moving from Abbotsford 21 years ago, Dyan began her career with SD 22 as a music specialist at Lavington Elementary. She began very part time and each month her time was increased so by the end of the year she was teaching music and grade 5. After five years she went back to teaching intermediate grades at BX, where she retires from.

Dyan's career highlights include seeing the children's eyes light up when they would finally 'get' a concept; watching the children's enthusiasm as they worked on their social studies projects; weekly walks on the BX trail where students collected leaves, moss, twigs etc. for their art project, and really getting to know the students during those walks.



Her plans include heading south to Arizona and Palm Springs in the RV, road biking and playing pickle ball with her husband. Long range plans include a river boat cruise, biking in Europe and spending time with their grandchildren.

## DIANE CORRIS

Diane began her career 28 years ago, and after spending one year as a Teacher on Call, she was hired to a full time position at Cherryville Elementary where she remained until her retirement. Time at Cherryville included teaching students from kindergarten to grade seven and also as a Learning Assistance teacher and counselor.



Diane enjoyed having the opportunity to work with many talented and dedicated teachers, as well as working with children.

She plans to spend a lot of time reading and quilting, do some travelling, and spend time with her kids and grandkids.

## RETIREMENT - Many Things to Many People

Retirement of life begins when the kids move out and the cat gets run over. - Author Unknown

My only retirement advice is to lay off alcohol, tobacco, and wild women. Any can kill you. - James Biggs (104 year-old resident in a Dallas retirement community).

When a man retires and time is no longer a matter of urgent importance, his colleagues generally present him with a watch. - R.C. Sherriff

Retirement: It's nice to get out of the rat race, but you have to learn to get along with less cheese. - Gene Perret

Viva la retirement, grab it by the horns and go for it. - Cheryl Marland at the Retirement Blog 'But What Now'

The money is no better in retirement but the hours are! - Author Unknown

## CINDY FAVALI

Cindy's teaching career has spanned 35 years and of those years, 29 have been in the Vernon School District. Cindy taught at various schools in

Williams Lake which started off her teaching career. Then she moved to Vernon in 1986 and she taught at Coldstream, Alexis Park and finally at OKL. She enjoyed working with various teaching partners during her part-time years. Working with Dagmar Maguire brings back many fond memories!



Cindy has taught Grades 1 - 7 but her absolute favourite was teaching grade 3. She enjoyed their enthusiasm and love of learning! She enjoyed coaching volleyball as well as the cross country teams throughout the years.

Cindy has been married to Ray for 34 years and has 3 children - Tyler, Ryan and Rachelle. Cindy plans to travel to Australia and Fiji this winter for 8 weeks! this is the start of many more trips and making new memories.

## EMILY FRASER

Emily's teaching career has spanned 37 years, and of those years, 32 have been in the Vernon School District. Before arriving in Vernon Emily taught at Eagleview - Port Hardy, Seaview - Port Alice, Pinecrest - Campbell River and at JP Dallos Powell River. In Vernon she has taught at My School, Silver Star, VSS, Hillview, Fulton and Mission Hill.



Emily has felt privileged to work in both elementary and secondary schools and especially honoured to have been assigned the teaching role to end segregated education for students with exceptional special education needs, beginning in 1984 with the first elementary resource room and then in 1987, setting up and teaching in the high school resource room program at VSS. Supporting those students and all the others in her role there, and later as a counsellor, classroom teacher, BBRT, teacher librarian and finally - finishing where it all begins - at kindergarten - what a ride! She is so grateful for the support of parents and PACs, Educational Assistants, Custodians and Secretaries, Colleagues, the VTA, Administrators, Itinerant and district Resource Teachers and Staff and Trustees in each of the schools where she had the pleasure of teaching.

Learning and growing every day, she feels fortunate indeed. Thank you.

After retirement Emily plans to do whatever she wants, whenever she wants! She is looking forward to hanging out with all of those who have gone before her!



## ANITA GASPARINI

Anita has been a Speech Language Pathologist for 33 years and of those years, 22 have been in the Vernon School District and Anita has provided services at most of the schools in our District. Between school district positions, she also worked for 2 years at NONA (North Okanagan Neurological Association).

Anita attended the University of Western Washington in Bellingham, where she completed both her undergraduate and Masters Degree in Speech Language Pathology. After graduation she moved to Williams Lake where she began her career in School District 27.

Anita is busy with her husband Tom, her children and grandchildren. After retirement Anita plans to travel and cook for family and friends and build a vacation home in the Kootenays.



## JOYCE GERSHONY

Joyce's teaching career has spanned 23 years and all of them have been with School District #22. Joyce has taught at Whitevale, JW Inglis, Kidston and a week at Silver Star!

Joyce has thoroughly enjoyed her teaching career! Of course - it's the children that made it special. Getting up and going in the morning has always been hard for her, but she does it for the kids!

Joyce loves hiking, skiing, Zumba and staying active! But most of all she loves her family. She is looking forward to spending more time with her darling granddaughter, as well as her son, her daughter and her daughter-in-law.

After retirement Joyce plans to travel the world, kayak on many lakes, enjoy her grandchildren to the max and drink red wine in the sunshine on her patio!!

Joyce's reminds her colleagues to 'enjoy the children!' - the time will fly by and you will be retiring yourselves before you know it!



## LYNDA HENNEY

Lynda began her career as a 'substitute' teacher in North Vancouver in 1978. Her first full-time position was in the small northern community of Hudson's Hope. She moved to Vernon in 1982 and taught at many of the elementary schools before moving into her role as Literacy Coordinator in 2004. The highlight of Lynda's career was working in her support role with the many enthusiastic and dedicated teachers in schools across SD22. She felt very privileged to be invited into so many classrooms to work and learn with the students and teachers.



She is looking forward to spending more time kayaking, gardening and exploring with her husband Robert (who is also retiring this year). Lynda says it was a difficult decision to retire from a job she loves, but "one should always know when it's time to leave the party!"

## BILL HUITEMA

Bill came to us after 12 years with the London District Catholic School Board in Ontario and has been a TTOC with us since the spring of 2008. This past year he took a Leave of Absence in order to take a position with a private school in Kelowna. Bill creates rich learning opportunities for students, particularly in the area of Science and was nominated for the 2007 "Ontario Premier's Award for Excellence in teaching". Being a bit of a 'guru' with technology he coached groups of students who consistently had medal level placements at Skills Canada Competitions and the Ontario Junior Technological Skills Competition. Bill plans to spend more time with family once he is retired in a couple weeks.



## KATHRYN McDONALD



In 1980-81 Kathy taught in Ontario for 2 years before heading to Edmonton, Alberta where she was a special education teacher in a private school for severely handicapped children. After leaving Alberta in 1984 Kathy moved to Surrey where she took a break from teaching to raise her 2 children for 10 years. In 1993, she started working in Surrey school district as a resource room teacher. In 1996

Kathy and her family moved to Armstrong and she started teaching in the Vernon School District at Okanagan Landing, in the resource room, where she stayed for 14 years. At OKL she also taught kindergarten to Grade 5 over the years. Wanting a change she moved to BX Elementary in 2010 where she finished her career teaching Grades 1-4 over the years.

She has thoroughly enjoyed teaching in all its forms and dimensions. She has found it rewarding working with staff, parents and students to make a fun and dynamic learning environment. Kathy is a sailor who is looking forward to taking sailing adventures with her husband off the Pacific Coast of Mexico in her retirement years.

## NANCY INGERSOLL

Nancy's teaching career has spanned 40+ years and all of those years have been with SD#22! And she has taught in most of the schools - both elementary and secondary.

Nancy did her practicum in 1969 - 1970 with a lovely lady, Mary Anderson. She was Ms. Keenan at the time - yes, her grandson's name! Even though SFU was known as the 'upstart' and 'rabble rousing' university, she was hired and worked at Harwood for 6 years under the 'Library at School Centre' project. She left teaching to have her 3 children, going back in between for TOC work. When they were in school she basically became a full-time TOC. It allowed her the freedom to go to all of her children's events and she loved it.

The highlights of her career are many - working a couple of long term jobs in Special Needs Resource rooms, it was inspiring to see some of those 'kids' out in the community today doing so well. Seeing that small light go on in a student's eyes, even though you'd spent a very short time with them; getting hugs at the end of the day, making it 'OK' for a sad or anxious or angry child - these are highlights!

Nancy loved working with the Social Justice dept. at the BCTF - SJAC, CASJ, the LGBTQ Action Group and then later, with Health & Safety, and travelling the Province as a facilitator with both groups, did you know there is a huge lava field around Nisga'a?!

Being on the VTA Executive gave me many of these opportunities and I have so enjoyed working with such a dedicated group of people. The best part of her career though, has been going into different classrooms and schools each week and being surrounded by passionate, professional teachers who strive every day to bring out the best in every student. It has been an honour and a joy to be in the classrooms!

Nancy has been married to 'Gaia Bob' for almost 45 years and they have 3 beautiful children who are happy in the work lives and their personal lives. She and Bob also have 3 adorable grandsons.

After retirement Nancy plans to spend a lot more time with her grandsons, travel and enjoy their boat.





## BRIAN McMAHON

Brian's teaching career has spanned 33 years, with 23 of those years in the Vernon School District. He began teaching music way up in Tisdale, Saskatchewan in both elementary and junior high schools for four years. For his next stint, he taught music in Langley, BC for four more years at North Otter Elementary and was the Intermediate District Helping Teacher for Music. Moving back to the Okanagan, he worked for the Kelowna School District teaching Grade 6 classroom and Beginner Band at Rutland Elementary for two years. With a band and choir job opening up at Kalamalka Secondary, Brian found the perfect fit and continued to share his passion for music over the past 23 years.



Brian first came to live in Vernon in Grade 4, which he spent schooled at the Army Camp, as Silver Star Elementary was way overcrowded. He went to Fulton for junior high, where his interest in music flourished under John Johnson. Brian graduated from VSSS in 1975 and fondly recalls large band classes and playing dances in the party band, *Downbeat*. Brian went on to UBC to receive his Bachelor of Education (Music) Degree, for which he did his student teaching practicum at Kalamalka Junior Secondary. Fast forwarding to 2001, Brian moved his family to Victoria during the summers to earn his Master of Education (Music) Degree.

Throughout his teaching career, Brian has been an ardent supporter of the teachers' union. He served as a staff rep for many, many years, a bargaining team member, attended AGMs, sang and played guitar at rallies, and was outspoken at staff rep meetings. In fact, it was his passion for union issues that, not surprisingly, drew Candice to him, and the same year he moved back to Vernon, in 1990, Brian and Candice were married. In '92 they had their first child, Caitlin, followed by Sean in 1994. Brian loved cycling combined with camping trips and each year, beginning at the Easter long weekend through to the Thanksgiving one, he dragged his family all over Canada and even Europe for adventurous getaways. Naturally, his children took private music lessons and were his students in band class from Grade 7 all the way through to Grade 12, which was just the icing on the cake.

After retirement, Brian plans **NOT** to do any marking, meetings, planning arduous, out-of-country fieldtrips, or report card writing. He likely will sub music for a couple of years in the Kelowna and North Okanagan School Districts, as the need is great.

Brian has always been an active and busy individual and that won't change despite retirement. You may catch a glimpse of him speeding past on his bike; if you see a bicycle towing a canoe to Kal Lake in the early morning, it's likely him. Otherwise, you may catch up with him at the Vernon Jazz Club, a *Legendary Lake Monsters'* gig, or numerous jazz functions throughout the Okanagan. Remember to take a careful look at all the musicians, coz he may well there.

## VICTORIA MIDTDAL



Vicky joined our district in September of 1983. That was back in the days when we still sent telegrams for job offers; her response was: "Dear Mr. Hughes. In response to the telegram dated May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1983, I accept your offer of a continuing appointment as the itinerant teacher of the visually impaired." Prior to our district Victoria worked for a year in the Port Alberni and Qualicum School Districts. Since 1983, Vicky has held roles as the teacher of the visually impaired and as a SET BC coordinator in their Education Department. Vicky's husband retired last year so now they can both have time to enjoy retirement together;

## JEANIE MOYNES

Jeani's teaching career has spanned 34 years, and of those years, 33 have been in the Vernon School District. In 1978 she began teaching in Kitimat in an open classroom that had four grades in one room. She left and travelled for one year before coming to Vernon in 1980. After a brief stint at OKL for 6 years, she moved to Fulton.



Her highlights have been team teaching ESL with Dave Todd, and PE classes grader 8 - 12 at the old Fulton school. Social studies classes became hilarious when she dressed in costumes and tried role-playing historical characters. She had a few bruises from falling off desks and riding over backwards from a chair!

Jeanie will miss the craziness and busyness of everyday, climbing the 'stairway to heaven' during power walks every lunch, and winning bocce staff tournaments. She won't miss the August panic dream, strike duty and 'Do you have a pencil?'.

Immediate plans in retirement include becoming a professional poker player and getting rich .... just testing to see if you're reading this :) She actually has limitless plans but won't be bored when trying to wear out her passport with Andy. She'll visit with her daughter in Flin Flan, her son in Toronto and her parents in Kelowna.

## LISE PAQUETTE

Her 33+ year career from Kindergarten to Grade 12 has been wonderful.

## RICK PHILLIPS



Rick spent most of his career at Lavington Elementary School. He was a well-loved teacher and staff member. Every year students looked forward to being in his class. Rick strove for excellence with his students and taught them to become responsible learners.

Rick was a strong staff member. He supported his colleagues. If something needed to be done, Rick would always quietly step up. His loyalty, common sense and great sense of humour will be missed by all.

Rick's main focus was the students. He loved sports and loved to coach. Rick went above and beyond when it came to providing a well-rounded experience for students.

## DOREEN RAIL

Doreen has been a teacher for 35 years and began her career in Newfoundland. Doreen has taught in Ontario and Prince George before moving to Vernon. She has enjoyed working at Harwood school for the past eight years.

The Vernon Music Educations Association has provided her with professional development and continuous collaboration thought her years in Vernon. This group will be sorely missed. Some of the most memorable times have been in watching students grow in skills and seeing them recognize their abilities and accomplishments, not matter what level.

After retirement Doreen is looking forward to spending lots of time with family, continuing musical 'adventures', travelling and gardening.

Doreen would like to say how blessed she feels for having worked with her colleagues at Harwood school and in the music association. sincerest thanks for your support and encouragements.



## MAUREEN SMYTH



Maureen is retiring after a 26 year career with SD 22 where she has taught French, Social Studies and Spanish. The highlights of her career was in paying forward the wonderful teaching from her grade 9 French teacher and encouraging students to succeed and recognize their gifts regarding modern languages.

Maureen is planning on spending a month in Europe visiting friends in Belgium and taking a tour through eastern Europe. She will spend time reading, gardening, travelling, belly danc-ing and visiting sunny places with blue sea, sand and margaritas.



## PATTY THOMASON



Patty retired January 30, 2015 after time spent as a Learning Assistance Teacher at Cherryville; Basic Education Program at Vernon Secondary; Learning Resource Teacher at both WL Seaton and Kalamalka, Vice-principal 2 at WL Seaton ("hair straight back") and retired from WL Seaton as a Learning Resource Teacher. She loved her time as VP2 but states "...it was a lot of 'time' - early mornings, late evenings and every break and lunch hour." It gave her the opportunity to see her world from both sides.

Highlights for Patty included both the students she taught and in her career circumstances. She worked extensively with students who struggled in school and it always warms her heart when she meets a former student who gives her a big hug. Many times they have 'figured it out' and are pursuing careers, and raising families. Her career has given her the opportunity to get to know so many amazing people; there were many and all of them are important!

Her immediate plans include lots of horseback riding, visiting her kids, a trip to Nova Scotia this summer and a move to a new, still undetermined, location in the Vernon area.

Long range plans include a bit of travel when husband Greg retires, more time with family, and time to do all the projects she has put on hold. Always, lots of good food and good books.

Patty stated "It has been a pleasure and an honour to have worked in this district for so many years. I have been given many opportunities for growth and truly appreciate the fulfilling career I have had."

## LIZ WALBERG

Liz came to Vernon in January of 2000 as an experienced English, Socials, and Business Ed. Teacher in addition to being a Teacher Librarian. She was active in many ways encouraging our youth to develop a love of the English Language and Literature. Her statement of Philosophy 15 years ago still rings true to the teacher who retired this past fall: "I believe we have an opportunity to create a world peopled by compassionate, concerned human beings dedicated to learning. Not simply for the financial gain of a future career nor for the heady thrill of being the best student in the class. I believe we have an obligation to help these young people understand their own interests and needs and to reach beyond themselves to find satisfaction in their lives." Liz thought she might retire after the First Quarter at Fulton but when the Copernican system was halted, she faced a dilemma of how to manage her classes and keep her tickets for a pre-booked vacation starting November 17<sup>th</sup>. The importance of the trip prevailed.

Liz is looking forward to pursuing her other interests now that she isn't marking English assignments all the time, and she will be spending more time with her family.



## TONI ROSE — No Bio Provided

## LISA WEIR

Lisa's long time teaching career has been a rewarding thirty-five years of wonderful experiences, challenges, and rewards. After 35 years, Lisa takes away many memories, from her first year teaching grades 3-4 in a 4-room schoolhouse in Puntzi Mountain to her nine years in Williams Lake where she learned about best practice, perseverance, and had the privilege of being an executive member of the Provincial Intermediate Teachers' Association. From Williams Lake, Lisa ventured down south and taught in Maple Ridge for five years, but the beauty and lifestyle of the Okanagan drew her back to Vernon, her hometown, where she has taught for the last 21 years.



Someone once said, *"Everything comes full circle. Be open and aware so that you can be an amazing person."* This quote sums up Lisa's teaching career. She has come full circle, back to her hometown, teaching at J.W. Inglis, Mission Hill and finally her childhood school, Coldstream. As a young child, Lisa attended Coldstream Elementary. Coming home from her first day of school, she said to her mother, "One day I am going to be a teacher just like Mrs. Bulford." Over twenty thousand days later, Lisa now says farewell to her colleagues, and the families and students she has had the privilege to know, and work beside at Coldstream.

Lisa has come full circle, but not by accident; she has come full circle by being open and aware, and always striving to do her best. She has been an amazing teacher; she is an amazing person who plans to travel the world, golf more often, hike more often, perhaps even take ethnic cooking classes and simply relax. Celebrate the moment, Lisa; you've come full circle. We wish you all the very best!

### Note:

(Lisa would like to extend a special thank you to her teaching colleague and dear friend of thirty years for collaboratively writing this retirement farewell.)

## TOM WILLIAMSON

After 40 years of employment with SD 22, Tom decided it was finally time for him to retire. He has worked with 7 Superintendents, 10 Principals, and 57 Vice-principals and has always appreciated their support and forward thinking in delivering education to young students in a rapidly changing world. Over the past 10 years as the District Career Coordinator, he feels privileged to work with some exceptional secretaries. With their help they transformed Career Programs in SD 22 to be able to provide many career transitional opportunities to students into meaningful careers that did not require a university degree, but did require some recognized post-secondary training.



*The V.T.A. extends warmest  
congratulations to all of our  
retirees. We wish each of you a  
long, healthy retirement that is  
all that you wish it to be.*

*Enjoy!!*



## **YOUR VTA EXECUTIVE FOR THE 2015—2016 YEAR**

President:

Past President

1st Vice President:

2nd Vice President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Local Association Rep:

Bargaining Chair:

Professional Development Chair:

Social Justice Reps:

Occupational Health & Safety Chair:

Local Aboriginal Education Contact:

Members at Large:

OCTAV:

Lisa LaBoucane

Heather Malcolm

Barry Dorval

Rhiannon Johnson

Diane Bennet

Lilly Smith

Richard Santos

Chris Brandle

Robyn Ladner

Sue Ghattas

Greg Ellis

Craig Leverman

Joelle Belanger

Andrew Affleck

Maureen MacLachlan

Eli Silver

Sascha Burmeister

**Please check the VTA website: [www.vernonta.com](http://www.vernonta.com) for contact information.**



## **Congratulations Retiring Teachers!**

The Vernon Retired Teachers' Association offers sincere congratulations to this year's retiring teachers. We hope that after a long and dedicated career you find the transition to retirement everything you hope it to be and more!



For most teachers, retirement brings the freedom of choice to pursue some of those lifelong interests for which there just wasn't enough time during our working years. Other retirees however, have a harder time making the transition from work into retirement and find it difficult to adjust. I wasn't one of them! However, whatever your situation may be, the Vernon Retired Teachers' Association is here to welcome you and support you in your retired life.

How does our association work? At the provincial level the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association (BCRTA) is a strong organization of fifteen thousand members which looks after our interests as older adults. The BCRTA represents us on the Pension Board and liaises with other organizations that are working to protect us in matters of economic, health and social concerns. The BCRTA also publishes a quarterly magazine called Postscript and maintains an informative and easy to navigate website [www.bcirta.com](http://www.bcirta.com). Membership is voluntary and open to all retired teachers and administrators.

At the local level, the Vernon Retired Teachers' Association (VRTA) is more personal and hands on. We gather five times a year for a short business meeting, an interesting speaker or entertainer, lunch at various venues in town and time to socialize with former colleagues. The VRTA also donates four thousand dollars in scholarships to local secondary schools each year and supports the food bank with twice yearly monetary and food donations.

So, if you are retiring this year, I invite you to join the B.C. Retired Teachers' Association. Cost is forty five dollars deducted from your September pay check each year with five dollars going to the Vernon Branch. With your membership, you will receive the Postscript magazine to keep you informed on items of current interest and concern: pension, medical and dental information; travel opportunities and insurance and other articles of general interest.

As well, I invite you to join us for a complimentary breakfast ("No Bell Breakie") on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM at Friesen's Country Tyme Gardens. RSVP Mel at 250-545-2852 or [mjmaglio@telus.net](mailto:mjmaglio@telus.net). I, along with other VRTA executive members will be visiting schools meeting with soon to be retirees and bringing them BCRTA membership applications and a personal invite to the breakfast.

**Welcome To Retirement! You Deserve It!**

Sincerely,  
Mel Maglio, VRTA President