



September 2025 MHADRTA Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 4

Editor

Mel Deydey
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Hello Fellow/Lady Retirees:

As another school year is about to begin, we—as retired teachers—look forward to another school year of doing what we want, when we want, and enjoying the company of family, friends and former colleagues.

I trust that all of you have had a wonderful summer, and as fall approaches that you continue to enjoy your retirement.

We hope that you will be able to join us on September 3 for our "To Hell With The Bell" opening meeting of the fall term! All the details are next to this message.

Feedback and suggestions for future issues is always welcome! Please send it to me directly at the email address above.

Mel

"To Hell With The Bell" Fall Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 03 Sept 2025

Time: 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

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

Program: Martha Munz Gue
"Our Nature and Environment"

Cost of Luncheon: \$22.00

If you have not been phoned by a member of the phoning committee by **Friday, August 29, 2025**, please contact **Therese Bullin** (403-952-1668) to confirm your attendance.



the President's message

Welcome! My name is Lionel Brideson and I am your new MHADRTA President.

As you step into this well earned chapter of life, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the years of dedication, wisdom, and care you gave to shaping minds and changing lives. Your legacy lives on in the students you've inspired, the colleagues you've uplifted and the communities you've strengthened. Retirement marks not an end, but a celebration of everything you've contributed—and the freedom to enjoy what

comes next. May your days be filled with the same joy, curiosity and fulfillment you once sparked in the classroom.

Thank you for being more than teachers—thank you for being mentors, guides and role models. You have made a lasting difference.

My background includes 43 years working in Education. I was a teacher, consultant, principal and superintendent having worked in Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Yukon.

I encourage you to attend all our events and bring other teachers to join us.

Lionel Brideson
labrideson@yahoo.com



August 19—Executive Meeting

September 03—General Meeting
"To Hell With The Bell"

October 14—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"

Please print or save or screen shot this block as it has all the meeting dates for the 2025-2026 term.

March 24—Executive Meeting

April 02—General Meeting
"Spring Theme"

June 03—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 Branch Rep:
Dianne Durda**

**Pioneer Village Schoolhouse:
Vicki McCaig**

Cards & Scrapbook: Anne Tomcala

ARTA Vice-President: Ray Hoger

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

At our June meeting, we focussed on early renewal of memberships. We managed to get over 40 renewals. Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership early.

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 for details. There is a membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

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



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

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www.mhadrta.wixsite.com/mhadrta**

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@mhadrta





McKay Creek Schoolhouse at the Stampede

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped Bob and I in the McKay Creek Schoolhouse during Stampede week: Donna Smith, Rhonda Hunter, Delle Lovig, Paul Nederveen, Tania Haynes, Gary McDougall, Julia Bruins-Jacober, Marion Radke, Deanna Immel, Bev Wahl, Mel Deydey, Donna Mae Goldade, Fay Felesky, Lionel Brideson and Shirley Greenfield, Laurel Schlaht, Phyllis McLaughlin, Penny Drysdale and Jen Zollner. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. It is fascinating to meet people from all over the world and from the surrounding area.

Over 660 people signed the guest book, but many more visited along with those who signed it. All the comments were so positive. People were thrilled that this part of history is being preserved. They were interested in all the artifacts in the school. It was nice to see such interest from young adults and teenagers and of course children were excited to sit in the desks and read the books. There were many people who like to visit the schoolhouse every year, and there were others who were unaware Pioneer Village even existed.

Many people were from Medicine Hat and area. There were also visitors from every Canadian province except Prince Edward Island. Families came from Australia, Japan, India, England, Ireland, Russia, Greece, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, El Salvador, Mexico, Brazil, Africa and the Philippines. There were people from South Dakota, Utah, California, Washington and Alaska in the United States. All of them were eager to talk about the schoolhouse and all the items in it. One of the ladies even recognized her great-uncle in the classroom pictures beside the blackboard.

If you volunteered in the schoolhouse, don't forget to phone in your RSVP to the stampede office for the Volunteer Banquet in September. You need to bring the invitation that was in your envelope to the banquet.

Thank you again to all those people who volunteered. We couldn't do it without you.

It was another exciting four days at the McKay Creek Schoolhouse.

(See next two pages for pictures)

Submitted by **Vicki McCaig**



McKay Creek Schoolhouse at the Stampede



Submitted by **Vicki McCaig**



McKay Creek Schoolhouse at the Stampede



Submitted by **Vicki McCaig**



At our June 19 Annual General Meeting we elected our slate of officers for the 2025-26 school year. We have a full slate! None of the positions were contested. All positions were acclaimed.

President: Lionel Brideson

1st Vice-President: Dianne Durda

2nd Vice-President: Bev Wahl

Secretary: Lori Karwandy

Treasurer: Henk Hof

Thank you for volunteering to allow your names to stand for election in serving the retired teachers of Medicine Hat and area.

~ Mel Deydey, Past President, MHADRTA



We want to wish **Ray Morrison** for his many years of service as Secretary of MHADRTA. Ray faithfully recorded the events of each meeting and ensured that all members received them. We wish Ray the very best as he continues his membership in MHADRTA in a less stressful manner! Thank you, Ray!



We would like to welcome **Laura Hoffman** who will be taking over the role of Chair of the Membership Committee. We look forward to having you serve the retired teachers of our branch.



Congratulations to all the new retirees in the three divisions/districts that MHADRTA encompasses! We hope that you will consider joining our branch. Your first year of membership is FREE!

If you know any of the following or worked with them, please extend your congratulations on an outstanding career. May retire

ment be everything they hope for; and encourage them to join MHADRTA!

Annette Graf
Monique Hosanee
 Dawn Forbes
 Lynnell Bowles
 Michelle Neitz
 Linda Asham
 Bernadine Armstrong
Ron Mason
 Jim Black
 Joanne MacQuarrie

Anne Maier
 Kristi Gerlach
 Doug Ashmore
 David Ridgedale
 Todd Samuelson
 Shonna Barth
 Quinn Skelton
 Kelly Pitman
 Corey Sadlemyer
 Troy Bartman

(**BOLD:** already joined)



We have several condolences to send out in this edition.

We extend our sympathies to the following:

Maureen Woelfle on the passing of her sister, Peggy (Unreiner) Curthoys, a former librarian with Shortgrass Library Systems who passed away in mid-June. Maureen was a long time teacher with MHCBE retiring from St. Louis School.

Brian Moen (and his family) on the passing of Brian's wife, Pamela.

Brian was a teacher and football coach at Monsignor McCoy High School before moving to Bow Island where he retired from Senator Gershaw High School.

George Ibach on the passing of his sister, Teresa Cone. George was a long time principal of St. Mary's School before retiring in 2001, and was a colleague of several members of MHADRTA.

...the family of **Bob Williams**, husband of the late **Joyce Williams**—a long time teacher of MHCBE (Mother Teresa School and St. Patrick's School), retiree and a colleague of many members of MHADRTA.

...the family of **Meri van Maarion**, a long time teacher and administrator with SD76 at Southview School and Crestwood School. Meri passed away on June 30 and was a colleague and/or friend to many within MHADRTA. We extend our sympathies to her husband, Rick, and his family.

*Wishing You a
Speedy Recovery!*



We want to wish **Anne Tomcala** a very complete and successful recovery from her broken leg and ankle. Anne has been in Calgary at a hospital and care centre for the past six weeks as she continues to recover and rehabilitate from her injury. Please keep Anne in your thoughts and prayers.

**WHAT DO YOU CALL A
TEACHER
WHO'S HAPPY ON MONDAY?
"RETIRED"**

I am always looking forward to receiving pictures/articles for the newsletter. Please send them to me directly at the following e-mail:

49ermh@gmail.com

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



At recent MHADRTA meetings, three of our members were recognized with awards. **Delores Carriere** (above) was recognized with a Long Service Award and her Life Membership in MHADRTA. Two others, **Judy Wonnenberg** (right) and **Annita Pinder** (below) were recognized with Long Service Awards.

Congratulations!



WE OUR volunteers

**Volunteers
for our September 3rd
General Meeting**

GREETERS:

Delle Lovig
Carol Hilsendeger

DECORATIONS:

Barb Taylor
Therese Bullin

50/50:

Paul Nederveen
Donna Mae Goldada

PRAYER/GRACE:

Ray Morrison



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

**Monique Hosanee
Ron Mason
Anne Maier**

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

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.