



# December 2023 MHADRTA *Newsletter*

Volume 6, Number 7



## Next General Meeting "Valentine Theme"

**Date:** Wednesday,  
February 14, 2024

**Time:** 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

**Place:** Ralph's Steakhouse

**Guest Speaker:** Julie LaCasse

**Cost of Luncheon:** \$22.00

If you have not been phoned by a member of the phoning committee by **Thursday, February 8, 2024**, please contact **Mel Deydey** (403-581-3348) to confirm your attendance.

What is Christmas?  
It is tenderness for the past,  
courage for the present,  
hope for the future. It  
is a fervent wish that every  
cup may overflow with  
blessings rich and eternal,  
and that every path may  
lead to peace."

AGNES M. PHARO



## **MHADRTA Executive 2023-2024**

**President: Therese Bullin**

**1st Vice-President: Vacant**

**2nd Vice-President: Lori Karwandy**

**Secretary: Ray Morrison**

**Treasurer: Henk Hof**

**Past President: Mel Deydey**

**Membership Chairman: Jim Kaupp**

**ATA Rep—Local #1: Darlene Dee**

**ATA Rep—Local #2: Laurel Schlaht**

**ATA Rep—Local #39: Dianne Durda**

**SEATCA: Delle Lovig**

**ARTA Reps: Judy Wonnenberg  
Dianne Durda**

**Pioneer Village Schoolhouse:  
Vicki McCaig**

**Cards & Scrapbook: Annita Pinder**

**Pension & Financial Wellness: Ray Hoger**

**Health Benefits: Jim Black**

**Contact: Barb Taylor**

**Website: Ed Dick**

**Phoning: Mel Deydey**

**Programs: Donna Mae Goldade**

**ARTA Board Of Directors: Therese Bullin**

**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**

If you have not already done so, it is time to renew your 2023/24 membership as we hope you will continue to be a part of our organization. Of course, we welcome newly retired teachers with a free one year membership. We also invite previously retired teachers who have not yet joined us since they've retired or those who allowed their membership to lapse. Your 2023-2024 membership will be valid from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024.

Currently, we have 85 members made up of 68 renewals, 8 new members, 7 Lifetime members and two honorary members.

Membership in MHADRTA is \$15.00 per year, payable by cheque or cash.

Membership in ARTA is separate. For more information, visit [www.arta.net](http://www.arta.net)



**By e-mail:**  
**[mhadrta3@gmail.com](mailto:mhadrta3@gmail.com)**

**Visit our website:**  
**[www.mhadrta.wixsite.com/mhadrta](http://www.mhadrta.wixsite.com/mhadrta)**

**Like us on Facebook:**



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





## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Merry [Christmas](#), Everyone!

My wishes for you are to enjoy the season time with family and friends and thankfulness that we are incredibly fortunate and blessed to live in Canada!

Thank you everyone who brought a donation for the Women's Shelter. We gathered coffee cards bus passes cash donations gift certificates and articles of clothing, toys for women and children.

Just a reminder we are looking for volunteers for the Teachers Convention to run the ARTA Cafe!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday!

**Therese Bullin**

President, MHADRTA

theresebullin@gmail.com



January 30—Executive Meeting

**February 14—General Meeting**  
**"Valentine's theme"**

March 26—Executive Meeting

**April 10—General Meeting**  
**"Spring Theme"**

June 4—Executive Meeting

**June 19—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.



It is with a very heavy heart that we share with you the sad and devastating news of the sudden passing of Jackie and Patrick Bishop's son, Ian, who passed away last month at the tender age of 35 years.

I join all members of MHADRTA in extending our sincerest condolences to the Bishop family. A card on behalf of MHADRTA was sent to Jackie.

We hope that the love of family, friends and former colleagues of Jackie give her the support, comfort and strength she needs as she mourns and grieves her painful loss. Please keep Jackie, Patrick and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Greetings Everyone,

As the Editor of the MHADRTA Newsletter, I, first of all, want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all the positive comments I have received regarding the newsletter you receive every couple of months. Your comments encourage me to produce an even better newsletter.

As you may (or may not) be aware, at the ARTA AGM in October, I was elected as the newest member of ARTA's Communication Committee. It is truly an honour to work with the other great and talented members, Laurie Semler, Mary McDougall, and Maria Lentz. We also get to

work with Margaret Sadler, the Editor of ARTA's signature magazine—*news&views*, the Associate Editor, Marilyn Bossert and all the great staff ARTA who provide their expertise into putting together a quality magazine. The magazine is not the only thing on which we collaborate. Other projects include the Writing Contest, the Photo Contest and several other Communications initiatives of ARTA. I am excited to begin my four year term on this committee.

I feel that communication keeps a group together. It is the reason that I was so intent in producing a newsletter regularly during the long time we did not meet during COVID.

I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very blessed and holy Christmas. May the blessings of the season fill your hearts with peace, joy, hope and love!

Mel Deydey  
MHADRTA Newsletter Editor  
ARTA Communications Committee Member



 **Alberta Teachers'  
Retirement Fund**

## ATR Annual Report 2023

The next Pension & Financial Wellness webinar will be on January 9, 2024 at 1 p.m. This webinar will be of interest to retired teachers, as it pertains to the health and longevity of pensions for teachers in Alberta, and will be presented by the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund (ATRF).

## **Pioneer Village Schoolhouse** It **Report** **December, 2023**

was a festive atmosphere at Pioneer Village during the **Old Tyme Family Christmas** on **Thursday, December 7th**. There were Christmas lights, a bonfire with the firemen making S'mores, free hot chocolate and hot dogs, and a visit from Santa Claus. Attendance was phenomenal!

The buildings in Pioneer Village were open for all to visit and enjoy. All the children were excited to be there, lining up to go on the hay ride through the back lane, which was lined with Christmas decorations. It was a clear, brisk night filled with smiling faces.

I would like to thank those, who helped me by volunteering in the schoolhouse for the evening: **Bev Wahl, Donna Smith, Phyllis McLaughlin, Delle Lovig, and Paul Nederveen**. We are fortunate to have retired schoolteachers in the McKay Creek Schoolhouse to answer questions about life in a one room schoolhouse. We often get reacquainted with former students and their families as they tour through the buildings.

The Cypress Center had a large Christmas Market for all to visit and enjoy.

By **Vicki McCaig**  
Pioneer Village Representative,  
MHADRTA

## **2023 ARTA Scholarship Winner**

Congratulations to **Benoit Marcotte**—one of the 2023 Scholarship Winners. Benoit is the son of MHADRTA member, **Carolyn Weiler**.



### **\$2,000 Benoit Marcotte**

Teachers have always had a massive impact in my life: both parents worked as teachers. They taught me to value every piece of knowledge, regardless of how small. I also had excellent teachers throughout my post-secondary schooling, who enabled me to explore the universe around me and bring service to my community.

## **Women's Shelter Christmas Donations**

**A HUGE thank you to everyone who donated gifts, gift cards and cash or cheque donations to our annual drive for the Women's Shelter.**

**Your generosity is very very much appreciated and welcomed the staff and clients at the Women's Shelter.**

**If you did not attend the December 13 meeting, and still wish to make a donation you can do so by sending your donation/gift cards to:**



**Medicine Hat**

Women's Shelter Society

**Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society  
PO Box 2500 LCD 1  
Medicine Hat, AB  
T1A 8G8**

# WE ♥ OUR volunteers

## **Volunteers for our February 14th General Meeting**

### **GREETERS:**

Judy Dickie  
Jackie Bishop

### **DECORATIONS:**

Peggy Kelly  
Fay Felesky

### **50/50:**

Lionel Brideson  
Allyson Love

### **PRAYER/GRACE:**

Delle Lovig

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We thank all those who have already renewed their memberships for the current year.

If you have not yet renewed for the 2023/2024 year, please fill in the membership form below and mail it with your cheque to the address at the bottom of the form; or you can deliver it to the address, and leave it in the mailbox. You can also renew your membership through our website, and eTransfer your membership fee to Henk Hof.

We also welcome new members! Feel free to share this newsletter with any of your retired teacher colleagues who are not members.

## **Membership Form for 2023/2024 School Year**

Yes, I would like to **RENEW** or **PURCHASE A NEW** (Circle ONE) membership in MHADRTA for the 2023/2024 term.

Cost of the Membership: **\$15.00 per year.** Cash or cheque only.  
First Year of Retirement: **FREE**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone :** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Providing an e-mail address will enable you to receive the newsletter electronically. Your e-mail address is never shared or revealed to anyone as all mailings are sent as a Bcc (blind carbon copy).**

Please enclose payment (cheque or money order) and send to: MHADRTA, 36 Prairie Dr. NE, Medicine Hat, AB T1C 1R2 OR bring it with you to the first meeting you attend in the fall.

**Membership will be valid until August 31, 2024.**