

# R.R.SMITH *news*

## - NEWSLETTER -

WINTER 2015/16



AN EDUCATIONAL LEGACY  
THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE BCRTA

**604.871.2260**

Toll Free: 1.877.683.2243

[www.rrsmith.ca](http://www.rrsmith.ca)

**The R.R. Smith Board of Directors met on October 13<sup>th</sup> to elect an executive for 2015/16. The outcome is as follows:**

**President** - Judy de Vries, Langley

**Vice-President** - Bev Anderson, Langley

**Secretary** - Andy Hattrick, Vancouver

**Treasurer** - Dave Carter, Burnaby

**Members at Large** - Sheila Pither, Vancouver,  
Steve Bailey, Burnaby, and Barb Mikulec, Vancouver

**DONATE**



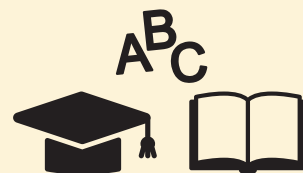
Once again Branch and Member donations are being encouraged by filling our 2015/16 bookshelf. If your branch is able to send a donation of any amount to R.R. Smith then a book will be placed on the shelf in recognition of that donation. For every donation over \$150 other books will be added. Please send donations to

R.R. Smith, 100-500 W. 6th Ave. Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4P2

All Branch and Member donations are put into the Grant fund unless otherwise specified. Donations received before March 1, 2016 will be distributed that year.

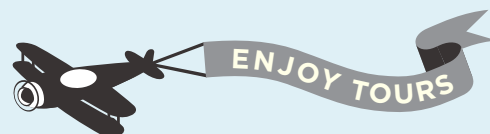
Grant applications for funding in 2016 are being received at the office until March 1, 2016. Registered educational charities in B.C. are encouraged to apply.

Application forms and fund criteria are available on the website.



R.R. Smith celebrated 15 years of being the charitable arm of the BCRTA at the A.G.M. in September. Director Barb Mikulec produced a slide show presentation in honour of the event. This slide show has been put on the R.R. Smith website at [www.rrsmith.ca](http://www.rrsmith.ca).

R.R. Smith has an affinity plan with Enjoy Tours. When BCRTA/RR Smith members and companions book a tour with Enjoy Tours, the company sends a small donation to R.R. Smith but only if you register as a BCRTA/RR Smith member. This affinity plan has just started and so far over \$600 has been raised. The 2016 catalogue has just arrived on line. [www.enjoytourandtravel.com/tourcatalog/](http://www.enjoytourandtravel.com/tourcatalog/) Book fun events for yourself and your branch.



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## *Report on the 2015 Project Opera/Opera Camp tuition assistance* **PROVIDED BY THE R. R. SMITH MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION**

In the spring of 2015 the Vancouver Opera Guild applied for and received financial assistance for our project to provide financial assistance to Vancouver Opera's Project Opera and/or Opera Camp. We contributed \$1000 from our own funds, as well as the \$1000 provided to us by the R. R. Smith Memorial Fund, to provide 4 full bursaries of \$500 each to permit disadvantaged children to participate in the Opera Camp portion of the program.

I attended the concluding performance of the camp, and was astonished at what the children had been able to accomplish in just under two weeks. Here is a report from Colleen Maybin, the director of the program:

"Opera Camp 2015 took place during the first two weeks of July at the O'Brian Centre for Vancouver Opera. Seventeen students participated in the program ranging in age from nine to fourteen. Ten of the seventeen students participated in the program in 2014. Five students in the program were on full bursary and three of them were also in the program in 2014. Students that are eligible for bursaries come recommended to us by teachers, support workers and music educators. We also welcomed four new students that are the children of current VO staff.

"The teaching staff included two teaching artists, a program assistant and a visual artist who led four art sessions. These sessions resulted in banners that were displayed during the final performance. The program assistant brought an extensive background in hip hop and break dance which was also integrated into the story telling process. The opera was based on an ancient Greek myth retold from the students perspective. Feedback from the students at the end of the program indicated a high interest in returning to the program next year. Based on

their suggestions and on staff reflections, the program will be expanded next year to include a two week Teen Opera Intensive for youth ages 12 to 16 and a Junior Opera Camp for children aged 8 to 12." Colleen Maybin, Program Director

The children had chosen the story themselves—the myth of Phaeton, which in the middle of one of BC's worst-ever forest fire seasons, seemed to have a particular resonance for them. They wrote and performed narrative portions to be spoken, plus solo arias and choruses (all in rhyming couplets) to be sung with piano accompaniment, and a brief orchestral overture, and they created sets and costumes and other visual displays—there was an amazing amount of multi-disciplinary creativity, and I was highly impressed.

The photo attached above shows the entire cast in front of their backdrop at the end of their performance.

Gwyneth Westwick  
Past President  
Vancouver Opera Guild



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## *Jericho Road Children's Project*

Box 770, Mbarara, Uganda,  
November 20, 2015  
RR Smith Memorial Foundation,  
c/o 100-550 W. 6th Ave. Van. BC V5Z4P2  
*Attention Judy de Vries*

Dear Judy,

I am sorry for having taken so long to get a letter to you to thank you for your generous contribution to the boys in secondary education. It has greatly helped us to continue the work we began. This year marks 10 years we have been operating.

John Nuwagaba, 19, has been with us from the very beginning. His mother and father died when he was very young. He went to the streets at a very young age. He is now in our equivalent of grade 11 and doing extremely well. He is also a very good football player (soccer). He is a "striker". If he maintains his good marks he has been offered a scholarship at a university because of his football. He tells me he wants to take sciences, particularly in learning to become a lab technician. I am sure he will manage to do this. You have helped him greatly.



John When He First Came



John Today

Keith Ssebulimi, also 19 has also been with me since the beginning and has always done well in school. When we first got him he didn't know any parent but since then he has met his father and mother. Neither is in any condition to take him on as a parent. Keith is in grade 11 and has very high marks. He will also be likely to be offered a scholarship at a university. He hopes to take up computers. I am not sure what area but I know he will do well. When he is on break time he is working with a local computer person and doing well.



Keith When He First Came



Keith Today

Derrick Kamugisha who is 21 has also been with us since the beginning. He is in grade 12 this year. He is attending school in his home area so has close contact with his family which is very good. We are not sure what he will do at the end of this year but we will look at an institute near his home so that he can learn a trade that will provide him with the knowledge to help him earn his own way in life.



Derrick When He First Came



Derrick Today

Mark Ainomugisha, 22, was aided by his extended family to attend university. As his mother is dead and his father won't admit he is the father, the rest of the family got together and provided the tuition for Mark who is taking a business course at our local university. We cover the other necessities. He is also a very good videographer.



Mark When He First Came



Mark On His Way To University

I have included photos of these boys-when we first got them and now. Please make sure everyone knows how much we appreciate your help. As I am nearly 79 I am hoping to end this project by 2019. Hopefully we will have each boy in a position to make their way on their own.

Sincerely Patricia Kokura (Dohm)



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## *A Thank You Letter*

The BC Retired Teachers Association

RR Smith Memorial Foundation

Dear Judy,

I thought I would write to you on behalf of Dewdney School whom you supported by offering us a grant to complete our vision for outdoor education at our school.

As a community, we came together in August and began painting, building, cleaning up the gardens and excavating as we continued to create our Naturescape. It was an amazing experience!

We watched the "DEN" being constructed, we built a swale, we painted fences, we created a mud kitchen and renovated some picnic tables. The trees and shrubs are being planted on September 30th at 9:00a.m. and we would love to share that experience with you.

The students cannot stay out of our "loose parts" area – they have made forts, shops and stores with logs. We have had to ask Mission Forestry for more logs and branches! The imaginative play is quite mind-boggling.

Students harvested basil and our cooking club made pesto! Our pumpkins are well on their way and the corn maze is a hit! It will be transformed into a haunted house area for Halloween.

Next week students are making stepping stones for a path, measuring and creating "sit upons" to use when the grass is wet and using driftwood to build little bridges with a community volunteer. The learning is fantastic – especially in light of the new curriculum. This innovation is unique – especially as students are outside learning every day across the grades. Today, we introduced a vocabulary lesson by finding rocks and brainstorming words to describe them – powerful words like crater, metamorphic and spider veins came out of the mouths of 9 year olds.

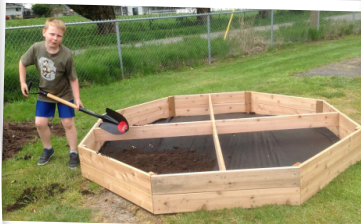
I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for granting us funds towards this project. It would have not been possible without all our community supporters and donors. Please come out on the 30th if you can! We know it is a bit of a drive, but the mountains are beautiful out here and you will see the "fruits" (no pun intended) of our labour.

Thank you again,

Sue McLeod  
Principal Dewdney Elementary



Water barrels



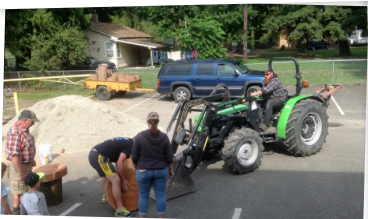
Planting Gardens



Learning outdoors - reading at tables



Imaginative Natural Play Areas



Making Stump Tables



Painting Pallets



Reusing tires



Logs and Stumps

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## R.R. Smith

### MEMORIAL FUND FOUNDATION

Fill in this form so we have the information we need to provide you with a tax receipt.

Name

---

Street Address

---

City

---

Province

Postal Code

---

Amount of Donation

---

To Endowment

---

To Grants

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Mail the completed form and your cheque to:

R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation

100 - 550 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2

For donations made by way of bequests, life insurance, real estate or In Memoriam, please contact the President, R.R. Smith Memorial Foundation by mail at the above address or by phone at:

604.871.2260 or toll free 1.877.683.2243

The R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation is:

- A Registered Charity under the Canadian Income Tax Act #86160 2126 RR0001
- Incorporated under the BC Society Act

The purposes of the society are to advance public education in British Columbia and in developing countries.

If you believe, as we do, that Education can make a difference, please support the work of the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation by making:

- A regular donation which will be used in the year that it is given to support the grants the Foundation makes that year
- A donation to the Foundation's Endowment Fund so the interest earned can be used for future grants
- An "In Memoriam" donation for a family member or friend
- The R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation your Life Insurance beneficiary thereby making your premiums tax deductible
- A real estate donation

### WHAT WE DO

- A** Providing scholarships and bursaries to
  - Doctoral students in any area which advances public education, and
  - Deserving students, to enable them to attend post-secondary educational institutions,
- B** Making and administering grants to Canadian registered charitable organizations, the purposes of which are similar to those of the society,
- C** Acquiring school materials, books, equipment, and supplies of all kinds, and donating them to schools,
- D** Providing funding to support innovative projects which advance public education,
- E** Working cooperatively with governments in Canada and other countries, and other charitable organizations.

The Foundation makes grants to projects that meet these criteria and are registered Canadian charities. Application forms are available at [www.rrsmith.ca](http://www.rrsmith.ca)