

R.R.SMITH *news*

- NEWSLETTER -

WINTER 2016/2017



AN EDUCATIONAL LEGACY
THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE BCRTA

604.871.2260
Toll Free: 1.877.683.2243
www.rrsmith.ca

INTRODUCING *Linda Fawcus*



R.R. Smith would like to introduce you to Linda Fawcus, CEO and founder of Gluu Technology Society. Gluu is a Not for Profit dedicated to helping older adults figure out today's technology. If you were born before 1964 and want to be part of the modern world you need Linda's expertise. She has over 25 years experience in software development, working with Fortune 500 companies.

R.R. Smith has partnered with Linda for the benefit of all our members. Linda is willing to speak to R.R. Smith members at luncheons. She offers workshop opportunities geared to any level of technical knowledge. Linda makes available on-line instruction for our members living outside the Lower Mainland. At present, Linda is concentrating on Apple devices but also has expertise with PC devices. If you need help contact her at linda@gluuconnects.org.

Are you waiting for your grandchild or another family member to come over so you can get your devices to work for you? Linda is offering R.R. Smith members a year of individual help for only \$84 a year. This service is normally \$120 a year. If you have a question or need help with your devices she gives solutions via email. Linda has limited this offer to the first 200 R.R. Smith members who sign up on her website. Go to <http://gluuconnects.org>, click on R.R. Smith Members in the top right hand corner. The password is education. For your efforts you may also receive, free of charge, her ebook on Traveling with Technology.

Enjoy Tour and Travel will soon issue the 2017 Catalogue. In the meantime, Troy has released a list of the 2017 Multi Day Tours and Vacations. Many in Canada! **Newfoundland and Labrador** June 8-18, **Maritimes Coastal Wonders featuring the Cabot Trail** – September 18-28, **Iceland** – June 4-12, **Cuba** – March 20 - April 3, **Tofino** – May 22-25, **Haida Gwaii/Grizzly Bear/Via Rail** – June 20-29, **Kootenays** – July 2-6, **Victoria Symphony Splash**, August 6 & 7, **Okanagan Wine Escape** – September 19-21, **Rail Across Canada** – October 3-12 and many more. For more information and to book call 604-630-2434 Ext. 1. When booking tell them you are an R.R. Smith/B.C.R.T.A. member. Enjoy Tours makes a donation to R.R. Smith whenever a member makes a booking.

It is a win, win, win situation.



R.R. Smith is here to help B.C.R.T.A. Branch members who wish to continue supporting educational projects that used to be funded by B.C.R.T.A. Branches. R.R. Smith has joined the VanCity Community Foundation in order to make it easier for members to donate to R.R. Smith. Now donations can be made on line and a tax receipt is sent via email if the donation is \$20 or more. Members may also direct their donation to a specific project.

R.R. Smith hopes this will help member groups. Here are the web links to the R.R. Smith page at VanCity Community Foundation.

[http://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/s/donor_advised_directory.asp?](http://vancitycommunityfoundation.ca/s/donor_advised_directory.asp?ReportID=768270)
[ReportID=768270 https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=2022&AID=4479](http://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=2022&AID=4479)

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Beverly Anderson – Vice-President

Andy Hattrick – Secretary

Dave Carter – Treasurer

Sheila Pither – Member-at-Large

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UNBC's Donor Appreciation Evening



Mary Hunter (Centre) represented R.R. Smith at this event. She is pictured with Student Speakers Alicia and Maya.

In 2005, R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation established endowed funds in each of the public universities.

R.R. Smith Bursaries in Education are awarded annually to students training to be teachers.



Teaching in Zambia - not for the faint at heart!

By Gerry Tiede

This past summer I led a group of seven teachers for a volunteering experience at Grace Academy in Zambia. It's an orphanage school operated by Seeds of Hope where most of the children are HIV positive and their parents have died from AIDS. Thanks to the RR Smith Foundation we could take a lot of math materials which we used for with small groups of elementary aged children for 10 weeks.

We also spent time at Nsobe Trust School – a school deep in the African bush where poverty, illiteracy and abuse abounds. These kids still live in mud-brick houses without electricity or running water. Traditionally all learning is done by rote; students might have memorized that 4 time 3 equals 20 but they have no understanding of the meaning or practical use of that fact. So we got to witness that 'ah-ha' moment when the kids, and the teachers, understood for the first time using the Unifix cubes and the base-ten blocks.

Sad facts about Zambia:

- The median age in Zambia is 17. That means that half of the population is under 17, largely because aids has killed so many adults. The median age in Canada is 41.
- Zambia has more orphans per capita than any other country. 1.5 million orphans in a total population of 16 million.



Nsobe School teachers learning to use the new math materials.



Such concentration to make sense of the base-ten counting system!



The kids had so much fun learning to use the math 'games' that they stayed inside at recess the next day to play math! Did that ever happen to you in Canada?

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Canadian Harambee Education Society

Louise Paulsen, Treasure of CHES, has sent a number of thank you letters that the CHES Form 1 students wrote. These students attend Archbishop Njenga Girls' High School in Kenya. Without R.R. Smith's donation the girl's family would have had to purchase these items before the girl could attend school as the supplies are not covered by the school fees. R.R. Smith's donation was added with another group which meant that every new girl that was in Form 1 this year was given a bag of these necessary supplies.

Here is a sample of on one of the many letters R.R. Smith received.

Archbishop Njenga Girls' High School
P.O. Box 606, Webuye, Kenya

May 20, 2016

Dear R.R. Smith,

How are you? I hope you are fine wherever you are. I, here in school, am very fine. Here at our school, it is raining throughout. We are going to do an exam on May 24th and I believe I will pass the exam with better grades.

It is with great pleasure to write this letter to you to thank you for your support. You really helped me. I didn't have any hope of joining form one. My parents had no money to buy me the requirements. I am very happy to know that there is somebody out there who is interested in my education. You are indeed a good person.

I want to tell you that all the things that you offered to me, I received. There were two blankets, two bed sheets, a mosquito net, metal box, mattress and personal items like a bar of soap, washing powder, toothpaste, toothbrush, body oil, re-usable sanitary towel, and pens.

My parents were very happy and wonder what kind of a person you are. They were very grateful and thankful. Those things that you bought for me made my life in school simple and enjoyable. I am indeed thankful. I will never forget the help that you gave to me. I promise to work smart in my studies to achieve my dream of becoming a surgeon.

When I grow up I want to help the needy children as I was helped by you. Thank you and may God bless you abundantly.

Your faithfully,
Brendan Lungatso

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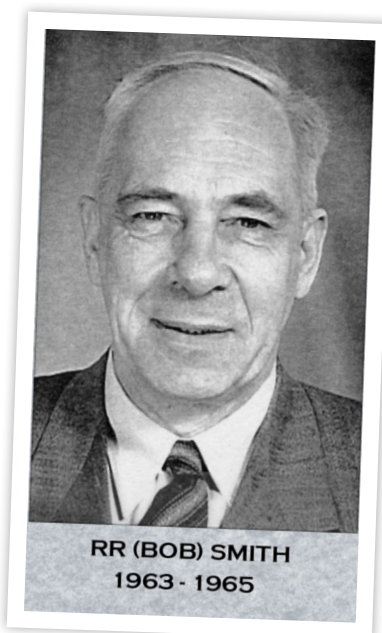
R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation HISTORY

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

MIDDLE HISTORY

The B.C.R.T.A. "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 savings 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

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R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation HISTORY

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.

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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

Mail the completed form and your cheque to:

R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation

100 – 550 W. 6th 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 Fund 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