



President's Column

Date: April 4, 2013

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Alice McQuade Receives BCTF's 2013 G.A. Fergusson Award

The G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award was established in 1933 to honour the memory of G.A. Fergusson, generally regarded as one of the most outstanding teachers in British Columbia, renowned for his good-

judgement, fair-mindedness, and service to teachers and teaching through the BCTF.

The award has since been awarded to 73 distinguished teachers and BCTF activists, all who, in the judgement of the trustees, have made an outstanding contribution to education.

So it was with great pleasure and satisfaction that we received word that Alice McQuade, recently retired Delta teacher, past BCTF and DTA President, was to be the recipient of the 2013 G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award, presented most years on the last day of the BCTF Annual General Meeting.

When I spoke to Alice on the phone the week prior to the Annual General Meeting, it was clear how important this award was to Alice -- not only for herself, but because it summed up her own beliefs about teaching and the BCTF. G.A. Fergusson believed that teacher was the most noble and most important work anyone could do, but he also believed in the importance of teachers working for each other through their union.

Alice also told me how important it had been to Fergusson -- who declined the opportunity of serving a second term as BCTF President in 1925 -- for teachers who had once been leaders in the Federation to return again to their classrooms. It was important for teachers to continue to volunteer time and energy on behalf of the union, and to share with colleagues those things they had learned.

It may well be that Alice McQuade has been the only recent BCTF President who has returned to the classroom and remained there, working with students, and volunteering for the union, until retirement.

When Alice retired, reluctantly, in December, 2012, she also retired from her role as a Staff Union Representative, in her view, "the most important position in the union."

Besides active involvement in the voluntary work of the union in Delta, Alice has made an inimitable contribution to the development of countless students, teachers and administrators alike. There is hardly a DTA local officer or Staff Rep. who has not benefited directly from Alice's words of encouragement, admonition, and guidance over the years. And many administrators in Delta will also quickly acknowledge Alice's positive influence on them.

Alice's style of leadership has always been to seek the best possible result by involving as many people as possible in doing as much as possible in as little time as possible. There has always been a sense of imminence and urgency to Alice's work. And that work continues. What is that work? It is the work of building a better world.

The student leadership program, the Focus Group, initiated by Alice at North Delta Senior Secondary has, over the years, supported and encouraged students in rising to their full potential as present and future leaders: at school and in the community. It has always been important to Alice that students learn the power of choosing to become engaged and involved -- not only in pursuit of their own education -- but also in society.

And this has also been Alice's own style of Union leadership. Her memories of the BCTF are positive. Alice's belief has always been that the BCTF was a symbol of the idea of teachers with common interests working together. Though debates could often be raucous, once the decision had been made, teachers would then come together in unity in support of that common purpose.

As recipient of the 2013 G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award, Alice McQuade's legacy is twofold: to encourage a new generation of teachers to be aware of the promise of the Union and of the Collective Agreement, and to encourage successive generations of students to rise to the promise of learning and of their own potential, not only in education, but as participants in building a better society.

The DTA salutes Alice McQuade, recipient of the BCTF's most prestigious G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award.

DTA Annual General Meeting ~ Tuesday, April 30, 2013

4:00 pm - Seaquam Secondary Library

Please contact Debbie (604-946-0391 or debbie@deltateachers.org) at the DTA Office if you are interested in running for an executive or committee position.

All CANDIDATES' DEBATES

The Delta Teachers' Association and The Delta Parents' Advisory Council are co-sponsoring two debates for the upcoming provincial election with the primary focus on public education. However, other topics of interest are also welcome.

Delta North

Thursday, April 11—7:30 - 9:30 pm
Seaquam Secondary School Library
11584 Lyon Road, North Delta
Moderator: Beau Simpson, Editor, *The Surrey Now*

Delta South

Thursday, April 18 —7:30 - 9:30 pm
Delta Secondary School Library
4615 - 51 Street, Ladner
Moderator: Ted Murphy, Editor, *The Optimist*

Everyone Welcome

"TAD" BOYES SCHOLARSHIP



Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$800.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be downloaded from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org under Forms.

Deadline is June 28, 2013

EI WORKSHOP

This BCTF facilitated workshop is sponsored by the DTA TTOC Committee and is open to all teachers.

When: Thursday, May 23
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Where: Delta Manor Education Centre

This seminar will help TTOCs understand the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI Benefits.

The BCTF requires a minimum of 15 participants so please register with Debbie **BY MAY 8** at: debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391.

Refreshments will be available.

2013-2014 BCTF EXECUTIVE

President: Jim Iker (Burns Lake)
1st Vice-President: Glen Hansman (VESTA)
2nd Vice-President: Teri Mooring (Quesnel)
Past President Susan Lambert (Burnaby)

Members at Large: Mike Ball (Nanaimo)
Gail Chaddock-Costello (Langley)
Janine Fraser (Boundary)
Teresa Grandinetti (Coquitlam)
David Komljenovic (Kamloops)
Joanna Larson (Prince Rupert)
Paul Steer (Delta)

Cross-Curricular Socio-Ecological Change: Student Leadership and Sustainability (SLS)

Friday, April 19 - 2:00-4:00 pm

Delta Teachers Association

(110 - 4977 Trenant Street, Delta, BC)

Explore different pedagogical models and 21st century philosophies to facilitate the integration of meaningful sustainability topics into your curriculum. Designed to help create, foster critical thinking and solution-oriented students, learn about the new STUDENT LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY (SLS) program that is in 28 schools this year. In this workshop, we will look at educational models that inform SLS, how the program is designed, and why and how it works – as well as connect with other passionate and progressive educators to explore issues relating to HEALTH, CONSCIOUS CONSUMPTION, CONSERVATION, CONNECTION and JUSTICE (SLS modules).

For more information on SLS, visit www.bethechangeearthalliance.org/student_home.

Please RSVP to erin@bethechangeearthalliance.org or 604-269-9874 - seating is limited. Please include Name, School and email in your email RSVP.



PILGRIMAGE TO BURNS BOG

Sunday, April 21

10388 Nordel Court, Delta
(back of the Planet Ice parking lot)

1:00 - 2:00 pm: Entertainment, community displays and information booths.

2:00 - 4:00 pm: Opening remarks followed by guest speakers and walk into the Delta Nature Reserve.

For information, contact 604-572-0373 or www.pilgrimage2burnsbog.org