Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association

Winter Newsletter

DECEMBER 2026

myerta.org

Winter Luncheon

Join us for our winter luncheon on Wednesday, December 9, 2026, featuring a junior high string quartet, led by Sarah Huebel, and a singing choir, led by Judy-Lynn Sawchuk, providing holiday music.



Time: Program begins at 11:45 a.m.
Menu: Roast turkey buffet
Cost: $35.00 (includes GST and gratuity)
Location: Chateau Louis, 11727 Kingsway Avenue
Topic: Enjoy an instrumental and choral presentation of traditional holiday music by students from Archbishop MacNeil Catholic School.

Registration: Please use this link to register. Please note, the registration deadline is December 1, 2026.

Payment: The luncheon fee will be collected **in advance** through e-transfer or a cheque. We will no longer be collecting cheques or cash at the door. All payments must be received on or before December 1, 2026.

E-transfer to - ertatreasurer1@gmail.com
(indicate in the e-transfer message box [memo] your payment is for the Winter Luncheon and include the names for whom you are paying)

Cheque made out to Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association and mailed to: ERTA Treasurer, P.O. Box 50117, Edmonton RPO Clareview, Edmonton, AB, T5Y 2M9 (Include the event Winter Luncheon on the cheque and indicate the names for whom you are paying)

All payments are non-refundable, however, your registration can be transferred to another luncheon date provided you notify Lyndi at ppresidenterta@gmail.com by November 30, 2026.

For any further information and assistance, please contact Lyndi Karbonik at ppresidenterta@gmail.com or by calling 780-932-7314.

Food and/or cash donations to the Food Bank are also appreciated and will be collected at the door.

President's Message

As we move toward December, I am reminded that the holiday season, for me, is very much a season of gratitude and giving. As the season approaches, we all start to think about ways we can support others. A few of my personal favourites are the Edmonton Food Bank, the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation, the Alberta Cancer Foundation, and the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation (which just launched a new Endowment Fund at https://foundation.epsb.ca/giving/endowment-fund/).

Each year, ERTA donates $1000 to the ARTA University of Alberta Endowment Fund. ERTA members donate to the Edmonton Food Bank at the ERTA luncheons. But financial support is just one way of giving! Educators are well-known for giving generously of their time in many ways. ERTA members, for example, are volunteering again at the Wrap and Roll Event at Kingsway Mall; ERTA members are giving their time again this year as Reading Buddies; and ERTA board members and volunteers give their time to provide opportunities for fostering connections, wellness, learning, advocacy and volunteerism for other ERTA members - a special shout out to the dedicated luncheon phoning committee!

Whether or not you have been directly involved in giving your time or money to such organizations or purposes over the years, ERTA members have dedicated years, or lifetimes, to students in Alberta. What a contribution! For that incredible impact on our world, I am very grateful to you all.

On behalf of the ERTA Board of Directors, I wish you a wonderful holiday season!

Membership Report

Welcome to Our New Members!

We are delighted to welcome **46 new members** to ERTA this year! This brings our membership to **451 members**, and we are so pleased to see our ERTA community continue to grow.

It is wonderful to see so many members taking part in the events, activities, learning opportunities, and volunteer activities offered throughout the year. Your participation and enthusiasm help make ERTA such a vibrant and welcoming organization. There is always something happening at ERTA! To see what is coming up and learn more about the many opportunities available to members, please visit our website at **myerta.org!**

Keep Your Contact Information and Membership Up to Date

Have you recently changed your **phone number, email address, or mailing address**? Please let us know so we can continue to keep you informed about ERTA events, activities, news, and membership information. You can also renew your membership using the online form.

Updating your information is easy:

1. **Open the ERTA Membership Form Click Here** .
2. Enter your current information and make any necessary changes.
3. In the **Membership and Fee** section, select **"Update My Information."**
4. In the **Payment** section, select **"N/A – I'm updating my information only!"**
5. Complete and submit the remainder of the form.

Thank you for helping us keep our membership records current—and, most importantly, for being part of the **ERTA community!**

If you have questions about your membership or need assistance, please feel free to contact me at **membership@myerta.org**. I am always happy to help.

Board Meeting Summary

The ERTA Board of Directors met on November 4, 2026. Highlights of the meeting include:

- Information regarding the Second Wind Conference, to be held September 9, 2027, was shared. This will be a very exciting opportunity for ERTA members to once again be able to attend a dynamic conference designed for seniors! The theme this year is " Live. Learn. Laugh."
- The ERTA Board of Directors reviewed its casino application.
- Six ERTA Board members reported on their attendance at the October 2026 ARTA AGM.

Mark Your Calendar

Dec 9	- Winter Luncheon
Dec 10	- Greenland Table Centrepiece
Jan 5	- ERTA Coffee Time
Jan 12	- Wine Tasting (Chile)
Feb 4	- Stanley Milner Library Tour
Mar 10	- Wine Tasting (Spain)
Mar 10	- Spring Luncheon
Mar 18	- ERTA Fun Bowl 2.0

Greenland Garden Centre Fresh Greens Table Centrepiece

Create a stunning candlelit centrepiece that combines fragrant cedar, fir and pine with berries and pinecones. Perfect for beginners; you'll learn the basic skills of centrepiece design. **Participants are required to bring their own pruners and gardening gloves.**

Event Date: December 10, 2026
Event Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Location: Greenland Garden Centre, 23108 Hwy 16, Sherwood Park AB
Greenland members receive 10% off at the time of payment

Click here for registration information.

ERTA Coffee Time!



Are you interested in joining other retired teachers for a back-to-school coffee and morning snack? Come have fun with your friends and colleagues! There will be a maximum of 12-15 participants for each coffee get-together, so register as soon as possible!

Dates: January 5
Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm
Location: Square One Coffee - 15 Fairway Drive NW

Cost: There is no cost to ERTA members and non-members; please pay for your own drinks and snacks upon arrival.
Parking: There is a large parking lot in front of the coffee shop and there is parking along Fairway Drive.
Registration: To register, please click here or go to the website at myerta.org.

For further information, contact Shelley at director3erta@gmail.com.

Wine 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 six wine samples plus a small charcuterie and cheese plate, as well as a wealth of knowledge. Registration is open now, space is limited so register early!



Dates:

- Jan 12 - Wines of Chile
- Mar 10 - Wines of Spain
- May 11 - Wines of Italy

Time: Tasting room doors open at 6:00 p.m. for registration and social time. Presentation and tasting of wines will occur from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location: **MacTaggart Ridge Wine and Beyond** at 5962 Mullen Way
Cost: ERTA members $35+GST, non-members—$40+ GST.
Please note: Registrations must be paid in advance.
Food allergies or preferences cannot be accommodated at these events.
Payment: By e-transfer
Registration: To register you may use this link, or go to the website at myerta.org.

For further information, contact Marlene at secretary2erta@gmail.com or (780) 699-2148.

Stanley Milner Library Tours

Join us for a FREE guided tour of the Stanley Milner Library, organized by the Edmonton Retired Teachers' Association! This amazing tour will cover all three public floors of the library, as well as the Children's Library and Makerspace. Each tour is approximately **45 minutes to 1 hour** in length. The Milner Library is fully accessible and equipped with elevators, ramps, and escalators to accommodate attendees with mobility needs. Watch this virtual tour, then come see it in person with a library tour guide!

Dates: Thursday, February 4, 2027 at 2:30 p.m. (please meet at 2:15 p.m.)
Location: Stanley Milner Library, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square Centennial Plaza, Edmonton
Cost: FREE
Registration: To register, please click here or go to the website at myerta.org.

For further information, contact Janice at presidenterta@gmail.com

Wrap and Roll Events!



The Wrap and Roll events in support of the Edmonton Public Schools Foundation are fast approaching. Invite a friend or two and come enjoy some Christmas wrapping fun at Kingsway Mall. Time slots go fast, so consider signing up early!

December 15 - 2:30 pm to 7 pm
December 21 - 11 am to 4:30 pm **FULL**
December 23 - 11 am to 4:30 pm **FULL**
December 17 - 2:30 pm to 7 pm **FULL**
December 21 - 4:30 pm to 7 pm
December 23 - 4:30 pm to 7 pm

For more information click here.
To register, please contact Janice Aubry at presidenterta@gmail.com.

ERTA Spring Luncheon Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for our Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, March 10, 2027 featuring Slow Roasted Beef au Jus with Garlic Mashed Potatoes! Come enjoy delicious food, information and a chance to catch up with friends. It is sure to be a wonderful time.

Registration opens here on Wednesday, December 9, 2026. Register as soon as you can as our luncheons are always popular!

ERTA Fun Bowl 2.0

Join us for another fun afternoon of 5-pin bowling with friends and former colleagues at Plaza Bowling Co., a vintage bowling alley playing vintage music! This light-hearted afternoon will include at least two different bowling games, and some light snacks. Come alone, bring a friend or spouse/partner, and have some laughs! No previous skill or experience needed!

Date: **March 18, 2027**

Time: 1:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (bowling 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Bowling will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please come early (1:40 p.m.) to get your bowling shoes, and to receive your team and lane assignment.

Participants will be assigned to teams to aim for a mixture of ability levels.

Location: Plaza Bowling Co., 10418-118 ave. NW Edmonton

There is inexpensive daytime pay parking in front of the building, and some other, limited street parking. Alternatively, there are several bus routes nearby, and the walk from LRT-Nait to Plaza Bowl is estimated as 18 minutes.

Cost: ERTA members $20; Non-members $25 (includes bowling, shoes, and light snacks). Note: if rental shoes are not needed, cost remains the same.

Non-alcoholic beverages, wine, craft beer and light snacks are available on-site for purchase from Plaza Bowling Co., with a slight discount for some drinks during this event.

Payment: By e-transfer or by cheque.
Registration: To register, please click here or go to the website at myerta.org.

For further information, contact Janice at presidenterta@gmail.com.

Fall Luncheon Guest Speaker



We were fortunate to have author Laurel Deedrick-Mayne as our guest speaker at the Fall Luncheon in September. She spoke about how she came to write the novel, *A Wake for the Dreamland,* and her experiences that shaped her writing. Laurel was engaging, funny, and open to answer many questions. As well, she invited audience members to share their personal stories that were related to the novel. Thank you to the Programming Committee for recommending an author as a speaker and for the delicious, and substantial, chicken buffet luncheon!

Review of the Painting Workshop



Eighteen people participated in this creative, fun and entertaining session held in the afternoon on September 28, 2026. Under the direction of Lorraine Shuba, we painted a beautiful sunflower picture with acrylic paints. Half of the fun was the process. It was easy to paint over mistakes and to learn about techniques as we went along. The other half was the joy felt among colleagues and guests as we shared wine, snacks, and conversation. Everyone went home with a small gift or door prize. Lorraine is a very talented artist with a lovely way of inviting us to participate. We hope to run another workshop with Lorraine in the Fall 2027.

Second Wind Conference

Good news! The Second Wind Conference is back for 2027. An enthusiastic group of retired teacher volunteers has started planning for the 13th conference to be held on September 9, 2027 at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre in Edmonton. Save the date on your calendar and plan to attend this exciting one-day mini holiday. Watch for more news over the next few months in branch newsletters, ARTA publications and, in early to mid-April, check on the conference website at secondwindconference.ca where detailed information will be posted.
If you would like to work with a fantastic committee and be a participant in the planning process, contact Lyndi Karbonik at secondwindchair@gmail.com.

ARTA News

ARTA Benefit Plan Renewal and Bill 11 Webinar

In case you weren't able to attend the live webinar on September 23, we've got you covered. The recording of this presentation by ARTA's Chief Operating Officer, Gary Sawatzky, is now available on The ARTA Channel on YouTube.

Questions from ARTA members regarding Bill 11 and the impact these changes will have on ARTA Benefit Plans were answered in depth. Updates on the November 1 benefit plan renewal, including plan design changes, plan experience, and monthly premium rates, were also discussed. Watch the webinar **here**.

Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Reading Buddy

A Reading Buddy program was launched at Ellerslie Campus in 2026. Volunteers dedicate a consistent block of time each week to sit beside a student and listen, cue, encourage and mentor a young reader.

If you are interested in volunteering or wish to learn more about the program, please contact Edna Colville at edna.colville@gmail.com.

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