

British Columbia Exchange Teachers' Association

October 2017

BCExchangeTeachers.ca

A big Welcome/Bienvenue

We are pleased to welcome 3 exchange teachers from the UK, Germany and Australia. These exchange teachers join the 9 Australian teachers who have been working in the province since January. The BC Exchange Teachers' Association hopes that these teachers have a wonderful professional and personal experience while in British Columbia.

We are looking into hosting events for both former and current exchange teachers to attend. Please see below on how you can get involved in our organization.

Our next major event is the Christmas dinner for new and outgoing exchange teachers. We also like to farewell our southern hemisphere teachers. **Save the date – November 25!**

GETTING INVOLVED

At this time, the Executive and activities of the BC Exchange Teachers' Association are mainly located in the Lower Mainland. The new Executive would like to improve on that by bringing information sessions to various areas of the province. We would love to hold sessions in the lower mainland, on Vancouver Island and Kelowna in the upcoming months. To this end, the Executive would welcome your assistance and involvement. If you are interested in presenting an information session in your area, either a weekend/evening/after school or a Professional Development Day session with your local union, contact [Catherine Gagnon](#).

Help us plan our calendar of events - Do you have an idea for an activity that exchange teachers might be interested in and could travel to without too much difficulty? It could be a skiing event in the interior over a long weekend, winery tour, whale watching, hiking trips, corn maze, hosting a BBQ or potluck, or even a walking tour of your town or city. We are open to all suggestions. If you have an idea and would like to help out, please contact [Catherine Gagnon](#).

The current executive for the BCETA is:

President/Communications Chair:

Catherine Gagnon – cteachr@hotmail.com

Vice-President:

Martin Wheeler – wheeler_m@surreyschools.ca

Secretary:

Leon Jensen – leonj1@hotmail.com

Past President:

Kulwant Toor – ktoor@shaw.ca

Members at large:

Mel and June Caldwell

About Us

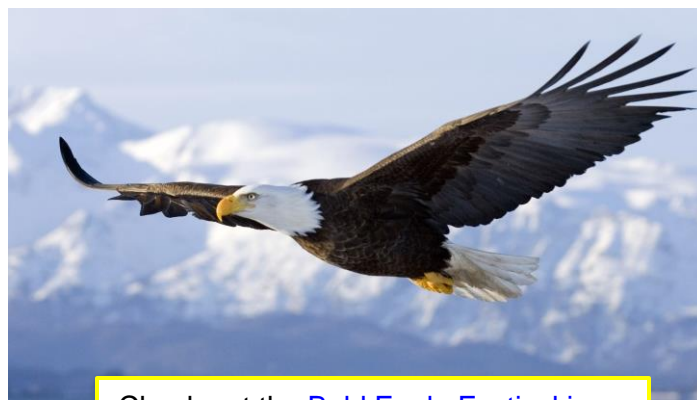
BCETA is a volunteer organization dedicated to hosting information sessions and social activities with the intent to make the year an exciting and memorable one for exchange teachers and their families.

<http://BCExchangeTeachers.ca>

Our association is made up of former exchange teachers who are delighted to share their experience with current exchangees. We welcome any questions or comments you might have regarding all matters related to your teaching exchange.

Happy World Teacher Day! October 5th!

This is fall issue of BCExchangeTeachers.ca. I hope you will enjoy the information and stories about teaching exchanges happening throughout the province. Please submit your own pictures, links and stories to me at bcexchangeteachers@gmail.com.



Check out the [Bald Eagle Festival in Fraser Valley – Nov 18-19](#).

Newsletter Editor: Catherine Gagnon
cteachr@hotmail.com

Now available – newsletters from CLEE (Canadian League for Education Exchange) and other Australian International Teaching Fellowships <http://feb122010.wordpress.com>

Coming Events

Nov	Traditional Christmas dinner/ farewell to our Southern Hemisphere teachers
Jan	Welcome to Southern Hemisphere Exchangees/ Welcome Back Canadians
Feb	5 pin bowling
April	Potluck dinner Lower Mainland
May	Victoria Conference Weekend
June	Farewell to Northern Hemisphere Exchangees
Sept	BBQ and welcome to new and returning exchangees.



Audrey Yap, returning from her year in France, shares excerpts from her blog with us. [See page 5.](#)

Suggested Activities

- Visit the Fairmont Empress – One to the best known landmarks in Victoria. Their high tea is renowned. Prices vary by season, so you might plan a visit in the fall or winter months. [Tea at the Fairmont Empress](#)
- Stanley Park is the iconic outdoor destination in Vancouver. Explore the seawall on foot or cycle, the First Nations' totems are always a great photo-op and don't miss the Aquarium. [Download a self-guided tour here.](#)
- BC is well known for its wildlife and outdoor adventures. [Here is a list of ideas to help you plan.](#)
- If you're going to Whistler, visit [Cornucopia](#), Nov 9-19 for a celebration of food and drink.
- The [Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival](#) is being held in November. It sounds like a great Sunday drive to Harrison Hot Springs.
- The [Headbanger Festival](#) in Radium Hot Springs allows you to witness big horn sheep during their mating season. Nov 3-5.
- If you love winter and can't wait, start planning a ski weekend to [Manning Park Resort](#).
- Closer to Vancouver, you can enjoy the awesome sights from [Grouse Mountain](#) on the Skyride.
- Plan ahead to visit [Vancouver's Christmas Market](#) held Nov 26 to Dec 30.
- Living on the island? [Consult this guide](#) for a list of festivals and events.
- [See page 6](#) for a more comprehensive list of activities in the Fraser Valley.

BCETA BBQ – September 2017

By Catherine Gagnon

Our annual fall BBQ and welcome to our Northern Hemisphere teachers was held at Mel and June Caldwell's home.

We were happy to meet Anna from the UK and Larisa from Germany, both newly arrived. Audrey and Diane, both of whom taught in France this past school year, also joined us. We got a chance to share some great stories about their exchange year. Audrey sent along an excerpt of her blog for you to enjoy.

Gayle, newly approved to exchange to NSW, AU in 2018 was also invited to the BBQ. She was able to ask all kinds of questions from some of other members who have exchanged to Australia in past years. I think she left the evening feeling both relieved and elated that she would soon be on exchange.

Bill, Diane's spouse, was very helpful in providing a list of activities in the Fraser Valley. You can read that further down in the newsletter.

A big thank you to Mel and June Caldwell for sharing their lovely home and providing us with such good food. The grilled salmon was a hit, as usual! We hope to see everyone who was at the barbeque and many others at other BCETA functions throughout the year. Our next event is the **Christmas party on November 25**. This year, we hope the weather won't be an obstacle for those living a bit further out in the Fraser Valley.



Bill (Diane's spouse), Martin (Exec Committee), Diane (returning from France), Gayle (on her way to NSW) & Lawrence (AU a few years back)



Mel, our host and BBQ chef

Oh yum!



Anna (UK), Audrey (returning from France) and Catherine (Exec Committee) (Kulwant (Exec) & Meghan (AU a few years back) in the back)

Outlander Weekend



We had a brilliant time with the Scotland exchange group visiting Edinburgh and surrounding area on our "Outlander weekend". Sept 2017

Photocollage by Kathleen Collord Lopez, UK 2017-18



UK Exchange Program Cancelled!

This information is from David Farley (Ontario-UK, 2013-14). BC and the UK have a very long history of teaching exchanges dating back over 100 yrs! Please consider getting involved in this letter writing campaign.

Hi Exchange Friends,

I recently received word that the UK intends to drop their teacher exchange program. I am attaching below, the email I received from the Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society (who manages the exchange program, CTEP). This will affect anyone wanting to exchange with the UK. If you feel, as I do, after reading his email that not much effort was made to maintain the program, I suggest you email the Director, Michael Lake at michael.lake@thercs.org

I encourage you to state your positive experiences with the program, your disappointment in its cancellation, a question about who will pick up the program if the RCS drops it, and if you wish to be cheeky, ask if there might be a relationship between viability and positive promotion of the program.

If this program is dropped, it will not be easily picked up. I think a flood of emails from across Canada and around the world might hold the RCS a little more accountable for the future of this awesome program.

Here is his letter...

"David, thank you for your email. I regret to say that the programme has become progressively non viable over the last few years. CYEC as an independent body fought hard to sustain it and following the merger with the RCS, together we made every effort to keep it going. To be frank, the programme had become very limited in its broader Commonwealth appeal, the numbers did not add up and we were unable to secure funding to support it. We are, as you know a charity and a choice had to be made. The fact is that we manage other, more viable, programmes with broader reach and that is where our available funds had to be directed. I share your disappointment but I am afraid to say that the decision was the right one to make and in line with our charitable objectives.

My best wishes and I hope you will appreciate our dilemma.

Michael Lake"

My year in France

By Audrey Yap (Delta-Lille, 2016-17)

In the 2016-17 school year, I participated in an exchange to Lille, France through the CEEF (Canadian Educator Exchange Foundation). I swapped teaching positions and homes with my Lilloise exchange partner who came to Vancouver, Canada for the year.

I was amazed to discover a small baseball/fastpitch community to play with to the south of the city. They were a minority club (soccer and basketball are more the thing in France), and were rather dedicated and talented players.



'Lille is the capital of the Hauts-de-France region in northern France, near the border with Belgium. It was once an important merchant center of French Flanders, and many Flemish influences remain. The historic center is characterized by 17th-century brick town houses, cobbled pedestrian streets and the large central square, Grand Place.'

I adore living in a foreign country; cheering for the local soccer/"football" team, meeting locals with a diverse range of origins, deepening my cultural fluidity and connections.



I was delighted to join the 25,000 fellow Canadians in northern France for the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge commemorations this past spring.

The north of France has a number of chocolatiers specializing in the tradition of chocolate making. This region is also well known for beer (not wine), and many local dishes such as the Carbonnade Flamande (beef stewed in beer and cassonade) contain it as an ingredient. Lille's culinary scene is also punctuated by North African and Middle Eastern offerings, as exemplified by the popular bakery Aziza.



Teaching abroad makes me infinitely more dynamic and open-minded as a language educator; I am increasingly culturally literate and sensitive to varying educational philosophies, values, objectives and tools. Moreover, an exchange is an immense opportunity for reciprocity and internationalization. I enjoyed my role as a grassroots ambassador for my country and the Pacific Northwest Region, as well as raising the international profile of Delta School District.





Fort Langley National Historic Site (part of the Circle Farm Tour)

Suggested day trips in the Fraser Valley

By Bill Lyons (accompanied his wife, Diane Moreau, Mission, BC-Sorgues, France 2016-2017)

Here are some places we suggest people to visit close to where we live in Mission. **It's a good idea to check their webpages and consider the time of year if you plan to visit.**

- ✓ [Fraser River Heritage Park](#)
- ✓ [Westminster Abbey](#)
- ✓ [Cascade Falls Provincial Park](#)
- ✓ [Rolley Lake Provincial Park](#)
- ✓ [Weaver Creek Salmon Spawning Channel](#)
- ✓ [Mission Raceway](#)
- ✓ [The Powerhouse at Stave Falls](#)
- ✓ [Apple Barn](#)
- ✓ [Willow View Farms](#)
- ✓ [Inch Creek Fish Hatchery](#)
- ✓ [Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve](#)
- ✓ [Greater Vancouver Zoo](#)
- ✓ [Circle Farm Tour](#)



PROVINCE PUTS FUN IN FALL

Fall in British Columbia may be the best time to explore the province. The trees turn brilliant colours, the salmon run attracts wildlife to rivers, and festivals celebrate B.C.'s bounty of food, drink and fun. These 10 upcoming events are worth planning an autumn trip around, writes *Tammy Gagne*.

- The Amazing Race to Rebuild Barkerville**
Barkerville, Saturday
With its name race through a series of challenges to a 100-mile trail, Barkerville offers the great fun of 1880s frontier gold mining. Barkerville also holds a 200-year jubilee weekend, Sept. 22-24.
- Savour Cowichan**
Cowichan Valley, Sept. 29 to Oct. 8
The Cowichan Valley is known for warm weather, natural beauty and friendly people. Savour Cowichan celebrates its 25th anniversary. For 10 days, in-band food and beverage producers use more than 40 events throughout the Cowichan Valley, including the Barge Dr. In event.
- The Headbanger Festival**
Edmonton Hot Springs, Nov. 3-5
Once again, for a short time, higher decibel night for dominance, colliding at full speed with a crowd of ravers. Witness the ruckus and learn more from local wildlife enthusiasts.
- Fall Okanagan Wine Festival**
Kelowna, Sept. 28 to Oct. 9
The Fall Okanagan Wine Festival events take place throughout the Okanagan, celebrating fabulous BC wine you can't find in any other setting. Signature events include tastings, live entertainment, grape stomping parties, and wine-and-dinner make this a wine festival to miss.
- Corcoran**
Whistler, Nov. 9 to 10
Corcoran is Whistler's celebration of food and drink. At Corcoran, the flagship event, you'll sample wines from BC's best vineyard and dining. It's lively tasting, unique chef's table luncheon, musical guests, wine-maker dinners, and more make this one of BC's top culinary events in the mountains.
- Queen of the Peak**
Tofino, Sept. 28 to Oct. 1
Surf, snow and shelter. Return to it all this winter, only now it's celebrating 3000 to show and support the amazing surfing art form. BC's west coast event has grown to include yoga, fitness, dance parties and movie premieres.
- Sunshine Coast Art Crawl**
Sunshine Coast Highway, Oct. 20 to 22
Artists see the beauty and endless inspiration BC's Sunshine Coast province. It's here the Coast Art Crawl is an ideal way to discover a wide range of artists, galleries, art studios, galleries, home studios, art labs, shops, and even a live music. Be sure to pick up a list of all the events of your visit.
- Bald Eagle Festival**
Harrison Mills, Nov. 18 and 19
Take a walk with the Bald Eagle Festival and celebrate the beauty and biodiversity of the Fraser River Valley, honouring the majestic Bald Eagle and counting salmon.
- High 5 Beer Tour**
Kilmer, Steveston, and Seafair, Sunday
Even local craft breweries have been popping up in previous years at a growing fast pace in northern BC. Barkerville Brewing, Crossroads Brewing, Shropshire Mountain Beer House, Three Ranges Brewing, and Wheelhouse Brewing are just a few of the High 5 Beer Tour. You'll have to take an afternoon bus to get started.
- Hopsrooth Festival**
Kelowna, Sept. 22 to 23
Hopsrooth has always been a great event, and this year's event is no exception. It's a week-long event that has evolved in also include spirits and wine, local food, and music.
Photo by David/Chris BC

Here's a great list of fall activities provided by Mel and June Caldwell.

Since my teaching exchange to Bendigo, Australia in 2011, I have kept active with the exchange teachers' associations. I started writing my blog before we left on our exchange and have kept it up, detailing our travels since returning to Canada in 2012. It was through my blog that Gavan and Margaret Brown from Victoria, AU contacted me last month. They had 3 teaching exchanges over the years and are now able to travel at their leisure since retiring.

We met the Browns at Fort Langley and proceeded to lunch in the village. Afterwards, we visited the Centennial Museum and the BC Farm Museum before coming back to our home and enjoying dinner and a rousing game of cards. We had much to talk about! This is the magic of teaching exchanges. The relationships endure and new links are formed by the common experience of teaching and living abroad for a year.

Till next issue...

Catherine