



# Spring Newsletter

MARCH 2026

[myerta.org](http://myerta.org)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGES TO LUNCHEON PAYMENTS

At the Holiday Luncheon in December 2025, we incurred a significant cost to our budget because we had 19 registrants not show or pay for the luncheon. Due to this unfortunate event, and as ERTA is a non-profit organization where we operate on a cost recovery basis, the Board has made the difficult decision to collect all luncheon fees in advance. This will ensure we have accurate numbers for the venue and will also ensure we can maintain the menu, venue and cost that you have come to enjoy. All registrants will now need to ensure their cheque or e-transfer is received by the registration deadline. If you need help with e-transfer or cheque, please reach out to a family member or friend to assist you.

## Spring Luncheon

Join us for our spring luncheon on March 18, 2026, featuring a presentation on *New Annuals for 2026* from Greenland Garden Centre.

**Time:** 11:45 a.m.  
**Menu:** Pan seared cod with a lemon dill sauce  
**Cost:** \$35.00 (includes GST and gratuity)  
**Location:** Chateau Louis, 11727 Kingsway Avenue  
**Topic:** Tina Burbank, from Greenland Garden Centre, will feature colourful new annual varieties for 2026 and share unique selections for you to try in your containers and flower beds.



**Registration:** Please use [this link](#) to register. The registration deadline is **March 11**.

**Payment:** The luncheon fee will be collected in advance through a cheque or e-transfer. We will no longer be collecting cheques or cash at the door.

E-transfer to - ertatreasurer1@gmail.com (Payment must be received on or before March 11, 2026)

Cheque mailed to - ERTA Treasurer P.O. Box 57003, Edmonton RPO Jasper Gate, Edmonton, AB, T5P 0K7 (Cheques must be received by March 11 so please mail them on or before March 4, 2026)

**All payments are non-refundable**, however, your registration can be transferred to another attendee for the same luncheon if you cannot attend. Please contact Lyndi at 780-932-7314 or at

[presidenterta@gmail.com](mailto:presidenterta@gmail.com) for further information and assistance. Food and/or cash donations to the Food Bank are also appreciated.

---

## President's Message

### Investing in our Future, ERTA March Newsletter 2026

As retired educators, we know that the best lessons are those that balance tradition with a little bit of "new curriculum." This year, our organization is focusing on exactly that—expanding our reach through fresh programs while tightening our pencils on the budget to ensure we remain excellent stewards of your membership dollars.

We have had great responses to our new programs, including a new way of working with the Mayfield Dinner Theatre. Our long time member, Vi Oko, has been organizing the Mayfield Dinner Theatre for the past 18 years. We graciously thank Vi for her countless hours of time and years of service, and look forward to seeing our members at the Mayfield in the new fall season.

As we plan new activities we are seeking a balance for the overall wellbeing of our members. From informative workshops to recreational activities, we are hoping that you find something that interests you.

If there are activities, learning experiences or workshops you would be interested in please email us at [info@myerta.org](mailto:info@myerta.org).

Lyndi Karbonik  
ERTA President

---

## Membership Report

### Current Membership:

Regular	330
Complimentary	50
Life Membership	16
Honourary Life	6
 Total	 <b>402</b>

### Newsletter Distribution:

Canada Post	101	(25%)
Email	291	(72%)
Read Online	8	(2%)
Not receiving by request	2	(0.004%)



Is your membership expiring in 2026? Members can **visit our website at [myerta.org](http://myerta.org) to access the renewal form**. You can also scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone, tablet or digital camera. This will take you to the ERTA registration form. Follow the instructions on the form to complete your registration. E-transfers or cheques are payment options for renewing.

Beginning in March, reminders to renew will be sent out to members via email or mail. **Remember to renew your ERTA membership before June 30 if your membership is expiring this year.**

Have you changed your email, phone and/or mailing address? To update your information, visit the membership site at [myerta.org](http://myerta.org) or scan the QR code above to access the google form for members. Complete only the update information and submit the form. Alternatively, you can email [membership@myerta.org](mailto:membership@myerta.org) and share your update.

We encourage you to share news about ERTA's complimentary first year membership option with your friends and colleagues! New patrons can join by visiting the ERTA website at [myerta.org](http://myerta.org).

To assist you with your membership questions, or to help guide you through the registration process, contact Cam Colville at [membership@myerta.org](mailto:membership@myerta.org).

---

## Board Meeting Summary

Highlights from the ERTA Board of Directors meeting, are as follows:

- The Board has made the difficult decision to begin collecting luncheon fees in advance due to a shortfall from the Holiday Luncheon.
- The Budget Committee presented the budget for the 2026-26 year.
- The Bylaw Committee presented their proposed amendments to the bylaws which will be voted on at the AGM on June 10th.

---

## Mark Your Calendar

Mar 12	- <a href="#">Wine Tasting (Germany)</a>
Mar 17	- <a href="#">Waste in Edmonton and Backyard Composting</a>
Mar 18	- <a href="#">Spring Luncheon</a>
Mar 25	- <a href="#">Mayfield Dinner Theatre One Night with Roy Orbison</a>
Apr 30	- Deadline for Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships
May 7	- <a href="#">Mayfield Dinner Theatre Footloose, the Musical</a>
May 14	- <a href="#">Wine Tasting (Canada)</a>
June 10	- Summer Luncheon and AGM
July 16	- <a href="#">New Beers and Ciders Tasting</a>

---

## Wine and Beer Tasting Events



Bring your friends and meet up with your former colleagues to learn about the marvelous wines of countries around the world! Thomas Coburger, from Wine and Beyond, will lead fun-filled evenings of wine tasting, set in the beautiful MacTaggart Ridge tasting room. Each wine event participant will receive a wealth of knowledge along with six wine samples plus a small charcuterie and cheese plate. Registration is open now, space is limited so register early!

**Dates:** Please note that the second date of each set is a repeat presentation, and will only be held if the first session becomes full.

- May 14 (and 20) - Wines of Canada
- July 16 (and 21) - New Beers and Ciders

**Location:** MacTaggart Ridge Wine and Beyond at 5962 Mullen Way  
**Time:** Tasting room doors open at 6:00 p.m. for registration and social time. Presentation and tasting of wines (or beer) will occur from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** ERTA member (plus a guest): \$35, non-member: \$40  
**Food:** Please note that food allergies or preferences cannot be accommodated at these events.  
**Payment:** The registration fee will be collected by staff at the store upon arrival. Debit cards, credit cards and cash will be accepted.  
**Registration:** Please use [this link](#) to register, or contact Marlene at [secretary2erta@gmail.com](mailto:secretary2erta@gmail.com) or at 780-699-2148 to receive an email containing the link to register for these events. Registration closes one week prior to each date listed and confirmations will be sent to participants.

---

## Waste in Edmonton and Backyard Composting

Do you really want to be GREEN on St. Patrick's Day?

Are you interested in learning where your waste goes and how to properly sort it?

Join us for a one hour session with a master composter/recycler volunteer. Topics will include: recycling, food scraps, yard waste, garbage, and backyard composting. The presentation includes slides, some short videos and handouts. Come with your questions and be ready to learn in a fun environment with your friends and colleagues!

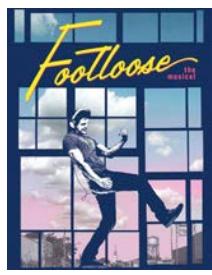
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17  
**Location:** Edmonton Central Lions Senior Recreation Center (11113 - 113 Street)  
**Time:** 10 am - 11 am  
**Cost:** FREE!  
**Registration:** Please register using this [link](#). Confirmation emails will be sent to all registered participants. For further information, contact Shelley at [director3erta@gmail.com](mailto:director3erta@gmail.com)



---

## Mayfield Dinner Theatre

**Mayfield Dinner Theatre: May 7 Footloose, the Musical (only 4 seats left!)**



Reservations have been made for the **evening** performance of *Footloose, the Musical* on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 5:30pm. Based on the 1980's movie sensation, a young rebel moves to a small farming town, meets the preacher's rebellious daughter and their friendship leads to a community awakening and a battle for the freedom to dance! Filled with powerhouse '80s hits, *FOOTLOOSE* celebrates the power of forgiveness and the exhilaration of youth and is sure to have you dancing in your seat! This event is discounted for ERTA members and their guests. Tickets are limited and available to purchase online!

---

## Volunteer Opportunities Reviews

### ERTA Members Volunteer at Wrap and Roll 2025!

ERTA members volunteered again this year at the 2025 Wrap and Roll, providing gift wrapping services to Kingsway Mall shoppers in exchange for donations to the [Edmonton Public Schools Foundation](#). 100% of the donations received went directly to the Foundation, and ERTA members had great fun wrapping a wide range of gifts while connecting with colleagues!

ERTA member volunteers, along with many other volunteers, together raised a total of \$8,000 and wrapped over 900 gifts! To our volunteers who generously gave their time and the many shoppers who stopped by our station to have a gift wrapped or make a donation - thank you! Because of you, students across Edmonton Public Schools are entering the new year feeling more supported, confident and ready to learn.

### Greenland Garden Centre Event

On December 11, ERTA sponsored an event to make a festive holiday table centrepiece at Greenland Garden Centre. The event was well attended and participants enjoyed a morning of crafting and went home with a beautiful table centerpiece for the holidays. Thanks to Greenland Garden Centre for hosting us and to everyone who participated.

### Introduction to Pickleball



The Introduction to Pickleball session on Jan. 22 was another success! ERTA members had great fun in the 2-hour introductory course, with an excellent and enthusiastic coach and at a great facility, the EVP center! Participants learned about the rules of the game, practiced their shots and had enjoyed being together in a supportive and active environment. If there is interest, ERTA may offer a follow-up session in the future.

Photo by [Ben Hershey](#) on [Unsplash](#)

---

## ARTA News

### The Page Turners: An ARTA Members Only Book Club!

Are you a bookworm? Do you want to have thought-provoking, bookish discussions with fellow readers this year? ARTA is excited to launch **The Page Turners**, an online book club exclusively for ARTA members!

These virtual meetings will be held quarterly to ensure participants have plenty of time in their busy retirement schedules to complete ARTA's book selection. If you're interested in participating, [please fill out this Google form here](#) with your information, and select which dates and times that you're most likely to attend. The meeting time will be determined by what works best for the majority of book club participants. Once you've registered and a meeting time has been selected, you will receive an email with more information and a Zoom link. For this quarter, the first meeting will take place during the last week of April.

The Page Turners' first book selection is [A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman](#), "a funny, moving, uplifting tale of love and community that will leave you with a spring in your step" (Indigo). This best-seller can be found in most bookstores or at your local library. We look forward to diving into this story with you — happy reading!

## ARTA Photo Contest 2026

Want to share how you view the world through a lens? ARTA is now accepting submissions for their annual photo contest, and this year's categories are Travel, Movement, Simple Joys, and Beauty in Chaos. All ARTA members are eligible to enter in either of two entry divisions—novice or master. Entries must be received no later than 4 pm, May 31, 2026. Winners will be featured in the Autumn 2026 edition of *news & views* magazine.

Go to <https://www.arta.net/photo-contest> to find detailed information about the contest rules, submission process and to obtain an entry form.



---

## Awards

### **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

The honorary life membership award is intended to formally recognize ERTA members who have made a significant contribution to the association.

The ERTA bylaws state that three criteria must be met for a nominee to qualify for this award:

1. Candidates must be a current member of ERTA,
2. They must have been a member of the branch for at least five (5) years and
3. They must have made a significant contribution to the association.

Any ERTA member may nominate an individual for this award by submitting an email to Ed Butler at [ppresidenterta@gmail.com](mailto:ppresidenterta@gmail.com). Please include the name of the person you wish to nominate along with the reasons for their nomination.

Submissions must be received by 6:00 p.m. on April 30, 2026. Any awards will be presented at the September luncheon.

---

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: Ed Butler**

One of the roles as past president is to prepare the slate of candidates for the ERTA board. Nominations will be presented to the membership at our AGM at the Summer Luncheon on June 10, 2026. These positions are always for a one year term, but incumbents may run for additional terms if they so choose. If you are interested in serving on the board or on a committee, please contact Ed Butler at [ppresidenterta@gmail.com](mailto:ppresidenterta@gmail.com). You can see what each position involves by going to ERTA's bylaws posted on the webpage at [myerta.org](http://myerta.org) under Bylaws: Section 4.2. You can also talk to any member of the board and they will forward your name and interest to Ed. We welcome your willingness to get involved

---

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ***President***

***Lyndi Karbonik,***  
***presidenterta@gmail.com***

### ***Past President***

***Ed Butler***

### ***Vice-President***

***Janice Aubry***

### ***Secretaries***

***Sue Stephenson***

***Marlene Kirwin***

### ***Treasurer***

***Bonnie Zack***

### ***Membership Director***

***Cam Colville***

### ***Directors***

***Lily Ma***

***Ann Parker***

***Shelley Smith***

***Carol Williamson***

***Greg Wilson***

***Gail Wozny***

