



**Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association**

*Retirees' Dinner*

**Royal Vancouver Yacht Club**

**Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**



# Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association

## The Program

**6:00 p.m.**

Guest Arrival

Refreshments, Mingling & Photos

Piano Entertainment by Jonathan Wiltse

**7:00 p.m.**

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Buffet Dinner

**8:30 p.m.**

Retirees' Group Photo

**8:45 p.m.**

Greetings from VSTA, BCTF & BCRTA

**9:00 p.m.**

Our Retirees - Introductions & Presentations

## Thank you for celebrating our retirees!

The VSTA acknowledges that we work and live on the unceded and ancestral lands of the *w̓məθk̓wəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Sḵw̓x̓wú7mesh* (Squamish), and *səl̓ilwətaʔt̓* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

# The Menu

## The Vice Commodore Buffet

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### SIDES

Beet Salad, Caesar Salad, Greek Salad  
Pasta Salad, Quinoa Salad  
Roasted Vegetables, Seasonal Vegetables  
Marinated Mushrooms, Mixed Greens  
Roasted Potatoes, Rice Pilaf  
European Charcuterie Platter

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### HOT BUFFET

Stuffed Chicken Breast  
With red wine demi and wild mushrooms  
Carved Roasted Prime Rib  
With red wine sauce, Dijon and Yorkshire pudding  
Cheese tortellini  
Fresh cream and herb sauce

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### SEAFOOD

Smoked Salmon Platter  
Baby Shrimp, King Prawns  
BC Salmon  
With beurre blanc

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### DESSERTS

Fresh Fruit  
Artisan Chocolates  
Cakes, Pies, Cheesecake, Tortes and Other Pastries  
Imported & Domestic Cheeses

# *Congratulations*

## to the VSTA Retiring Class of 2026



Welcome to the Annual VSTA Retirees' Dinner – a special evening dedicated to honouring and celebrating you, our retiring colleagues. Tonight is the Union's opportunity to express heartfelt thanks for your years of service in the classroom and your commitment to public education.

Retirement is a profound milestone. We hope this evening gives you the chance to reflect on the most meaningful moments of your career – the relationships you've built, the lives you've touched, and the difference you've made.

As members of the Class of 2026, you've devoted countless hours to lesson planning, marking, coaching, mentoring, leading meetings, organizing field trips, and engaging with parents and caregivers. Your advocacy for public education through the VSTA and BCTF, as well as your daily work in classrooms and schools, has left a lasting and invaluable legacy. Your colleagues here tonight – and across the district – offer their deep appreciation, respect, and admiration for all you've contributed.

Come September, while many of us are navigating first-day jitters and searching for misplaced lesson plans, you – the VSTA Class of 2026 – will be savoring your morning coffee, sleeping in, or perhaps embarking on a long-awaited adventure. However you choose to spend your time, know that you leave having made the profession better through your care and commitment, and you leave with the peace of mind that comes from having given so much of yourself – and the joy of knowing that you've earned this next chapter.

Congratulations on a career of dedicated service. We wish you all the best in your next chapter and hope you'll stay connected with us in the years to come.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement – and once again, congratulations!

Carmen, Carl, and John  
VSTA IHTOs

# Retirees



Craig Baulcomb	Ben Lubinizki
Marc Bégin	Michael Mallette
Carole Birks	Janet McCarron
Xin Xin Cameron	Cathy McElhone
Laurie Cassie	Tracey McIntosh
Polly Dobie	Scott McKeen
Julie Douglas	Rosemary Elizabeth Milne
Pierre Duey	Xuan Ngo
Greg Durno	Denise North
Rosemary Evans	Marlene Perrett
Janet D Eviston	Lori Pratt
Aaron Friesan	Karen Reed
Sandra Grier	Parvaneh Saatchi
Kelly Hawbolt	Sonya Semail
Andrea Husdon	Jim Stassinopoulos
Andy Johnston	Mehrdad Tabrizi
Daniel Kalmokoff	Jasmin Taylor
Dustin Keller	Pierre Huong Siew Ting
Sheila Keon	Jason Tryssenaar
Cathalynn Labonte-Smith	Georgia Tsonis
Renate Lehmann	Sonia Werner
Dorothy Leung	Leonard Wong
Frances Lew	John W Yetman

# CAROLE BIRKS

23 years | King George



**We've picked the best career.  
Now on to the next chapter.**

# POLLY DOBIE

35 years | Abbotsford (2 years), Surrey (15 years), VSB (18 years)

**I am happy to pass the baton to new teachers; it's the imaginative educator who can foster a safe, fun and creative atmosphere and then be "on" class after class, year after year - to literally thousands of students.**

**To my fellow retirees and to reps - bravo! I'm so lucky to have been surrounded by such enthusiasm.**



**Next? Hiking in the Pyrenees with a light pack, my fabulous husband to chat with along the way and maybe just the sound of hiking boots scuffing the path surrounded by big sky.**

# JULIE DOUGLAS

31 years | Point Grey

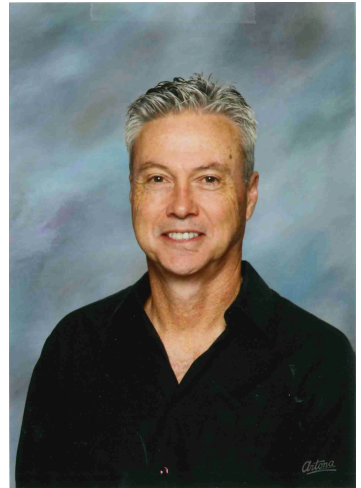


I spent my entire teacher career at the high school that I graduated from - Point Grey. My favourite memories came from all the extracurricular activities that I was involved in: coaching and chaperoning. I found the best way to get to know my students was being able to connect with them outside of the classroom. Let's go Grey Hounds!

# GREG DURNO

36 years | 32 years at David Thompson, 4 years as TTOC

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 32 years being a teacher, coach, and athletic director at David Thompson. I have taught many bright, hard-working students, coached many talented athletes, been part of some tremendous teams, worked with some remarkable people, and made many great friends along the way. Although I will miss teaching regularly at DT, I am very much looking forward to the adventures to come.



# AARON FRIESAN

34 years | Point Grey, Ideal Mini School, and Churchill

I will not miss interim reporting, save for those needing the report.

I will miss my colleagues dearly.

# SANDRA GRIER

30 years | John Oliver, Point Grey, Tupper and most of 2000 onward at Magee

Being a teacher for the last 30 yrs has been a real privilege. I have loved seeing their smiling faces as they greet me everyday. I would want new teachers to know that it's the little moments of kindness, empathy and encouragement that you show your students that can make all the difference in how a student experiences their time in high school. I'm looking forward to travelling, learning more languages, taking up new hobbies and spending time with my daughter and adorable grandson.



# ANDY JOHNSTON

42 years | TOC - 3 years, Templeton - 1 year, Lord Byng - 38 years



To quote a colleague of mine,  
I could teach until I'm 93 if I didn't have marking!

# SHEILA KEON

34 years | Sir Winston Churchill and Vancouver Technical



**Congratulations everyone!  
On to our next adventures.  
Enjoy!**

# RENATE LEHMANN

23 years | Van Tech, Killarney, Byng, Magee

**I loved being a teacher! It was so rewarding to sometimes really reach a student, and see their enthusiasm and understanding grow. I will miss the social interactions between my students, my colleagues and myself. I'm not going to miss the marking, the report cards, the commute. I'm really looking forward to some traveling in the near future and new adventures! I feel blessed for having chosen this profession!**



# DOROTHY LEUNG

37 years | Gladstone and Vancouver Technical



My most fulfilling projects were those which gave opportunities to my students. From developing skills to finding their success through PHE activities, my English classroom, or on the teams I coached (volleyball, netball, and track and field), or on field trips I led exploring camping, canoeing,

kayaking, and international trips to England and France.

I look forward in the years ahead to continue to challenge myself, and to take on every opportunity to try new things and explore the world.

# FRANCES LEW

22 years | Eric Hamber, Killarney, Templeton, Churchill, Kitsilano, Tupper

The most rewarding part of the job has been seeing struggling students overcome their challenges, then going on to graduate. Won't miss being chained to a computer writing IEPs and report cards. Will miss the endlessly interesting kids and the great conversations with inspirational colleagues. Looking forward to a more balanced lifestyle, and more time to breathe.



# BEN LUBINIZKI

33 years | Ladysmith Secondary, Charles Tupper Bridge program, Czech Republic Kindergarten



**I am looking forward to spending more time with my wife and family.**

# MICHAEL MALLETT

35 years | Lord Byng (lifer)

**Most fulfilling aspect of my career was my educational development as an educator through coaching. In evolving as a coach I found significant connection to my teaching philosophy. Completing my NCCP Level 3 opened my eyes to big picture philosophy on both coaching and teaching.**

**My advice to new teachers is to get involved with kids outside of the classroom, as that is how they will remember you most.**



**I will not miss the marking. Looking forward to getting fit once again now that I have the time.**

# JANET McCARRON

On-call, Kits, DT, Magee, SFU, various summer learning sites, DLS



**I have loved this rich and varied career, and I am so appreciative for my colleagues who have shared their wisdom, passion, and laughter with me.**

# CATHY McELHONE

36 years | Japan, England, Ontario, Vancouver BC

**Believe in your students, set high expectations, and they will succeed.**

# SCOTT McKEEN

30 years | TTOC, Kits, Byng Satellite, Lord Byng



**Working in the Alternate system was the most rewarding and impactful part of my career. Rugby tours to New Zealand and Australia was a highlight. Working on the LEAF initiative was fulfilling as was serving on the Executive for a decade. Being recognized by the Indigenous Ed Department with the Peter Bryce Allyship Award was truly an honour.**

# TRACEY McINTOSH

Started teaching in 1986

Grades K-12 in Alternative Education, Special Education and Mainstream in Vancouver

**Hands-down, working in alternative education for 22 years with students from Eastside and Heron's Nest Education Centre for Young Parents is the highlight of my time with VSB. Despite being challenged by life circumstances compounded by the systemic barriers within the education system, these students continued to show up for themselves and each other. It was my great honor, privilege, and joy to walk alongside them in their learning journey. It was and is an incredible gift.**

# ROSEMARY ELIZABETH MILNE

26 years | Begbie, Carleton, Moberly, Vancouver Technical Secondary

**I am looking forward to new adventures, travelling, continued self discovery, and spending time with my family and friends.**



# XUAN NGO

27 years | Eric Hamber, Prince of Wales, UHill, TTOC Burnaby School Board



I feel blessed to have been a teacher. The most fulfilling project is the annual Van Dusen Pollinator Days project carried out by my junior science students. The biggest challenge I face in teaching is the ever-increasing accommodation that teachers are asked to make for students.

My advice for new teachers is to have high standards. I will not miss marking. Travelling, exercising and listening to birds chirping on Spring mornings instead of rushing to school are what I look forward to. Enjoy!

# DENISE NORTH

29 years | BC and Alberta

I'm grateful to have chosen the teaching profession; I've had a fulfilling and diverse career. My first decade of teaching began in rural Alberta elementary schools, teaching gifted and special ed. students. I migrated to teaching in two different Calgary schools and then three Vancouver schools. The past 20 years were mainly spent at Killarney Secondary; my second family! Working with such dedicated, supportive, multi-talented colleagues, and students, has given me wonderful, lifelong memories. I'm excited for my next phase pursuing my many hobbies and having time with loved ones.



# MARLENE PERRETT

25 years | Taiwan, USA, Canada, Francophone School Board, VSB



**Inspire and equip.  
These two words have  
guided my pedagogy  
through multiple changes.  
Remember the students'  
birthdays and  
extracurricular events.  
Be present in the hallways!**

# LORI PRATT

20 years | David Thompson (English Language, Arts, Drama, Social Studies, ELL)

**I tried my best and worked hard to accomplish my goals as an educator.  
Now I want to master something else.  
Thanks for the opportunity to grow as a person!**

# KAREN REED

35 years | Gladstone, University Hill



**I started my teaching career as a Math Teacher at Gladstone Secondary School. After 22 wonderful years at Gladstone, I accepted a position at the brand-new University Hill Secondary School. Amazing colleagues, amazing students, and amazing memories! I look forward to retirement with excitement and anticipation. My retirement plans include triathlon training, travel, and spending time with family and friends.**

# PARVANEH SAATCHI

30 years | Vancouver, Beijing

**Favourite activities were three dimensional Battleship on balloons with longitude and latitude lines in Socials Studies 9, tossing eggs from the fifth floor encased in various designs to protect the egg in Physics. Writing in Mathematics to explain a concept. My advice to a future teacher would be you need to care more about your student than your subject. My biggest upcoming joy is an African Safari.**

# JOHN YETMAN

36 years | Spain, then 26 years in VSB

**Navigating my new phase in life.  
Wish to continue in a TOC capacity  
to stay tuned with education.**



# Thank you

## to our School Union Team Reps and EC



This evening also provides an opportunity to recognize the efforts of our School Union Team representatives. A huge thank you to Staff Reps, as well as Professional Development, Working/Learning Conditions & Bargaining, Health & Safety, Technology, Early Career Teachers & Teachers Teaching On Call, and Social & Environmental Justice Reps, Staff Committee Chairs, Indigenous Education, 2SLGBTQIA+, and BIPOC committees.

Your leadership and support throughout the year have kept members informed, connected and empowered. You are the vital link between our schools and the broader work of the VSTA and BCTF.

We also extend our gratitude to the members of the VSTA Executive Committee and Standing Committee Chairs. Your thoughtful leadership, countless hours of meetings, and guidance to both In-House Table Officers and site-based reps have ensured our union remains strong, responsive, and united.

In Solidarity,  
Carmen, Carl, and John

# Special Guests

Rosalind Kellet, BCRTA  
Winona Waldron, BCTF

# Members of the Executive Committee

Baldeep Bassi  
Jelana Bighorn  
Mike Collier  
Christa Duttchen  
Nicole Duy  
Gregory Henderson  
Carl Janze  
Omar Kassis  
Fiona Krogh  
Blair Miller  
Kamey Munsamy  
Les Nerling  
Sarah Ng  
Roderick Ofreneo  
Abby Palmer  
Ginaya Peters  
Carmen Schaedeli  
John Silver  
Jesse Taylor  
Stephanie Tsui  
Kathryn Walks  
Jonathan Wynn

# Staff & Standing Committee Reps

Nigel Amenu-Tekaa	Erin Cullingworth	Gillian Jerome	Lukas Morel	Darcy Smith
Chris Anderson	Kristine Cumauaal	Seth Johnson	Scott Morgan	Karla Smedley
Ruth Anderson	Caitlin Davie	Randy Jung	Hamish Morrison	Jordan Squire
Robert Arkiletian	Paul De Groot	Colin Kam	Jeanie Morton	Alex Stevens
Leslie Arnold	Ali de Levie	Omar Kassis	Meagan Murphy	Shaun Stewart
Heather Babcock	Guy Demers	David Ki	Gogae Nanda	Damon Stoelting
Marin Barley	Wynn Deschner	Antonia Kuiper	Cassie Naymie	Andrea Sum
Jessica Barry	Michelle DeYoung	Paulina Kwon	Deanne Nielsen	Josh Sundvick
Matthew Barski	Polly Dobie	Herb Lachelt	Denise Norman	Ryan Tanabe
Ian Baxter	Lindsay Donaldson	Sonya Labrie	Denise North	Erin Tarbuck
Matthew Beaver	Teresa Dou	Mike Lattimer	Nancy Ogden	Ali Taylor
Kelsey Bemister	Kamelia Dousti	Irving Lau	Jenny Oikawa	Jesse Taylor
Carole Birks	Lorena Duran	Jenny Lee	Nancy Palejko	Lydia Taylor
Kate Black	Christa Duttchen	Tony Lee	Brian Pascual	Anuradha Thale
Rob Bordon	Christine Dyck	Max Lenko	Alanna Pearce	Dustin Thevarge
Nicolas Boulding	Mustapha Elfarse	Shannon Less	Len Pelletier	Max Todd
Nova Bozinoski	Bryan Erickson	Connor Levesque	Cameron Phillips	Chris Tsang
Jen Braun	Paul Falardeau	Amy Liang	Andrew Pirie	Eric Tsang
Allison Brett	Sam Ferguson	Jessica Liew	Misty Pope	Mike Vastardis
Jean-Paul Brichta	Jody Findlay	Ken Lindsay	Soula Poulos	Matthew Yatta
Shirley Burdon	Pamela Fleming	Jonathan Hultquist	Natasha Randhawa	Miranda Van Camp
Meghan Byrne	Matthew Friesen	Siu Ma	Zoe Read	Riley Van Luven
Amanda Cantelon	Stephen Garrod	Deb MacCulloch	Nigel Reedman	Tina Veness Kehler
Jonathan Chan	Jas Gill	Anna MacRae	Alyssa Reid	Paula Violi
Greg Chan-Henry	Rachel Gifford	Natalia Mayor	Meghan Ridley	Jackie Wall
Bell Chen	Stephanie Glynianuji	Fergus McCallion	Andrew Robinson	Patrick Wilband
Kris Chen	Bryan Green	Bridget McCartin	Maria Romanelli	Ashley Williams
Pamela Chen	Mike Griffiths	Sara McGarry	Michael Rosen	Mike Wiskar
Kasey Chittenden	Leanne Hagglund	Emma McKeen	Kaera Ross	Calvin Woo
Dave Cimino	Steve Hall	Scott McKeen	Gurman Sangha	Matthew Woo
Stephen Coderre	Zoe Harkness	Campbell McLeod	Stefan Schmitt	Jonathan Wynn
Curtis Collier	Gregory Henderson	Carol-Anne McMillan	Stefanie Seto	Stacey Yip
Mike Collier	Mike Hengeveld	Megan McPhee	Joanne Sharples	Serina Young
Cole Crawford	Hersie Init	Julie Mendgen	Helen Sinclair	Brian Yu
Russell Cripps	Larissa Jackson	Blair Miller	Matt Sinclair	Paul Zarembo
Gina Csanuji-Robah	Ed Jay	Nathan Moes	Juli Smith	



*Thank you for joining us!*

