



**NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

## President's Column

### School Calendar

At the School Board meeting last week, chairperson Janet Shauntz announced that all stakeholder groups will be consulted about the Board's proposal to close Delta schools for a week in the 2005 – 2006 school year to enable data to be gathered about the impact on student learning of the altered school calendar this year. She also indicated that the district plans to set up a committee to study the altered school calendar and "balanced" calendars. Teachers and no doubt parents too know that adding minutes on to the school day does not make up for the full days of instruction lost. However teachers I have spoken with are looking forward to an extended Spring Break this year because of the increased stress and pressures of the job of teaching. I doubt that next year will be different!

### February 15, 2005 DTA General Meeting Items:

#### DTA Building Committee:

Motions were passed that enable DTA to look seriously at purchasing office premises, if space becomes available. A General or Special General Meeting would be convened to seek membership approval of the purchase of office space. There is no office space currently available in the Ladner/East Delta area, but the DTA is now in a position to respond more quickly if an appropriate facility were to come on the market.

#### Reconfiguration:

A series of motions were passed that enable the DTA to continue talking with the Board to find ways to resolve some of the issues around staffing that are likely to arise because of the Board's decision to reconfigure the north-end secondary schools. Before any final decisions that may impact teachers are made, the DTA will seek member approval at a special/Staff Rep. Assembly general meeting, likely prior to mid-April.

#### DTA Constitution/By-laws:

A number of changes to the DTA By-laws were also approved. These changes more accurately reflect the way the DTA operates as an organization. The revisions of the statements of the changes to the objectives of the DTA, including endorsing candidates(not parties) will be revisited at the AGM in May where the issue of the DTA

*being able to endorse candidates (not political parties) will be considered.*

## BCTF AGM DELEGATES

Listed below are Delta's BCTF AGM delegates and Local Reps.

David Bennett	Delview
Sukhy Dhillon	Gibson
Jan Eastman	DTA (LR)
Gurpreet Gill	Pebble Hill
Linda Hoepfner	Chalmers
Edward Hsu	NDSS
Paul Leroy	NDSS
Jeanie Lucas	DSS
Birgit Nielsen	NDSS
Mary O'Donnell	McCloskey
Lea Proust	Sunshine Hills
Jacque Schierer	Hellings
Greg Stafford	Richardson
Paul Steer	NDSS (LR)
Jeanie Stubbs	SDSS
Pat Thiesen	Cliff Drive
Merle Williams	Pebble Hill
Colin Vint	NDSS (LR)

The DTA General Meeting unanimously endorsed Val Windsor in her candidacy for BCTF Member-at-Large.

**DELEGATES MEETING DATE**  
**Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the DTA Office 1:00 pm**

**Delta teachers who are in Victoria March 19-22 are invited to drop by the Empress Hotel to join the DTA delegates to see how the Annual General Meeting of the BCTF works. As a BCTF member, you have a right to speak at the AGM but the elected delegates will do the voting. See BCTF Teacher Magazine for times.**

# Education Week

**February 28 – March 4 is Education Week in BC.** which provides an opportunity to remind the public and the government of what teachers do and of the need to invest in public education.

Thank you to those members who have provided information about the many exciting events and programs going on in your schools. The DTA Public Education Advocacy Committee (PEAC) is using this information to help inform the local media of the many ways in which Delta teachers are supporting children under increasingly adverse conditions.

If you have a story to share, this weekend would be a great time to e-mail your inspirational anecdotes to Pat Truelove [pattruelove@hotmail.com](mailto:pattruelove@hotmail.com). The PEAC committee will make sure they get maximum circulation. The media is also interested in student submissions in the same vein. (Make sure, of course, that you obtain the parents' written consent.)

Thank you for your continuing efforts. The more people know about education, the greater the support.

*Patrick Truelove*

PEAC Committee Chair

## ***JOB SHARE MEETING***

Teachers interested in job sharing next year are invited to an information session **Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. at the DTA office.** Job-share approvals have to be renewed annually.

### **Dates to Remember**

- BCTF Pension Seminar.  
**February 19<sup>th</sup>** Delta Town & Country Inn  
9:00 – 4:00 pm
- DTA Staff Rep Training  
**February 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>**
- New Teacher Orientation  
Part 2: Staffing  
**March 1** – DSS
- Special Staff Rep Assembly  
**March 14** – DSS Library 4:00 pm
- TOC Workshop  
**March 15** – DSS, Dining Room, 4:00 pm
- Education Leave applications deadline  
**March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## **Celebrate International Women's Day**

**Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**"The Palace"  
4431 Knox Place  
Richmond  
5:00 pm**

**Tickets Adults \$20.00  
Children \$10.00**

**Appetizers and dinner  
included**

**For more information  
contact Sukhy Dhillon  
[sdhillon@deltasd.bc.ca](mailto:sdhillon@deltasd.bc.ca)**

**Proceeds raised will be  
used to support high  
school students in  
Punjab.**



To celebrate International Women's Day, the DTA & CUPE are encouraging our members to donate goods or money for "My Sister's Closet", a women's centre that works closely with the Battered Women's Support Services to provide goods to women and families leaving situations of abuse. A list of what is needed will be sent to all school Staff Reps. Details of pick up to follow.



**Hike the West Coast Trail?**  
Contact Doug Woodroff at  
Burnsview for more informa-  
tion and details.

**Enjoy District Day on Friday.**