



Retirees' Dinner

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

*Royal Vancouver Yacht Club
3844 Point Grey Road
Vancouver, BC*



Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association

Retirees' Dinner

- 6:00 Reception
7:00 Welcome & Dinner
8:00 Retirees' Group Photo
8:15 Greetings from VSTA & BCTF

Introductions and presentations

Kitsilano	Geoff Clay-Smith, Don Staller
Byng	Dan Kamin, Sara Neil
Britannia	Anne Sander
Magee	Henny Coates, Fred Gault, Wayne Hogaboam
PW	Anne Downing
Van Tech	Mike Allina, Wyatt Bolton
Templeton	Gerry Kuniss
Point Grey	Brad Lloyd
King George	Cindy Dudra
Hamber	Doug Ekelund
Killarney	Deborah Matheson
Gladstone	Ray Guraliuk, Karen Ostrom
John Oliver	Timothy Gale
Churchill	James Hill, Carl Larouche, Denis Lejay, Lucy Mattu, Elizabeth McNicoll



Welcome to the Graduating Class of 2018!

The Annual VSTA Retirees' Dinner is the Union's opportunity to thank all of our retiring colleagues for your years of work and commitment to the Vancouver public education system. The decision to retire from teaching is a momentous one, and we hope that tonight's celebration will afford you the opportunity to reflect on the best moments of your career.

Those of you who have who are retiring have been on strike, participated in job action and fought hard in other ways for the benefits and privileges that the rest of us are now able to enjoy. You have also spent countless hours prepping courses, marking, coaching, chairing meetings, attending meetings, mentoring, organizing field trips, and meeting with parents. You are the fabric of what makes our education system the successful and dynamic system that it is.

This dinner is also our opportunity to thank the School Union Team representatives for the leadership and support they have provided all year to all of our colleagues. Our Staff Reps, Pro-D Chairs, WLC/B Reps, Health & Safety Reps, Technology Reps and Social & Environmental Justice Reps keep all of our colleagues informed and engaged in Union work, professional development and school based processes that support democratic decision making. They are also an informal support system to our colleagues both professionally and personally. The VSTA office is indebted to these teachers on the ground who keep us informed and grounded in the reality of the schools.

The other group that we want to recognize tonight is our Executive Committee and Standing Committee Chairs. They spend hours in meetings advising the In House Table Officers and keep site based reps informed and motivated. They are also a fabulous group of people.

When September comes and the rest of us are having anxiety induced dreams about not being able to find our lesson plans or our classrooms, the Retiring Class of 2018 will be sleeping in, enjoying coffee and the newspaper and doing whatever they feel like doing. We of course may see some of you returning as Limited TTOCs as these days no one seems to retire from the VSB, but this time, it will be on your terms.

We wish you the best in your future endeavours and hope that you will stay in touch with us. Congratulations on a job well done!

Katharine Shipley
President

Retiring Vancouver Secondary Teachers

Mike Allina

Ali Astaneh

Alexander Baillie

Jennifer Belanger

Wyatt Bolton

Po Yu Chiang

Geoffrey Clay-Smith (2017)

Henny Coates

Jim Crescenzo

Avtinder Dhillon

Anne Downing

John Drescher

Cindy Dudra

Douglas Ekelund

Tim Gale

Fred Gault

Ray Guraliuk

Richard Helem

James Hill

Wayne Hogaboam

Dan Kamin

Gerry Kuniss

Carl Larouche

Denis Lejay

Brad Lloyd

David Low

Deborah Matheson

Lucy Mattu

Elizabeth McNicoll

Sara Neil

Jacob Neu

Karen Ostrom

Robert Paquin

John Rowland

Anne Sander

Lois Sanford

Wayne Shaddick

Michael Sheane

Don Staller

Lee-Ann Strelzow

Lorri Taylor

Elizabeth Vikner

Jesse Wong





Mike Allina

30 yrs experience

Vancouver Technical, Templeton, UBC, Point Grey

Year Point Grey built the track & turf field, won 13 City and two Provincial championships in girls track and soccer, and went with them to Uganda to build houses and promote girls soccer. School spirit was unbelievable. Student body and staff were acting as one - you could feel it in everything that happened at the school. I was really proud to be part of that.

Wyatt Bolton

38.5 yrs experience

Vancouver Technical, Clearbrook Jr.

Career highlight – Having the opportunity to teach in six different subject areas. Plan to travel and work or volunteer in some capacity. I will miss my many colleagues at Van Tech and the daily humorous situations we found ourselves in while teaching adolescents.



Geoffrey Clay-Smith

27 yrs experience

Kitsilano, Gladstone, Bella Bella, TTOC

I will miss the people connections, the energy of school and the absolute fun that I had in class every day. The marking, report cards and politicians are another matter.

Henny Coates

30 yrs experience

Magee, Prince of Wales Trek, New Zealand

Happily, I chose a profession that, despite occasional frustrations, never ceased to be challenging, interesting, and full of surprises! And what amazing colleagues I have had! I look forward to lots of mountain biking, road cycling, climbing and mountaineering, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, running, tennis, playing music, volunteering, and of course, travel.





Anne Downing

15 yrs experience
Prince of Wales, Byng, Richmond

Taught a little bit of drama and a whole lot of English. Future plans include a return to acting in t.v. commercials. I already miss the camaraderie of Prince of Wales colleagues, and I'm truly inspired by bright new educators just starting out. Best wishes to all.

Cindy Dudra

38 yrs experience
King George, Byng, Penticton

For 38 years, I've taught home economics. I've taught in Penticton and at Lord Byng, but for the past 26 years I've been at King George. Leaving KG feels like leaving home. There are exciting possibilities ahead but my heart will miss the students and staff that are the King George family.



Douglas Ekelund

24 yrs experience
Magee, Kitsilano, Tupper, Hamber

I'm retiring from the VSB, but come September will be (hopefully) busy teaching on call in Coquitlam, where I live. Looking back on my 24 years in Vancouver, I regret spending so much time on things that ultimately were not important, not taking the time to focus on things that were.



Jim Gale

32 yrs experience
John Oliver, Thompson, Pitt Meadows

Highlight: Founder of Take a Hike program in Vancouver, Burnaby, Trail, next year Surrey; following years the government wants it in every district in BC. Plan to visit family and friends in England, Australia, Spain and Africa and retire to Mayne Island. Will miss the amazing Take a Hike team I have worked with for the past 18 years.





Fred Gault

33 yrs experience
Magee

My career highlight would be getting hired in 1987 as it has been wonderful ever since. My future plans include travel, golf and finishing books I've started. I'll miss everything. I coached 51 total Senior Boys' and Senior Girls' Soccer teams.

Ray Guraliuk

32 yrs experience
Gladstone

Highlights: there have been many, perhaps the satisfaction of instilling in so many students a life-long love of the importance of how identity is crafted through place and story. Won't miss dreadfully insignificant staff meetings. Plan to continue to explore and wonder; to marvel at my own kids' successes.



James Hill

29 yrs experience
Churchill, Thompson

I have taught orchestral strings, choir, English, band, and a little concert band. A number of my students are presently music directors in Vancouver. Churchill orchestral students and the string program have always been one of the top-rated programs of its kind in BC.

Dan Kamin

26.5 yrs experience
Byng, Kitsilano, Surrey, Point Grey

Highlights of my career include being Math department head at three different high schools, teaching the highest levels of Math in my schools and sending hundreds of students on to greater things; and the support and friendship of my colleagues.
Time for a new challenge.





Gerry Kuniss

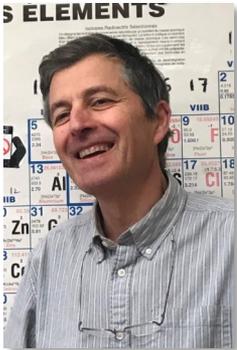
33 yrs experience
Templeton

Highlights: good fortune to stay at such a welcoming school for most of my teaching career; working in Templeton Mini School; developing an experiential outdoor education program; and teaching Pay It Forward. Plans: Time with my partner, Lesley, and our dog, Rex, to hike, travel, fish, spend more time with family, and Birkenhead.

Carl Larouche

25 yrs experience
Churchill, Kitsilano

Career highlights: Receiving 3 degrees from UBC and McGill. Course load in English which was emerging in 1986. Plan to travel, teach yoga, UBC, sub for French, etc. Anecdote: David Suzuki (parent) asking how the concept of culture will be integrated in my French class (first year teacher).



Denis Lejay

25 yrs experience
Churchill, Kitsilano

Will miss experimenting/being free to teach the way I like; helping young minds discover the hidden beauty of science; camps and trips with students and colleagues. Won't miss getting up early to attend a (boring) staff meeting, (most) parent-teacher meetings; feeling anxious on Sunday night.

Brad Lloyd

30+ yrs experience
Point Grey, Tupper, TTOC

I began as a substitute teacher, getting a contract a year later teaching ESL at Tupper. I transferred to Point Grey to teach senior English. There I gradually transitioned into teacher-librarianship. I will miss the students, of course, and the intelligent conversation with colleagues.





Debbie Matheson

33 yrs experience
Killarney, Kitsilano, Point Grey, Montreal

Favourite memories of teaching ESL: taking teens cross-country skiing; afterwards, they wrote about their excitement and awe. Best memories of teaching English: annual Shakespeare scenes; their R & J often ended with a pile of giggling corpses. I will miss that fun, and many remarkable colleagues.

Teaching French Immersion only
Coaching also I loved deeply
Third time Ironman I will be
How the mountains are calling me.

Ready for this awaited phase
No more marking, bells or Mondays
You wait and see my brand new pace
And “stress free” written on my face.

Lucy Mattu

31 yrs experience
Churchill, Ecole Jules
Quesnel



Elizabeth McNicoll

22 yrs experience
Vancouver Technical, Churchill

Too many career highlights to mention. I hope to be able to do more of the 3 Rs—relax, read and recreation. Not going to miss the 1 hour commute for 7:30 staff meetings. Going to miss all the fantastic staff and students that I have been able to work with over the years.

Sara Neil

29 yrs experience
Byng, Kitchener, False Creek, Seymour

My career highlight is coaching our Byng track team to 9 City championships in a row. Future plans include hiking the West Highland Way in Scotland and riding my bike more! Will definitely miss the kids and our PE Dept. Will not miss staff meetings and all the paperwork. “Suck it up Buttercup!”





Karen Ostrom

34 yrs experience
Gladstone, DLS, Windermere, Area Learning Services,
BCCH Child Psych Ward, Roberts, Lloyd George

Career highlight: definitely the people I met and got to work with, true kindred spirits. Future plans: warmer places in winter (unlike E Wing after a cold weekend). Will miss the kids laughing at my corny jokes. Won't miss writing IEPs. Best wishes to everyone!

Anne Sander

30 yrs experience
Britannia

Loved teaching English and Social Studies. Have enjoyed being a librarian even more, until the cuts this year. Saddened by the erosion of public education. Plans: hiking, biking, kayaking and lots of travelling.



Don Staller

34 yrs experience
Kitsilano, Gladstone

High school memories are what it is all about. I passed on enough to last a lifetime! Time to go fishing.

Lee-Ann Strelzow

22 yrs experience
University Hill Transition, School Psychologist

Career highlight: working with Daria—very lucky. Future plans: rallying cars and sailing. Will miss the kids, the close working relationships with parents, helping. Won't miss the bureaucracy. "If it's not life threatening, it doesn't really matter."



Welcome...

Special Guests

Ciint Johnson, BCTF
Debbie Pawluk, Past Pres
Andy Hattrick, SIF

Members of Executive

Michael-Don Borason
Madeline Brewster
Rory Brown
Shelby Calman
Brett Gabelman
Treena Goolieff
Leanne Hagglund
Peter Halim
Phil Lee
Natalia Mayor
Sara McGarry
Scott McKeen
Sylvia Metzner
Nancy Palejko
Katharine Shipley
John Silver
Terry Stanway

Staff & Standing Committee Reps

Seema Ali	Hanif Karmali	Petr Pospisil
Rick Appel	Dawn Kelly	Sherry Preston
Vanessa Babajee	Herb Lachelt	Tina Quan
Cecil Baird	Virginia Lam	Brenda Reeve
Carole Birks	Irving Lau	Alyssa Reid
Rob Bordon	Joe Lee	Petra Rempel
Ariel Boulet	Tony Lee	Heidi Rogers
Sarah Bretherton	Shannon Less	Carmen Schaedeli
Lorraine Breton	Dorothy Leung	Stefan Schmitt
Shirley Burdon	Preet Lidder	Stef Schoenfelder
Holly Chalmers	Jillian Maguire	Shamsher Singh
Greg Chan-Henry	Jason Mark	Karla Smedley
Ben Cougny	Susan McIntosh	Doug Smith
Bill Dizy	Julie Mendgen	Carina Soderlund
Brenda Dowle	Hilary Montroy	Shaun Stewart
Jody Findlay	Jacque Moon	Jesse Taylor
Cynthia Ganatra	Hamish Morrison	Matt Vatta
Sandra Garfinkel	Janet Mowatt	Paula Violi
Beth Greer	Trish Mugford	Jennifer Wagner
Mike Hengeveld	Gogae Nanda	Elizabeth Watanabe
Anita Hollands	Sarah Ng	Brad White
Susan Hornby	Tanya Noble	Sally Wong
Vicky Hughes	Lisa Pacheco	John Yetman
Randy Jung	Balbinder Panesar	Stacey Yip



Vice Commodore's Dinner Buffet

Mixed Greens, Caesar Salad, Quinoa Salad,
Roasted Vegetables, Greek Salad, Beet Salad,
Pasta Salad, Marinated Mushrooms

Smoked Salmon Platter, Baby Shrimp, King Prawns,
European Charcuterie Platter

Chicken Breast with Hunter Sauce
BC Salmon with Beurre Blanc
Vegetable Curry (vegan)
Seasonal Vegetables, Roasted Potatoes, Rice of the Day

CARVING STATION

Roasted Top Sirloin with Red Wine Sauce and Dijon Mustard

Imported and Domestic Cheeses

Fresh Fruit

Cakes, Pies, Cheesecakes, Tortes and Pastries

Coffee and Tea

