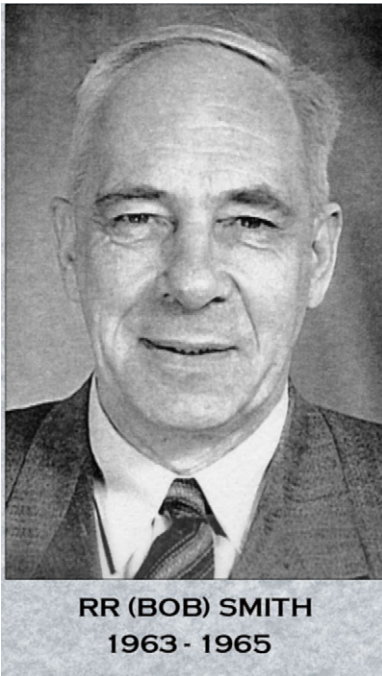


R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation

HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY

In 1939, the Teachers' Pension Fund went into bankruptcy causing financial difficulties for retired and retiring teachers. A group of retired teachers worked together to raise money to help those needy colleagues. Through teas, raffles, donations and loans they raised enough capital to buy real estate. The BCRTA bought and sold property for about twenty years, helping to finance housing for many retired and active teachers and were involved with the Teachers' Investment and Housing Corporation in its early years. In 1966, all properties were sold and the funds were earmarked to help retired teachers in special financial difficulty. In 1971, with the creation of the BCTF Assistance Society, there was no longer the need for personal assistance, so guidelines were approved for



RR (BOB) SMITH
1963 - 1965

the use of the money and the principle of a "Foundation" was applied. (i.e. only accrued interest could be spent).

MIDDLE HISTORY

The BCRTA "Foundation" fund of money was named in the memory of Robert Reid Smith. He was a founding member of the B.C. Teachers' Federation and President of the BC Retired Teachers' Association from 1963-65. RR Smith died in 1969. The fund was administered for many years by the BCRTA. In 1985, the Teachers' Investment and Housing Corporation went into bankruptcy wiping out the R.R. Smith Fund and the BCRTA sav-

ings account. In 1992 there was some recovery and the RR Smith Fund was reactivated with the same mandate as before. In 1999, the BCRTA filed an application for Charitable Society Registration so that BCRTA members would be encouraged to donate and would receive an Income Tax deductible receipt.

RECENT HISTORY

In 2000, the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation was established. The RR Smith Board of Directors is comprised of five elected members and two BCRTA appointed members. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled just before the BCRTA Annual General Meeting. The purpose of the Foundation remained as RR Smith had requested: "to advance public education in British Columbia and in developing countries". RR Smith has two funds. The Endowment Fund is conservatively invested and grows slowly each year. The principle is never used. The Grant Fund is comprised of member and branch donations.

The Foundation is an affiliate of the BCRTA and identifies as the "charitable arm of the BCRTA". This phrase is used on all RR Smith correspondence to acknowledge and recognize the generosity of and dedication to enhancing education of the BCRTA through RR Smith. Every member of the BCRTA is also a member of the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation and \$1 of each fee-paying member's provincial fee goes to support the Foundation every fiscal year.

In 2005, \$150,000 of the fine levied against the BC Teachers' Federation in a labour dispute was granted by the court to the RR Smith Foundation. With that money the Foundation established endowed funds in each of the public universities. RR Smith Bursaries in Education are awarded annually to students training to be teachers at the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, University of Northern B.C., Thompson Rivers University and Malaspina College-University.

The Foundation's mandate has always remained the same. The Foundation provides scholarships and bursaries to doctoral students in any area that advances public education and to deserving students to enable them to attend post-secondary educational institutions. It also makes and administers grants to B.C. registered charitable organizations, the purposes of which are similar to those of the society and funds the purchase of school materials, books, equipment and supplies of all kinds and donates them to schools. It provides funding to support innovative projects that advance public education and works co-operatively with governments in Canada and other countries and with charitable organizations.

Grants have been given to projects in Africa, Myanmar, China, Cuba, Bulgaria, Central America, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Brazil as well as all over B.C. For a list of grants, contact Dave Carter at goodguys1@shaw.ca. Applications for grants should be made on the forms available at www.rrsmith.ca and the deadline for such applications is March 1st.

TODAY

The 2012/13 Board of Directors is Judy de Vries, President; Barb Mikulec, Vice-President; Andy Hattrick, Secretary; Tom Bruncker, Treasurer; Bev Anderson, Sheila Pither and Dave Carter as Members at Large. The goals established for 2012-2013 are to raise awareness and funds through the Apple Tree of Knowledge, to prepare an article for each of the Postscript issues and one article for the 'Teacher' and to develop an RR Smith poster to be sent to the public schools of B.C. next September.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Publishing this history may bring back memories. There are always some bits missing. How was the restoration of the funds after the collapse of the Teachers' Investment and Housing Corporation achieved? Some of the organizations that have been supported were started by teachers or retired teachers- what is their story? Please feel free to share.