



# December 2025 MHADRTA *Newsletter*

Volume 8, Number 6

## *Editor*

**Mel Deydey**  
**49ermh@gmail.com**

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season fast approaching, we need to take time to pause and reflect on the significance of the season. We need to think of the importance of the special people—family and friends—in our lives and share the joy and spirit of Christmas.

We look forward to two special upcoming events—Olde Tyme Christmas at Pioneer Village and our annual Christmas Meeting with a delicious Turkey Buffet. We hope you are able to join us.

I want to wish everyone a very blessed and holy Christmas and the very best of good health and happiness in 2026.

~ Mel

## **General Meeting "Christmas Theme"**

**Date: Wednesday,  
December 10, 2025**

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

**Place: Ralph's Steakhouse**

**Cost of Luncheon: \$20.00  
for a Christmas Turkey Buffet.  
(No other choices  
will be available.)**

**Spouses, partners/significant  
others welcome  
to join us for the meal.**

If you have not been phoned by a member of the phoning committee by **Wednesday, December 3, 2025**, please contact **Therese Bullin** (403-952-1668) to confirm your attendance.

We will be collecting cash donations for the Women's Shelter Society.  
No gifts please.

Check their website:  
[www.mhwss.ca](http://www.mhwss.ca)



## **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 Branch Area 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**

If you have not already done so, please renew your 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 membership will be valid from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.

Membership renewal information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

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)**



## Christmas Meeting Wednesday, December 10, 2025



For our Christmas Meeting, the only lunch choice will be a Roast Turkey Buffet Lunch with all the trimmings (meat, mash potatoes, gravy, cranberries, vegetable) coffee and dessert.

First of all, spouses are welcome to join us for this meal. When your phoner calls you, please tell the phoner whether one or two individuals will be attending. The cost of the meal is \$20.00—which includes meal, tax and gratuity! The actual cost of the meal is \$30.00, but MHADRTA is subsidizing every person's meal by \$10.00. That is the reason it is very important that we have exact numbers for those staying for the meal.

Normally, phoners call Therese and give her the number of people staying for lunch. This month we are asking phoners to provide the names of all those members who will be staying for lunch. We must have an accurate count.

We also need to have the number of people staying for lunch by Wednesday, December 3 so we can provide that number to Ralph's so they know how much to prepare.

The reason for requiring names is so that we can track if there are no-shows. You may be charged if you do not attend when you said you would.



October 21—Executive meeting

**October 29—General Meeting  
"Hallowe'en Theme"**

November 18—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.

# the President's message

As the holiday draws near, many retired teachers find themselves reminiscing about Christmas seasons spent in the classroom. The scent of construction paper and glue, the sound of carols sung by bright young voices, and the sparkle of tinsel carefully hung by eager hands—all return like a warm winter glow.

"I remember the joy of watching little faces light up as they made ornaments for the class tree," recalls Mrs. Thompson, who taught Grade 2 for thirty years/ "It wasn't about perfect crafts; it was about the excitement in their eyes."

Others remember the magic of Christmas concerts—snowflakes cut from paper, shaky recorders playing *Silent Night*, and proud parents wiping away tears.

For many teachers, Christmas wasn't just a holiday; it was a lesson in kindness, gratitude and giving. "Every December," says Mr. Alvarez, "we would do a *Secret Santa of Service*—students would draw names and do quiet good deeds for each other all month. The spirit of Christmas filled our classroom."

Now, retired from the hustle and bustle of school life, these educators carry those memories like treasured ornaments—each one a reminder of laughter, learning and love shared across the generations.

**Lionel Brideson**  
President, MHADRTA  
labrideson@yahoo.ca

## Road Trip to Rosebud



On **Wednesday, December 3** several ARTA members and spouses will travel to **Rosebud, Alberta** to take in the **Rosebud Matinee Dinner Theatre** presentation of ***Miracle on 34th Street***. This trip is in conjunction with the Veiner Centre in Medicine Hat who have organized this special event and have allowed ARTA members to join the road trip to Rosebud. The trip is full with a waiting list. I am hoping to have a picture or two for our next newsletter.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



**ARTA** ALBERTA  
RETIRED TEACHERS'  
ASSOCIATION



**November 20**



Thirty-five ARTA members and spouses got to enjoy free admission pop and popcorn at the ARTA sponsored movie ***It's a Wonderful Life*** at the Galaxy Cineplex in Medicine Hat last week. **Thank you ARTA** for providing this awesome opportunity!





**1.** What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?

Answer: Claustrophobic.

**2.** Why did the ornament go to school?

Answer: To get a little brighter.

**3.** What type of photos do elves take?

Answer: Elfies.

**4.** What do you call a snowman party?

Answer: A snowball.

**5.** What do you call Santa's helpers?

Answer: Subordinate Clauses.

**6.** Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?

Answer: They always drop their needles.

**7.** What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

Answer: Frostbite.

**8.** Why did the gingerbread man go to the doctor?

Answer: He was feeling crummy.

**9.** What do elves learn in school?

Answer: The elf-abet.

**10.** What do you call a broke Santa Claus?

Answer: Saint Nickel-less.



## Women's Shelter Christmas Donations

**At our Annual Christmas Meeting, traditionally we have supported the Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society.**



**Medicine Hat**  
Women's Shelter Society

**They have been eternally grateful for our support and would welcome any support through cash donations our members could give this Christmas Season.**

**Any identifiable cheque or cash donation (with name and address) of \$20.00 or more will receive a individual tax receipt directly from the Women's Shelter.**

**For this year, please do not bring gifts, toiletries and clothing.**

**If you do not plan to attend the December 10 meeting, we ask that you send your donation/gift cards directly to:**

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







**Volunteers  
for our **December 10th**  
General Meeting**

**GREETERS:**

Phyllis McLaughlin  
Laurel Schlaht

**DECORATIONS:**

Dianne Durda  
Laura Hoffman

**50/50:**

Carolyn Weiler  
Pat Bouman

**PRAYER/GRACE:**

Mel Deydey



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

If you have not yet renewed for the 2025/2026 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— at [hrhof@shaw.ca](mailto:hrhof@shaw.ca)

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 2025/26 School Year

Yes, I would like to **RENEW** or **PURCHASE A NEW** (Circle ONE) membership in MHADRTA for the 2025/2026 term.

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

Are you an ARTA member? **Yes** or **No** (Circle one)

**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 during the year.

**Membership will be valid until **August 31, 2026**.**