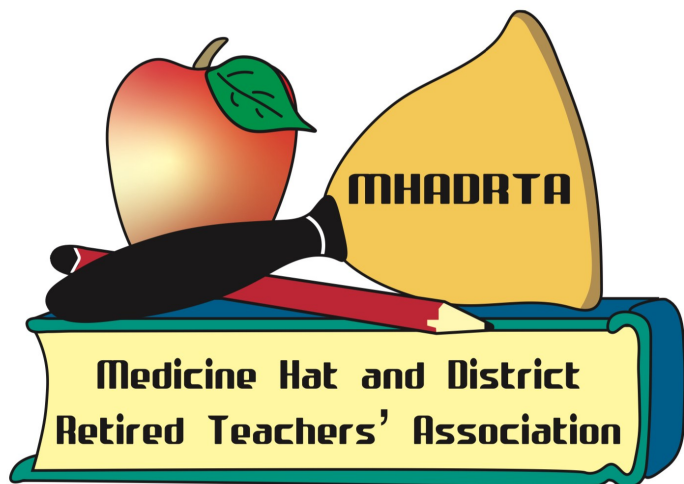
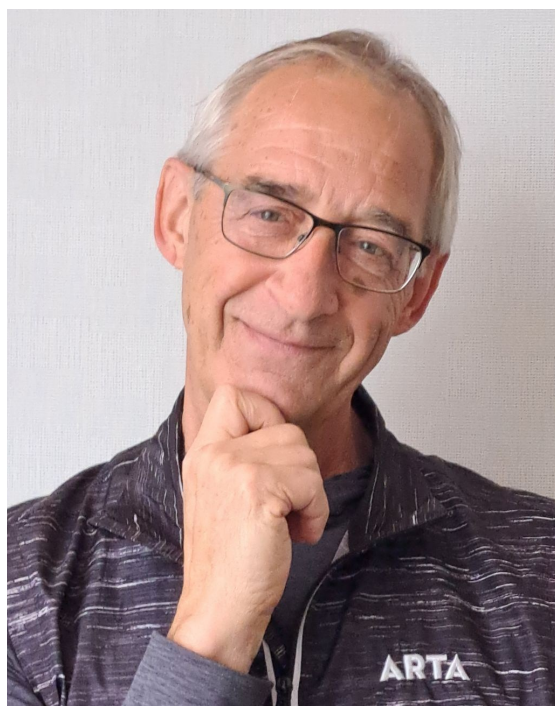




October 2025 MHADRTA Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 5

ARTA has a new PRESIDENT



The **ARTA Annual General Meeting**, held in Edmonton October 7 & 8, 2025 was the venue for the annual election of a new Executive for ARTA. **Ray Hoger**—MHADRTA member and ARTA Vice-President—threw his hat in the ring to run for President of ARTA. There were no challengers and Ray was acclaimed as the new **President of ARTA** for the 2025-2026 term. Ray served on the Pension and Financial Wellness Committee for four years (last two as Chair of the committee) prior to seeking election as Vice-President at last year's AGM. Congratulations, Ray!

Ray succeeds **Deb Gerow** who has served as President of ARTA for the past three years.



**Wednesday,
October 29**

10:30 am

Details: page 3



Our 2025-2025 MHADRTA Executive

Back Row: Therese Bullin, Henk Hof, Lori Karwandy
Front Row: Dianne Durda, Lionel Brideson, Bev Wahl



On October 14, retired teachers, parents, grandparents, and students walked with striking teachers from the old arena 2 km uphill to Danielle Smith's constituency office and back. Photo taken in front of City hall. Support from the general public was amazing!

"EVERY STEP COUNTS" ATA Walk

MHADRTA walks with the teachers of our three Locals who are fighting for proper funding for Public Education. Class size, classroom complexity and fair wages—long overdue. We support the efforts of our active teachers and are willing to join you in your fight to have government properly fund public education.

Hallowe'en Theme General Meeting

**Date: Wednesday, October 29
2025**

Time: 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Place: Ralph's Steakhouse
1249 TransCanada Way
(Use West side entrance of building)

Guest Presenter:
Cliff Bryanton
Topic: Energy

Cost of Luncheon: \$22.00

If you have not been phoned by a member of the phoning committee by **Saturday, October 25, 2025**, please contact **Therese Bullin** (403-952-1668) to confirm your attendance.



Volunteers
for our October 29th
General Meeting

GREETERS:

Lori Karwandy
Bonnie Spruyt

DECORATIONS:

Shannon English

50/50:

Joan Kaupp
Anne Maier

PRAYER/GRACE:

Mel Deydey



Happy Hallowe'en!

I am looking forward to an exciting year in MHADRTA.

I am looking at having different events with the Veiner Centre. These could be sessions or events on Digital Devices, Scams, Information Sessions on FASD—for example. I am interested in hearing about any events in which you might be interested. These could be cultural, educational or physical. This is our opportunity to meet the needs of all our members and prospective members.

For our Hallowe'en themed meeting at the end of the month—although optional—I am hoping that many of our members will wear a costume for the occasion. A couple of suggestions for costumes include "Lessons from the Grave"—ghostly school staff, frazzled teacher, skeleton principal, zombie librarian, jock PE teacher, etc. Or a "Time Travel Theme"—costumes from the decade you started teaching—think 60's, 70's, 80's. I am looking forward to having a Parade of Costumes along with pictures thereafter.

We can explore the possibility of having interactive games and activities at our regular meetings.

Hallowe'en joke to end my message:
Q: Why did the ghost get detention?
A: He kept *boo-ing* the teacher!

Hope to see you on the 29th!

Lionel Brideson
President, MHADRTA
labrideson@yahoo.ca



Election of Officers



At the **ARTA Annual General Meeting** which took place in Edmonton on October 7 & 8, 2025, Election of Officers was held.

The three Executive positions are one year terms (subject to re-election each year).

The **Executive Committee** results included:

Ray Hoger acclaimed as the new **President**.

Mary McDougall elected as the new **Vice-President** over challenger, Frank Bruseker.

Alain Levesque acclaimed as the new **Treasurer**.

Deb Gerow will serve as **Past President**.

Each of the six committee elected a new member to replace the outgoing committee members who served their four or five year terms. The following were either elected or acclaimed.

Communications Committee: (four year term) **Edna Dach** (acclaimed)

Governance Committee: (four year term) **Jim Allan** (acclaimed)

Health Benefits Committee: (five year term) **Blair Lowry** (acclaimed)

Pension & Financial Wellness Committee: (four year term) **Ron Thompson** (acclaimed)

Strategic Planning & Advocacy Committee: (four year term) **Cam Colville** elected over challenger Bob Silverthorne.

Wellness Committee: (four year term) **Rod Lowry** (acclaimed)

Congratulations!



Martha Munz-Gue, a retired teacher, is a very active environmentalist in Medicine Hat involved with the Grassland Naturalists and SEAWA (South East Alberta Watershed Alliance) She was the guest presenter at our September General Meeting. Martha had so much she wanted to share but was limited by time.

Toward Personal and Planetary Health

Projects that grow Appreciation, Awareness and Action

The benefits of being outside in nature with friends are numerous and phenomenal. Nature nurtures. Fresh air and exercise refresh our bodies and minds. Sights and sounds of nature arouse curiosity. Close observation raises appreciation of species and their relationships with other species. Awareness grows into action to protect. The benefits are circular from human to the ecosystem and back to us. As more people participate in caring neighbourhood outdoor activities, our planet and people will become more healthy. Retired teachers who wish to meet others for support of activities that help nature thrive can meet Martha and other mentors on Thursday afternoons in September and October downtown at the Bee Gallery (415B Third Street) or at the nearby tea shop or bakery.

Weekly Nature Walks

Personal health – physical, emotional, social, intellectual – is the outcome of Grasslands Naturalists' Weekly Nature Walks. Learning the names of some of the local plants and ecosystems grows greater appreciation. The brochure, *Wildflowers of Medicine Hat and District*, is available at the Nature Center and at the Visitor Center. An on-line version is at hatwildflowers.weebly.com. Once the wildflower brochure was created, a web version of local butterflies was next. It can be seen here: mhbutterflies.weebly.com. These two resources were lovingly produced by volunteers retired from a variety of professions, who met through the Society of Grasslands Naturalists.

Retired teachers are invited to invite a neighbour or friend to help you start Weekly Nature Walks in your area at your

own best time. It would be great if there were "after school Nature Walks" open to all ages. Of course, you are always welcome to join us on the WWNW – GN Weekly Wednesday Nature Walks – but you have to get in your car to go for a walk. Phone the Nature Center (403-529-6225), or check the GN newsletter (The Sagebrush Chronicle) at Grasslands_Naturalists.org for the time and location of the next few weekly walks. The Chronicle comes out by email to GN members mid month every month (except July and August).

Pollinator Lanes or "Butterflyways". Would you consider turning the area behind your fence into a pollinator garden? All that is needed is to remove any weeds (without chemicals) and plant wildflowers, and then invite a neighbour to do the same. Then watch for the arrival of the butterflies! Local wildflower seedlings are available at the May Plant Sale at the Duggan House and at the Windmill Greenhouse. You will need to water the seedlings until their roots are deep and wide enough to find water themselves. Native plants have very deep roots and so can survive a drought and a wildfire! Students and teachers could care for "Pollinator Edges and corners" on school grounds. A butterflyway is a lane or an area that has 12 or more habitat areas. (Our lane already has 5 homes with wildflowers planted in the lane – almost half-way to being a 'butterflyway'!) More about butterflyways is at DSFbutterflyways.org

Adopt a Pond or Path or Park or Lane

Choose a pond or path that is near where you live or work, play or pray, (to reduce the CO2 in getting there). Visit it often

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McKay Creek Schoolhouse Olde Tyme Christmas

1. A portable fan will be put in the schoolhouse in the summer. It will be set at the front of the classroom.
2. The **Old Tyme Christmas** will be held **Thursday, December 4th** from **5-8 PM**. There will be hot dogs, hot chocolate, hay rides, Santa Claus, and a bon fire with smores. A market will be held in the Cypress Center from 4-9 PM. Come and enjoy the festivities.
3. The class pictures beside the blackboard are fading. The pictures do belong to the Stampede, so Justin Watson of the Pioneer Village committee has suggested we have someone make digital copies of the originals and thus we could preserve the originals. He is going to look into this.
4. We are thinking about sending out letters in March to the three school systems to announce school tours from mid-May to mid-June.
5. We are considering putting a small Christmas Tree into the schoolhouse for the December 4th Old Tyme Christmas. The church has one with homemade Christmas decorations. Darlene Dee was going to look into this. If anyone has homemade decorations or is willing to make them and help Darlene, it would be very much appreciated.

Submitted by **Vicki McCaig**

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enough to fall in love with it, every week or two, pick up trash and report noxious invasive weeds on EDDMapS app. This Early Detection and Distribution Maps Service is used throughout North America for research and to notify land managers so they can remove invasive species before they spread too far. Invite one or two others to walk your adopted pond or path along the creek or river with you and you will grow a friendship group that cares about a healthy riparian ecosystem. You may wish to look up *World Decade for Ecosystem Restoration 2020-2031*. It is full of interesting challenges.

Downtown Repair Café with needle and thread.

Meet at 1:30 pm at the Teas R Me tea shop at the Arcade Plaza on Third Street. Bring something to mend and your own needle and thread. We are bringing back the social aspect of mending clothes, while learning about textile waste in our world. Start a Clothing Repair Café in your corner of the city, at a school or church, or in your home for your grandchildren and their friends and families. A cup of tea and some simple snacks (not over packaged, nor overloaded with sugar or salt) can help the conversation flow. It is hoped that these Clothing Repair Cafés will grow like yeast in Medicine Hat and District. The downtown Repair Shop is "the mentor and the mother yeast! "

Submitted by Martha Munz-Gue



Editor

Mel Deydey
49ermh@gmail.com

Hello Everyone!

2025 is quickly coming to a close with less than two months until Christmas! I am not trying to rush the days and weeks away.

I look forward to (and welcome) any articles and news that you would like to see published in future newsletters; and hope you find the newsletter informative.

Hoping that we see as many of you as possible at our next meeting. There will be more information about our Christmas meeting in next month's newsletter.

Mel



We would like to welcome three brand new retirees who have joined our branch as our newest members:

Ron Mason
Anne Maier
Bernadine Armstrong

We look forward to have you join us at our events. Our members are looking forward to meeting you!



October 21—Executive meeting

October 29—General Meeting
"Hallowe'en Theme"

November 25—Executive meeting

December 10—General Meeting
"Christmas Theme"

January 27—Executive meeting

February 11—General Meeting
"Valentine Theme"

March 24—Executive Meeting

April 08—General Meeting
"Spring Theme"

June 02—Executive meeting

June 17—General Meeting
"Annual General Meeting"

ALL **General Meetings** will be held at **Ralph's Steakhouse** beginning at 10:30 am.

All **Executive Meetings** will be held at **Ricky's Restaurant** beginning at 10:30 am.



MHADRTA Executive 2025-2026

President: Lionel Brideson

1st Vice-President: Dianne Durda

2nd Vice-President: Bev Wahl

Secretary: Lori Karwandy

Treasurer: Henk Hof

Past President: Therese Bullin

**Membership Chairman:
Laura Hoffman**

ATA Rep—Local #1: Darlene Dee

ATA Rep—Local #2: Laurel Schlaht

ATA Rep—Local #39: Mel Deydey

SEATCA: Delle Lovig

ARTA BAR Rep: Dianne Durda

**Pioneer Village Schoolhouse:
Vicki McCaig**

Cards & Scrapbook: Anne Tomcala

**ARTA President:
Ray Hoger**

**ARTA Communications Committee:
Mel Deydey**

Contact: Barb Taylor

Website: Ed Dick

Phoning: Therese Bullin

Programs: Donna Mae Goldade

**ARTA Board Of Directors:
Lionel Brideson**

**Contact information for the executive
(email addresses and phone numbers) is
available to MHADRTA members on the
website. It is password protected.**

MHADRTA Membership Update

We are committed to representing retired teachers within Locals 1, 2 and 39 and retired teachers who have moved to the Medicine Hat area from within Alberta or out-of-province.

We are looking forward to welcoming new retirees from the three districts who retired at the end of the last school year. We are hoping they will join our branch and take advantage of their free "first year of retirement" membership.

Membership in MHADRTA is \$15.00 per year, payable by cheque or cash or by eTransfer. See the last page of this newsletter for a membership form which gives details of payment. eTransfer: hrhof@shaw.ca

Membership in ARTA is separate. For more information, visit www.arta.net



**By e-mail:
mhadrta3@gmail.com**

**Visit our website:
www.mhadrta.wixsite.com/mhadrta**

Like us on Facebook:



**Follow us on Twitter/X:
[@mhadrta](https://twitter.com/mhadrta)**





... to our newest members attending our "To Hell With The Bell" meeting last month.

(Left to Right)

Rhonda Hunter,
Anne Maier,
Ron Mason,
Diane Copland,
Bernadine Armstrong



Membership Form for 2025-26 School Year

Yes, I would like to "**purchase a new**" OR "**renew my**" (circle one) membership in MHADRTA for the 2025-26 school year.

Please indicate the type of membership desired. _____ Regular (\$15.00/year)
_____ First Year Retiree (FREE)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail: _____

Are you a current ARTA member? YES / NO (please circle one)

(Member's Signature – optional) _____

You may bring your membership form to the next meeting, or mail (or drop off in mailbox) at MHADRTA. 36 Prairie Dr. NE, Medicine Hat AB. T1C 1R2 Payment is cash or cheque or eTransfer to hrhof@shaw.ca

All 2025-26 memberships expire on August 31, 2026.