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# CHRONICLES & CAPERS

BC Retired Principals' &  
Vice-Principals' Association

Issue 71 • March 2017

## Dear BCRPVPA Members by Eileen Phillips



Hello to BCRPVPA Members,

Happy Spring! Here in Vancouver, it is pretty amazing to see crocuses peeking out of the snow. However, I am astounded by the weather we have had, and continue to have:

seemingly never-ending winter with some spring-like breaks. Really makes one appreciate being retired - not needing to drive to school on icy roads to make sure all walkways are cleared and salted. But, when one considers that in the old Roman calendar March was the first month of the year and named after Mars (the god of war) perhaps this weather should not be so wonder inducing. The Anglo-Saxons' name for March was Hlyd Monath meaning "Stormy Month" and also Hraed Monath meaning "Rugged Month". And on how many primary grade bulletin boards have we seen pictures of lions and lambs illustrating 'March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb.' So, just by writing this, I am reconsidering my sense of astonishment and trying to regard this weather as merely representative of the month of March. Brrrr! Spring is in the air, though - I see buds forming, smell the fresh air right off the water, and hear morning birdsong.

I have four things to ask our members:

**First**, could you please ensure that students whom you may know who are graduating from Grade 12 and planning to attend a post-secondary program in BC

are aware of our scholarship awards. We love gifting \$1000 each to four worthy students - students who may be going on to attend a skill-based program, a trades program, university or college. Direct them to our website for an application form and further information: [bcrpvpa.ca](http://bcrpvpa.ca)

**Secondly**, if you have not looked at our website recently, please take some time to troll through it. I think you may be delighted at some of the changes that have been made. [bcrpvpa.ca](http://bcrpvpa.ca)

**Thirdly**, if you have any education/leadership books (classics or books published in the last 10 years) that you no longer need, consider donating them to our Book Sale. We sell these gently-used books at Short Course, held at UBC, in July and the proceeds go to our Scholarship Fund. These books are sold mainly to new administrators who are still adding to their leadership library. Donations can be taken or sent to the BCPVPA (# 200 - 525 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, V5Z 1K9) in May and June. Please clearly mark them for the BC Retired PVPA Book Sale.

**Finally**, I wonder if you might consider taking a role on our executive. We are looking at the slate needed for the coming 2017-18 year and would love to have representation from many districts and recent as well as seasoned retirees. If you are interested please let us know by contacting us, before the AGM on May 3, at [info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca)

I know you will enjoy this issue of Chronicles and Capers. Many thanks to our editor, Graham Mulligan, for all his time, effort and expertise. Also, a big 'Thanks' to our contributors. Please consider sending an ar-

ticle to Graham - we all enjoy reading about what our members are doing and where they are travelling. Also, remember to keep your contact information up to date. Changes can be sent to [info@bcrpvpa.ca](mailto:info@bcrpvpa.ca)

As mentioned in the last newsletter, many of our out-of-town members might not be aware that after each General Meeting and the AGM we draw an out-of-town member's name for a \$25 Chapter's Gift Card. We feel this balances the attending Members' Raffle that is held after the business part of each general meeting. The January 18 winner of the 'away-members-draw' was Lynn Kenneth Pecknold from Port Alberni. When I contacted Lynn to congratulate him, I found out that he is an artist. Please find time to Google him and enjoy some of his fine work

I hope to see many of you at our AGM on the morning of May 3rd. It will be held in the Boardroom of the BCPVPA (#200 - 525 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver). The social is from 9:30 to 9:45 with the meeting following from 9:45 to 10:45. Then, after a short break, there will be a presentation from 11:00 to noon. A catered light lunch will be provided following the meeting. The presentation will be about educational travel for seniors and the speaker(s) will be from the not-for-profit organization ROAD SCHOLAR. If your timing does not permit you to come at 9:30, please feel free to join us at any point in the meeting - we will be very happy to see you.

Warm regards,  
Eileen

## EXCUSE ME - ARE YOU DONE WITH THOSE?

During July's Short Course, the BCRPVPA runs a used book sale. The money raised goes to support its Scholarship Fund. If you, or one of your colleagues, have Education/Leadership Books that you no longer need, that have been published fairly recently (2010 - current) and are in good condition, we are happy to accept them as donations. If you have a classic book - one that you believe everyone should read if they are in a leadership position - and you find yourself no longer needing it, we are happy to receive it also. Books can be dropped at the BCPVPA building during May and June. Please label your donations: BCRPVPA USED BOOK SALE.

Thank you from the BC Retired Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association.



# What Do You Want To Learn?

**ROAD SCHOLAR** will present at the **AGM in May**

# Meet our 2016 Scholarship Recipients



**Zachary Coey**

“Couple his extensive skills and abilities with his problem solving ability, mechanical reasoning and level headedness, if I was lost in the woods, Zach Coey is who I would want with me.”

This quote from one of Zachary Coey’s reference letters describes this resourceful, intelligent young man whose influence on others has been positive and inspirational. An Honours Graduate of Reynolds Secondary School in Victoria, Zachary’s school years have seen him amassing more than seven hundred (700+) hours of volunteer service, including taking part in a ‘Free the Children’ school building project in Ecuador. He also had his head shaved to earn money for the school’s Cops 4 Cancer campaign. As a long-time member of Scouts Canada, Zachary has won many awards and was internationally recognized as a silver and gold winner in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program. Zachary looks forward to becoming an Engineer and potentially offering his skills one day to Engineers Without Borders Canada. Zachary is a worthy recipient of a BCRPVPA scholarship and we wish him every success.



**Kai Kovacik**

## Goals:

Kai is currently enrolled at UVIC in the Engineering Program. His focus is to study aeronautics & astronautics, and eventually to become an astrophysicist.

## Education:

Kai is a graduate of Edward Milne Community School (Sooke). His accomplishments include major awards in Calculus, Physics, Math, Advanced Placement in English. All of this at a phenomenal 98% average!

He is fluent in French having successfully completed a French Immersion Program and a trip to France where he was the interpreter. Lastly, Kai completed levels 1 to 10 in music within a 2-year period. He is an accomplished classical piano player.

## Leadership and Service Roles in School & Community:

Kai is very much involved in his school & community, to name a few: Competitive swimmer for eight years & now works as a National Lifeguard, and swim instructor for the Red Cross. He volunteers at UVIC Science Ventures, at the Center of the Universe, and spends summer as a Camp Counsellor at UVIC science camps.

On behalf of the BC Principals’ & Vice-Principals’ Association, we wish Kai a very successful future in meeting his goals. We surely will hear more of his accomplishments.



**Brennan Atamanchuk**

**Goals:**

Brennan is currently enrolled at Thompson Rivers University. His focus is to study kinesiology, to become a teacher of Physical Education, and eventually owning his own gym-physiotherapy centre.

**Education:**

Brennan is a graduate of NorKam Secondary School (Kamloops). His accomplishments include very successful academic results, such as recipient of the NorKam Medal of Excellence --- awarded for consistently achieving A's. Lastly, Brennan is a very renowned athlete as he focuses on the importance of athletics and fitness.

**Leadership and Service Roles in School & Community:**

This athlete not only excels academically, he is very committed to his school & community. He is a paid soccer coach whenever he is not engaged in being a successful soccer player. This student is not afraid to take risks, strives to improve his abilities, volunteers as a mentor in sports. Finally, Brennan works at a local fast food restaurant, shovels snow for the elderly, collects bottles so that he can financially support a boy from Zimbabwe.

On behalf of the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association, we wish Brennan a very successful future in meeting his goals. He assures our Association that this scholarship will be very much appreciated.



**Justine McCaskill**

Justine graduated with Honours from McMath Secondary in Richmond. While maintaining an exemplary academic standing she found time to help others and to represent her school in athletic endeavours. "Her leadership and basketball talent helped lead her team to win the Richmond Championships five years in a row and to recently win the Lower Mainland Championship for the first time in the history of the school." This quote from a District Administrator points to Justine's leadership skills and role modelling which are displayed in her willingness to help others in her role as a Camp Counsellor, as a mentor and tutor to other students, and as a Recreational Leader. She is known as someone who asks thoughtful questions and who has an outstanding rapport with students and teachers. Justine is in her first year in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria and hopes to pursue a career in the field of Health Sciences. Justine says that our scholarship "would be very beneficial in helping me reach my goal." We are happy to offer a BCRPVPA scholarship to Justine McCaskill and trust that she will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of others.

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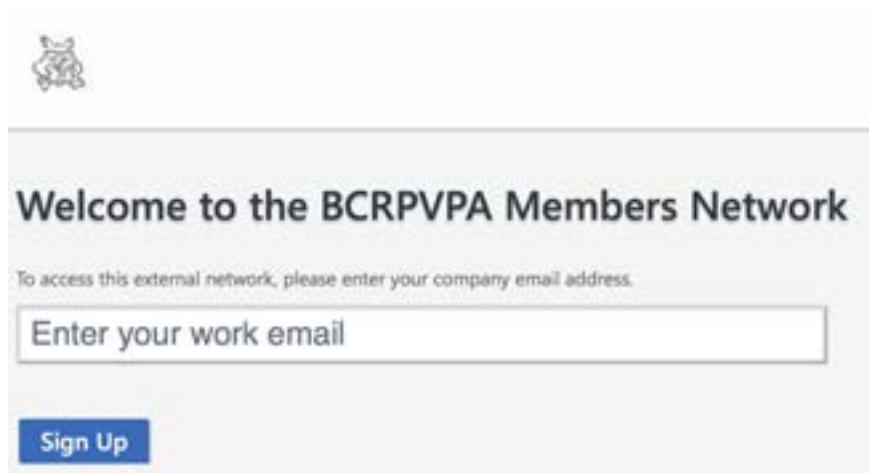
**Scholarship Committee**

**Ted St. Pierre, Christine Johnson, Jeff Larcombe**

# Using Yammer for Communications for all members of BCRPVPA

**BCRPVPA Yammer** is a closed communication tool available only to BCRPVPA members. First, you need to sign in to become a Yammer member and you will be joined to the All Network Group. You will find links to Yammer from the Landing Page of the new BCRPVPA website. Just click and follow.

You will be asked to enter your email address, then click on 'Sign Up'. This is then sent to the BCRPVPA admin account to verify that you are a member of BCRPVPA. Once you have a Yammer account you can begin to use it.



Use your current email here

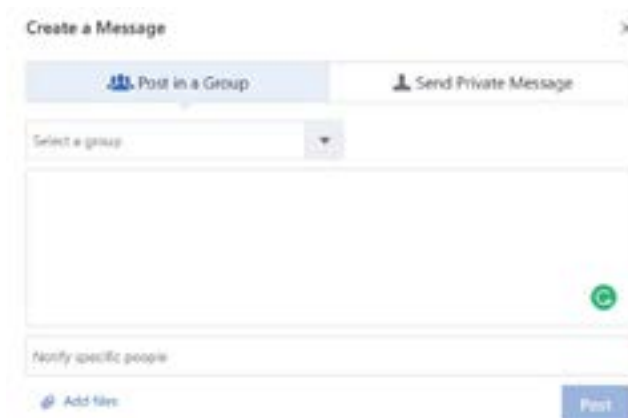
## Why Yammer?

This tool is a Social Network, such as Facebook or LinkedIn, meaning it has many features for sharing such as posts, photos, files and videos as well as private messaging. The big difference is it is not open to non-members. One feature that makes it very useful is Groups. Members can create Groups on any topic and choose to leave the Group Open to others to join or make it Closed to only those it would interest or pertain to.

All the posts or files or any other content in that Group are in one place and searchable (especially if 'tagged' when added). Suppose you are planning a trip and want to see if anyone else has been to your intended destination. You would go to the Travel Group and search for 'Cuba' for example, and see all the info that has been added. Of course this becomes more useful if everyone adds some content.

## Messages

The Message function is secure and private or you can choose to post to a group.



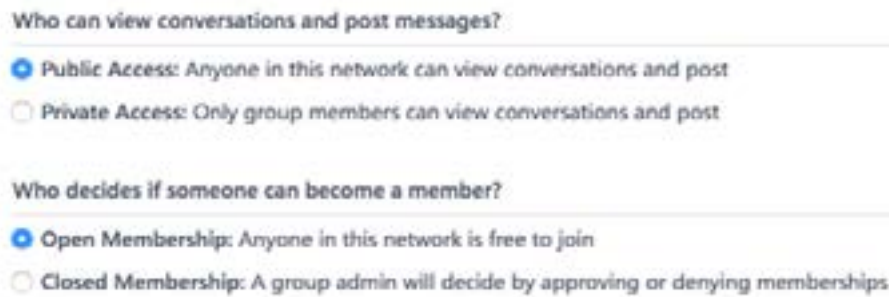
## Groups and Conversations

Yammer is similar to other social media. It was designed for in-house use so sharing comments and ideas is one of its main functions. You can also post photos to Yammer.

### Create a Group

Groups can be either Open or Closed, depending on the purpose, for instance the Travel Group is open to all members. Here you can post comments, questions, photos, videos, or links to websites you think others would enjoy. A closed group, on the other hand, is only open to the members of that group and is controlled by the creator of the group. An example of this is the Executive Committee Group.

### Here is the control for an Open Group:



Posting to a Group is easy. Just select the Group and start writing.



You can Search within a thing.



Group to find someone or some-

You can Share photos or files or Send them privately to another member.

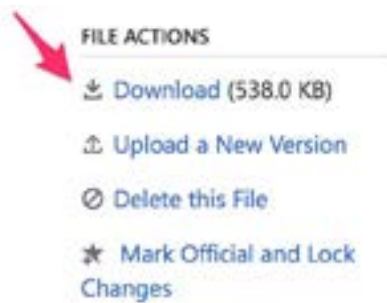


## Downloading Files

Find the file you want to download and click on it.



Yammer will go to the page where that file is located, but you will need to download it to your computer. You cannot open it directly in Yammer. Look for the Download button on the right of your screen.



## Help for using Yammer

If you need help with Yammer join the 'Support For Using Yammer' Group and ask a question.

The best way to learn Yammer is to jump in and try things. You can do that in 'Support For Using Yammer' where we are all learning together.

BCRPVPA Executive will be using Yammer to communicate with our membership and we hope you will use it to communicate with us and with each other.

**Coming Soon!**

**Watch your email in-box for an invitation to join Yammer**





You can see more of Gerald's  
photos at:

<https://vimeo.com/208052771>

## CUBAN ADVENTURE

Have you considered travelling to Cuba? When the opportunity to travel with some new friends arose, my wife and I eagerly made plans. We were only going for a short time as a reprieve from the ice and snow of winter, so we knew that this would be a “highlight” experience.

We had just one day devoted to Havana, and so we arranged with our travel agent at the resort to have a vintage cab with driver/guide for the two hour drive, a guided tour of Havana, and return trip.

A 1957 Oldsmobile pulled up as arranged, and when I climbed in, I was transported back in time. The seats were covered in plastic, and as I examined the dash, details from my parents' 1958 Oldsmobile flashed in my memory. Our guide began the tour, and explained how the original engine had been replaced with a diesel one, and how it was no longer automatic, but a car with a standard shift.

I looked at the door panel and realized there were no handles to open the windows. Our guide handed me a crescent wrench – the tool to wind the window up or down!

We enjoyed our tour of the old Havana – walking through the four major squares, and peering in and exploring courtyards of old mansions. We passed Ernest Hemingway's favourite Mojito bar, and drank in the atmosphere of women singing the praises of the peanuts they were selling. I came across Cuban school kids lining up on a school outing, and a scene where a father was posing his well dressed son for a photograph.

Our guide took us to “Paladar Dona Carmela,” near La

Cabana's fort for a delicious Cuban lunch of chicken, rice and beans. Paladars are privately run eating establishments, often in a private home. A photo of Beyoncé, taken when she visited Havana and ate at this establishment, is proudly displayed.

After lunch, we climbed into the car, and I asked our driver for the wrench to open the window. “No problem, I will turn on the AirCon for you,” he said. This car had also been fitted with air conditioning! We sped down the freeway towards New Havana. Our estimated speed was 100 kmh. I say estimated, because the speedometer no longer worked, but we sped along, passing cars right and left.

Suddenly a sharp noise, and sputtering sound caused our driver to pull to the side of the road. A quick look passed between our eyes and he climbed out, and opened the hood. The AirCon belt had snapped! And in the process, it sliced the radiator hose in two!

We stood off the freeway, as our driver assessed the situation and tried to fashion a repair using a smaller hose and some tape. Numerous vintage cabs pulled off and stopped to see if they could help. It was interesting to note the camaraderie of the drivers – they were all willing to assist in any way they could.

The bad news? Our day tour would have to abruptly end. The good news? The repair job seemed to work, and the containers of water in the trunk came to good use. We viewed the mishap as an adventure that would make our Havana trip memorable, and that created a reason to return sometime in the future to complete our tour!

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*by Gerald Soon*

## Principal & Vice-Principal Personal School Files

When it comes time to move schools or to retire many Principals and Vice-Principals are faced with the task of culling their “personal files” that they have accumulated over the years. This may include their own notes on a variety of situations including students, teachers, support staff, district memos, staff meetings etc. All files relating to formal reports (students, teachers, support staff, maintenance, equipment inventories, etc.) must be left at the school or district.

The School Act and Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy Act, as well as School Districts Policies guide and direct the expected treatment of such files.

The School Act Section 79 (1) requires the School District to:

establish written procedures regarding the storage, retrieval and appropriate use of student records, and ensure confidentiality of the information contained in the student records and ensure privacy for students and their families.

To ensure a high degree of consistency in record keeping, procedures have been written in keeping with district requirements and the School Act and Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act. All student records remain the property of the School District.

### Teacher Files

As per Section 31 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, if a public body uses an individual’s personal information to make a decision that directly affects that individual, the public body must retain that information for at least one year after using it so that the individual has a reasonable opportunity to obtain access to it. Districts usually keep this information in a permanent file.

Records relating to the student’s annual activities and work, including interim marks and other related information (such as the learner portfolio and samples of work) are retained in the classroom for the school year.

Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy Act

### Retention of personal information

31. If an individual’s personal information

(a) is in the custody or under the control of a public body, and

(b) is used by or on behalf of the public body, to make a decision that directly affects the individual, the public body must ensure that the personal information is retained for at least one year after being used so that the affected individual has a reasonable opportunity to obtain access to that personal information.

It is recommended that when you leave your school that all your files are culled and the pertinent information collected on students should be stored in the Office General Student File (G4). All other information that is deemed to be unimportant should be shredded as per School District Policy.

For teacher files that are stored in your office remove any information that is not deemed as necessary and leave the files for the next principal. District policies usually state that Personnel Files need to be kept for a period of 7 years after the employment ceases.

For any investigations conducted and/or disciplinary measures that you have undertaken you should maintain this information in the Teacher’s Personnel File. For any such information that you have retained in student related issues that should be stored in the Students General File or their Confidential Student File.

It is usually recommended that you do not take any of your personal files containing private data and information about students, families, teachers or support staff with you when you retire. However; there may be situations that you wish to keep your “black book” of personal notes on challenging situations that you have dealt with in a secure location at home. If in doubt, contact the BCPVPA or your District for support in this matter.

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*by Don Boyd*

# Planning a river cruise



Planning a river cruise or an exotic tour ... Jerry Van Dyke "Journey" touring company - <http://jerryvandyke.com/> - just remember that and you won't need anything else. They do NOT advertise so look it up and compare ALL costs. We [My wife Carol and I (Rick)] decided to do a river cruise. We'd always wanted to and avoided it because of the cost; however, we came into some cash, decided to spend it and ended up on a cruise of the Main and Danube rivers, from just south of Frankfurt, Germany to Budapest, Hungary ending in Vienna, Austria. on the Da Vinci river cruise ship - a cruiser carrying only UP TO 113 guests [we intentionally had only 84 - two busloads for excursions]. .... Upon "proofing" this I wondered if I was a paid shill for Jerry Van Dyke's touring; if you knew me, you would not even consider this possibility. I am a bit of a "critic," especially when it comes to spending money unnecessarily - I LOVED this experience. We are saving for the next one!

Now - I know what you will say AFTER you look at the overall price - "it is too much." That's what we said until I priced out the cost of other river cruise line costs + air fare + excursions + etc. It came out to within a couple of hundred dollars AND everything on the Jerry Van Dyke cruise - and I mean everything [air fares, excursions, etc.] - was provided.

The differences that made me "go for it" ...

2 storeys of bedrooms on the Da Vinci, and, as I had learned, the "sun roof" could be lowered to go under a bridge AND we would / could stay on deck. A HUGE difference as there are 60+ bridges that the cruise ship goes under. I was told that on the 3-floors-of-rooms ships the guests must return to their [balconied] rooms each time the ship goes under a bridge. So - either you resort to seeing only 50% of the view OR go up and down constantly.

The Jerry Van Dyke cruise ships only cruise in day

time and "overnight" in ports - We left just south of Frankfurt, Germany [most of the river to the west to Amsterdam is lined with industrial plants - do you REALLY need to see that] on the Main River. Only cruising in the day time meant two things - we had a 360 degree view from the sun deck of ALL of the river, castles, villages, etc. AND we over-nighted in village ports where we were able to visit the villages in the evenings, or for dinner [AFTER receiving our 20 Euro bills], or just walk around and come back for a gourmet meal and a glass or two.

The "small-group" excursions were worth the entire cost in my mind. I NEVER had to rush, could hear the local guide, got local info, ... we loved it!

We did an evening cruise around Margaret island in the Danube near Budapest that was TRULY magical. We went past the fully lit Hungarian Parliament building, while a Hungarian dance troupe entertained us and live, Hungarian, gypsy violin music played - fantastic!

Food was outstanding! Buffets, dinners, wine, etc.

Our one window room was tiny but was efficient and we mostly only slept there.

At our own cost, we stayed an extra 5 days in Vienna [after our cruise] in a room-for-let diagonally opposite the entry to St Stephen's Cathedral. LOVED it!

The following is a REAL experience that tells so much: One day, early in our journey, we were in a group of about 21 being guided by a local guide who I could hear and who was VERY informative. Now - I have NOT been a tour person until this trip so - know that. We were waiting for a "\_\_\_\_\_ " Tour group

of 60+ people quickly following a guide with a colored umbrella running ahead as they hurriedly returned to their ship. They had to be back to leave the town, cruise that night and miss all the view to the east of the town on the Main river. This happened after we could have received a 20 Euro note as we departed the Da Vinci [we chose not to that time]. ..... I know it is OUR money but when was the last time you had that experience? I have NEVER had it.

ADVICE? – go on a “small” ship, and “have your ice-cream with your apple pie” – why not? When will you do this again? GO for it! If you must reduce expenses for a year or two after, do it!

What will you see? Well – there is so much but – this was our itinerary [I don't know if it is even still offered]:

#### DAY 1 – Aug 6th

We flew to Toronto and were greeted at Toronto airport and were assisted with our check in. We met our Journey Manager and fellow travelers. We flew to Frankfurt airport, took a bus to the Main River to the south, boarded the Da Vinci, received our room and had dinner.

#### DAY 2 – Aug 7th

We cruised the Main River to Wurzburg, Germany, toured the town and spent the night. WHAT AN INTRO! Journey Mgr got sick and owner of company, Jerry Van Dyke, joins us on the trip

#### DAY 3 – Aug 8th



In the morning, while breakfasting, we cruised the Main River to Bamberg and had a fantastic guided tour of Bamberg, the Venice of Franconia. Our local guide shared

the river, the massive cathedral, and the Neue Residenz with its rose garden among other things. Overnighed in Bamberg.

#### DAY 4 – Aug 9th

The next morning we cruised to Nürnberg [Nürnberg] and had a tour of the city with a history unlike any other in Europe. We saw where Hitler gave his speeches and this was all explained by a very ... conflicted ... local guide. Most interesting. We overnighed in Nürnberg.

#### DAY 5 – Aug 10th

We enter the Main Danube Canal and experience the beauty of the Altmühl Valley from the sun deck as we cruise the heart of Bavaria and one of the most scenic parts of our river cruise. We enjoyed free time in the town of Riedenburg. My wife and I went to an evening concert in the church, and a “festival” in the village square where we had a glass of wine

#### DAY 6 – Aug 11th

We cruised on to Regensburg – a well-preserved medieval city, toured it, overnighed there and even had a local beer.



Jerry [our tour company owner] LOVES locks

#### DAY 7 – Aug 12th

A beautiful morning cruise took us to Passau. What an outstanding city!

We overnighed there, had an OUTSTANDING Bavarian meal [complete with crew costumes!] and then cruised on to one of the gems of the trip – the Wachau valley (wine!) town of Grein – a SMALL, authentic village .

DAY 8 – Aug 13th – we toured the village of Grein, with a hilarious local Social Studies teacher and his friend as our guides, visited a theatre/jail built in 1562, a beautiful old cathedral, and enjoyed a “concert” put on by the guitar-playing teacher and a glass of local “smoked” beer.

DAY 9 – Aug 14th

Out next visit, after cruising, was another gem of the trip – the Austrian Wachau valley, the Durnstein vineyards and the Benedictine Melk Abbey. All I can say is my wife left the abbey feeling like somehow we had betrayed someone – there is not a square inch of the abbey that is not covered in marble, hardwood or gold; it will take your breath away! The history of this region alone is amazing – look it up! We also enjoyed a ship BBQ as we cruised during the day.



Frankly, I have so many spectacular photos, I did not know which ones to choose.

DAY 10 & 11 – Aug 15th + 16th - VIENNA

We overnighted for 2 nights in Vienna, experienced a guided city and cathedral tour AND of the Hapsburg Schonbrunne Palace [and a self-guided tour of it's amazing zoo] AND a “seats-reserved-by-the-tour“ Vienna Philharmonic concert at the palace that night. It was amazing AND we were coming back for 5 days!



Etc.! Once again – tough to choose photos!

DAY 12

After the 2nd “concert night” in Vienna, we cruised to Budapest – WOW! What a great [dual] city - Buda + Pest [see you learned something already!] We ate a

fantastic buffet as we cruised, went to the Fisherman’s Bastion viewpoint, the Cathedral, the annual market outside the castle.... What an outstanding look at a great city. And there was more!



Because, that evening we did a night cruise around Margaret Island in the Danube with Hungarian dancers, Hungarian Gypsy violins – a memory until I die! I am only going to show you one [of MANY] photos. They remain some of the best I have ever taken.

After 2 nights in Budapest and we cruised back to Esztergom, Hungary and Bratislava, Slovakia and then to our departure port of Vienna where my wife and I stayed [in front of St. Stephen’s Cathedral!] an extra 5 days. I will toss in a few more photos but, honestly, I do not know which to pick. There’s those at the Captain’s dinner, at the Esztergom market, in Bratislava ..... ?? I do not know if Jerry Van Dyke Tours still offer this trip BUT, in my humble opinion, you cannot go wrong with ANY trip they offer !! The memories are worth EVERY cent!

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*by Rick Townsend*

You can see more of Ricks photos at <https://vimeo.com/202675358>

## AFFINITY INFORMATION

There are benefits to membership in the BC Retired Principals & Vice-Principals' Association.

Members have been offered discounts or offers for discounts through:

**Perkopolis** – which presents special offers to members on a regular basis. Members need to sign up with Perkopolis, using the code BCRPVPA. Most recently offers were for discounts on a wide variety of offerings: trips, car rentals, merchandise such as shoes, special events, etc. Monthly updates with new offerings continue to make this site attractive for BCRPVPA members.

**Enterprise/National Car/ and Alamo** car rental companies are all under ownership of Enterprise International. Members are offered free membership in the Emerald program.

### **Avis Rental Cars:**

BC Retired Principals & Vice Principals Travelers can save up to 25% off Avis base rates\* when making a reservation with Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number C358500. Complete your reservation and receive instant online and email confirmation of your travel plans.

### **Collette Vacations**

Located at #205 – 6820 188th Street, Surrey, Collette Vacations offers discounts on any of their tours for BCRPVPA members. For information or reservations call Tom Maclean, District Sales Manager at: 1-844-269-4583 and identify yourself as a BCRPVPA member.

### **OTI**

Located at 3230 W. Broadway, Vancouver, OTI offers BCRPVPA members discounts on travel to Greece, Italy, Turkey, and Egypt. For information or reservations call 604-738-6331, and identify yourself as a BCRPVPA member.

### **Johnson Inc. Insurance**

BCRPVPA members are offered a new Extended Health and Travel insurance plan as an alternative choice to the Extended Health benefit plan that they may have with Pacific Blue Cross. The Prestige extended health care program includes a multi trip travel insurance plan (up to a maximum of 62 days per trip).

One of the best advantages for a member is that with Prestige, there is a no stability clause. With Medoc, there is a 90 day stability clause for pre-existing medical conditions. This means one must have no new treatment, or new medication, no new symptoms, or change in frequency of symptoms, no hospitalization or referral to a specialist for the 90 days prior to travel. The Prestige plan is less restrictive and covers sudden and unforeseen medical emergencies.

There is no obligation for a member to take advantage of this option for their health and travel insurance needs. The BCRVPA is endorsing it as an affinity benefit, and advises members to consider whether the Prestige program fits the need for their personal circumstances.

Should a member decide to move from Pacific Blue Cross, it is a matter of notifying the Pension Corp as to their decision. Once a change in coverage is made, should a member decide to return to their Pacific Blue Cross coverage, it is possible if they give a 90 day in advance application.

For more information, contact Lisa Hanson of Johnson Inc. at: 604-881-8840 Toll free 1-866-799-0000.

**Carter Auto Group** -Purchase ANY make or model of a brand new vehicle at a reduced price! One of the best Affinity benefits, is the Carter Auto Group offer for our members. Do your own research and decide on the make and model of the car you would like to consider purchasing. (You can even ask for the price on two different vehicles!) Know the colour choice and options you want. Then, contact LYNDEN BEST, Account manager. He can be reached at [lynden.best@carterauto.com](mailto:lynden.best@carterauto.com) or by calling 604-542-5457.

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*by Gerald Soon*

# Pension and Benefits Committee

BCRPVPA meeting

March 8, 2017



Gerry Tiede

**Click the Image above to go to the Slides**

**Gerry Tiede Presentation to BCRPVPA  
March 8, 2017**

**Pensions - Slides 2 - 10**

**Pacific Blue Cross to Green Shield & Income Tax Tips - Slides 11 - 24**

**Comparison of Johnson Insurance Plans: Medoc and Prestige - Slide 25 - 35**

**Travel Insurance Comparison - Slide 36 - 39**

The Trustee Message 2015 Annual Report indicates a healthy surplus in the BC Retired Teachers' Pension Plan. To learn more about our pension plan's rate of returns, Green Shield Canada, Income Tax Tips, please click the image above.

# 2016-17 Executive Committee

**President**  
Eileen Phillips [email](#)

**Vice-President**  
Ted St. Pierre

**Past President**  
Vivian Rygnestad

**Secretary**  
Linda Meier

**Treasurer**  
Lanny Young

## Members-at-Large

Membership/Sunshine  
Leanna Garner

Program/Speakers  
Executive

Scholarships  
Ted St. Pierre (ex officio)  
Christine Johnson  
Jeff Larcombe

Newsletter/Technology  
Graham Mulligan [email](#)

Pensions  
Gerald Soon

Observers at BCPVPA  
Chapter Council  
Eileen Phillips  
Ted St. Pierre

Affinity and Benefits  
Roy Sakata

Refreshments for Meetings  
Lanny Young

## History Committee

Nick Parker-Jervis  
Gord Wallington  
Joy Ruffeski  
Vivian Rygnestad  
Graham Mulligan  
Rod Giles

## General Meetings

Wed. Oct. 19, 2016

Wed. Jan. 18, 2017

Wed. Mar. 8, 2017

### AGM

Wed. May 3, 2017 - light lunch provided

Please mark meeting dates in your planners.

Social: 9:30 a.m.; Meeting: 9:45 a.m.;

Program/Speaker: 11:00 a.m.

No-host lunch to follow at a local restaurant. Meetings are held at the BCPVPA Office unless otherwise noted.

