



2026

Retirement Booklet

June 3, 2026

Langley Teachers' Association

2026 Retiree Biographies



Retiree: Shereen Badgley

School retiring from: Alex Hope Elementary

Number of teaching years: 26

History of my teaching career:

I started my teaching career in Vancouver, where I taught for 9 years. In 2009, when both of my children were well established in elementary school, I began teaching in Langley. Raising a family and teaching have been my life's passions.

In my retirement I hope to:

My husband, John and I plan to explore more destinations around the world, and venture across Canada. We also plan to visit more restaurants and wineries as well as hike, bike, and kayak. Most importantly, I plan to spend quality time with family and friends.



Retiree: Richard Beaudry

School retiring from: REMSS (technically) – Seconded to UBC for the last 5 years.

Number of teaching years: 19

History of my teaching career:

Awards received during my years as a teacher-librarian in Langley

2026 Librarianship Honor Roll – Canada

Issued by Librarianship.ca

2025 BCTLA - Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

Issued by BC Teacher Librarians Association

2025 Librarianship Honour Roll - Canada

Issued by Librarianship.ca

2024 BCTLA - Val Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award

Issued by BCTLA

2020 Librarianship Honour Roll - Canada

Issued by Librarianship.ca

2020 - BCTLA President's Award

Issued by BC Teacher Librarians' Association

2016 Librarianship Honour Roll - Canada

Issued by Librarianship.ca · Dec 2016

2016 Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada

Issued by Canadian Library Association

2011 Fellow of the Library Association of Ireland

(F.L.A.I.)

Issued by Library Association of Ireland (LAI)

2009 CLA/CASL Angela Thacker Memorial Award

Issued by Canadian Library Association

2009 ALA Librarian Certification - Washington State

Library - WA Secretary of State

I appreciate the opportunity to have served with the LTA in several capacities, including vice-president from 2011 to 2016. I thoroughly enjoyed working with LTA President Gail Chaddock-Costello for five years. She was a strong advocate for teachers, championing their well-being, elevating their professional voice, and providing actionable support for teachers in Langley and across BC. The majority of the grievances we tended to, on behalf of teaching staff, ended favourably.

I enjoyed my 19 years with SD 35, and I'm truly grateful for the opportunities of having worked with wonderful students and colleagues. I retire with many fond memories.

In my retirement I hope to:

Travel, continue walking 100+ kilometers a week until I

have walked around the world (figuratively). The best part of my retirement will be to spend time with my wife, my children and their spouses and our three granddaughters.



Retiree: Rachelle Beaulieu

School retiring from: Belmont Elementary

Number of teaching years: 38

History of my teaching career:

From my earliest memories, I knew I wanted to be an elementary school teacher. By age 20, I had completed my PDP at SFU and began teaching on call in Vancouver while finishing my degree. In 1990, I moved to Toronto, where I spent five years teaching, highlighted by working in a Grade 4–5–6 family grouping that truly felt like home. It was hard to say goodbye to my Toronto “kids” when I learned that my husband was being relocated for work. Returning to Vancouver, I taught Grades 3/4 and 6/7 with the VSB before another move in 2001 took us to Montreal. There, I joined the Lester B. Pearson School District and, on a whim, took a year-long leave as a music teacher—an experience I LOVED. Back in BC once again, I continued teaching music at Sexsmith Elementary in 2003, but the lengthy commute paired with my growing family of 5 eventually led me to my home community of Langley after seniority portability was negotiated.

I began at Belmont Elementary as a Grade 6/7 French Immersion teacher, where I have happily remained for the past 18 years. Langley has become my second home, making this goodbye bittersweet. I feel incredibly fortunate to have loved my career and can honestly say I have enjoyed coming to school every day for 38 years. After 53 first days of school, you’ll now find me at the “To Hell with

the Bell” breakfast—celebrating my first day of school retirement.

In my retirement I hope to:

Attend lots of live theatre and perform in some shows myself, travel far and wide, have lunch with friends on a weekday, go to the gym at 9:15 a.m. enjoy coffee in bed with my Sudoku puzzle book in hand and spend more time with my family.



Retiree: Andrea Boomars

School retiring from: Yorkson Creek Middle School

Number of teaching years: 36

History of my teaching career:

Teaching has provided me with so many opportunities and memories. I remember the numerous times I took students to various camps. One of the most outstanding experiences was taking Grade 7s to camp in tents on Hornby Island. Sometimes it rained the entire time we were there, while at other times it was sunny and warm—with me occasionally redirecting students’ attention away from wandering nudists on the beach.

I taught P.E. from Kindergarten through Grade 7 and, as such, choreographed multiple dances for school musicals. I coached volleyball, basketball, cross country, and track for many years, often hosting pancake breakfasts to celebrate our seasons. I also organized a few 40 Hour Famines to raise awareness and funds for World Vision, which included sleepless overnight stays at the school.

I was fortunate to be part of the staff that opened Gordon Greenwood, Lynn Fripps, and Yorkson Creek, and I also taught at Aldergrove, Blacklock, and Alice Brown. Of all my experiences, I have most enjoyed the energy of middle

school at Yorkson over these last eleven years. Throughout my career, I have endeavoured to tap into each student's strengths, tailoring my teaching—often through my favourite approach, project-based learning—to meet their needs. This profession is anything but repetitive or predictable, and I have loved the autonomy to be creative. It has certainly kept my mind sharp through constant problem-solving! I am leaving teaching while I still love this job, but I know it is time. It has been a privilege to be an educator.

In my retirement I hope to:

I plan to join a choir or two, swim, learn to play the mandolin, volunteer, work in my garden, and explore creating metal art. I look forward to seeing what the coming years will bring!

Retiree: Patrick Boschman

School retiring from: Langley Secondary School

Number of years teaching: 34

History of my teaching career:

I have always approached teaching from a student-centered perspective with a view to inspiring those around me to perform their best and to not be satisfied with the way the world currently operates. I have always challenged students to see the world from the viewpoint of not being happy with the way it currently operates but to make decisions towards making the world operate in the way it should conduct itself and to recognize the Creator as the source of all knowledge, insight and wisdom.

In my retirement I hope to:

I desire to spend time with my 3 grandchildren and future grandchildren. I hope to travel to destinations with palm trees, soft sandy beaches with crystal clear water. I also wish to pursue various hobbies, to continue to spend more time to my love of investing in the stock market and more time with family going to restaurants and to continue living with purpose and passion.



Retiree: Boni Datema

School retiring from: Shortreed Community School

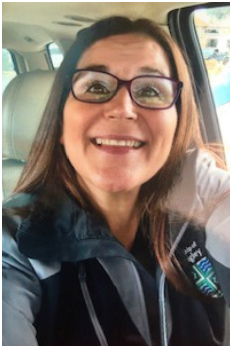
Number of teaching years: 36

History about my teaching career:

After graduating from the PDP program at SFU in December of 1989, I started TTOCing in Langley and Surrey. Born and raised in the Aldergrove area, I wanted to spend my career in the community I love, so, in September 1990, I accepted a continuing contract at Parkside teaching grade 1. After 2 years at Parkside, I moved to Aldergrove Elementary, where I stayed until Aldergrove Elementary was closed, and the staff and students were moved to Shortreed in 2007. I have been at Shortreed teaching grade 1 ever since. I have never regretted choosing to stay in Aldergrove. During my time at Shortreed, I trained in Reading Recovery and was the Reading Recovery teacher for 3 years. My passion has always been for grade 1 and I love teaching Literacy to this day. I also love the thoughtful, and often hilarious, insights about the world that 6 and 7 year olds bring to the classroom every day. No day is ever dull and, honestly, there are too many funny stories to mention. I will truly miss that part of the job!

In my retirement I hope to:

Spend more time with my 5 grand kids, garden, read, ride my very neglected horse and, in my spare time, TTOC



Retiree: Debra Evans

School retiring from: Fort Langley Elementary

Number of teaching years: 10

History of my teaching career:

Elementary music teacher K-7. The students enjoyed my crazy/bold thinking from bubbles to drama, the goal was always to instil the love of music and music appreciation into their hearts.

As a person who became a teacher later in life, I was able to bring a lifetime of music experience to share with them.

In my retirement I hope to:

Continue to practice the Tenor Saxophone, Ukulele and singing. Enjoying the outdoors, fishing and swimming with my husband and two adult children! Always taking time to smell the flowers!

Retiree: Jean Kazakoff

School retiring from: James Hill Elementary

Number of teaching years: 34 years

History about my teaching years:

I started teaching in Langley at Gordon Greenwood in the year it opened. I then went on to teach at Belmont, Nicomekl, Peterson Road and James Hill.

In my retirement I hope to:

Sleep in, travel, bake, cook a lot, learn to knit, paint and volunteer (to just name a few)



Retiree: Andrea Laird

School retiring from: Fort Langley Elementary

Number of teaching years: 31

History about my teaching career:

I began as a TTOC, spending six months trying things out before joining the new James Hill Elementary for its very first year in multi-needs classroom. Starting fresh in a brand new building alongside new colleagues made for some chaos, and instant camaraderie. After ten years, I moved into general Learning Support and later finished my career in Learning Support at Fort Langley Elementary, a hidden gem, with amazing students and a fantastic staff team. There are too many memories to share, but I'm so grateful for the amazing people I met along the way, and will really miss this job.....at least most of it!

In my retirement I hope to:

Retiring from teaching will hopefully give me an opportunity to spend more time working with my husband on our side business, helping family, and making frequent trips to Ontario where our first grandchild will be born this October!



Retiree: Robyn Lorensen

School retiring from: Langley Fine Arts

Number of teaching years: 32

History about my teaching years:

I got my big break into teaching in the fall of 1992 when I was hired to teach two choirs at Aldergrove Secondary. A week later, I was hired to teach grade 6 band at Langley Fine Arts School where I had done both my practicums with music teacher Rob Goddard. The following year, I got my dream job of teaching intermediate choir and grades 5-8 music at LFAS. I was very blessed to teach there for the rest of my teaching career.

Highlights in teaching music include directing and playing piano for choir, directing three original musicals, and writing songs for my choirs to sing like Trattle & Wright, a song about two young men from Langley who died fighting in WWI. I tracked down descendants of Alfred Trattle and Jesse Wright and invited them to hear this song at LFAS' Remembrance Day Assembly. I also taught songwriting and had choirs perform many original student songs. It was thrilling to hear Vancouver Chamber Choir members sing student songs at the Young Composers' Competitions. It was an honour to teach my workshop (Teaching Students to Compose Themselves) at the BCMEA Conference. I have wonderful memories of Choir Nights, grade 4/5 shows, festivals, singing at Simpson's Manor & Langley Extended Care, fieldtrips to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and choir collaborations with Canadian singer-songwriter Norman Foote. Helping students experience the joy of music and share that joy with others has been incredibly rewarding.

My love for teaching grew exponentially when I got to job

share a grade 5 class. Giving handshakes and high fives; reciting our class motto about honour, peacemaking and thankfulness; teaching Marvellous Math, The Wonderful World of Writing and Grandma's Grammar; having "rock" concerts; singing my times table songs; having students do Two-Minute Teacher presentations and Content of Character projects, baking bread and delivering cookies together; storytelling and quote sharing all brought me immense fulfillment and joy. I will never forget when my choir sang with Norman Foote the night before all concerts were shut down in March 2020. When schools reopened, our two grade 5 classes created their own unique performance of The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe. Very fittingly, my final day of teaching ended with this same book and one last concert with Norman Foote.

Retirement continues to be filled with wonderful adventures with my husband, four kids, daughter-in-law, two grandchildren and extended family. I love reading, writing, photography, playing games, collecting rocks and waterfalls, and going to the zoo. I am still writing songs, and I love to sing and play piano at home and at church. I've been especially grateful for the opportunity to volunteer and help grade fives once a week in my old classroom at LFAS.

Thank you to my amazing job share partners and colleagues for their friendship, encouragement, creativity and collaboration. A special thanks goes to God for every gift He has given and to my wonderful husband Dameon for his never-ending love and support. Retired teachers, keep singing your songs. You never know who will be encouraged, comforted or inspired by them.



Retiree: David Mills

School retiring from: RE Mountain & Peter Ewart Middle

Number of teaching years: 26

History about my teaching years:

After completing my practicum at LSS in '97, I first taught choir at WJ Mouat for 1 year, then moved to Pacific Academy for 2 years. I worked as a TOC the next 3 years before starting my job at Mountain. During that time, I also “did time” at Langley Meadows, Willoughby Elm. and Yorkson Creek Middle School.

In my retirement I hope to:

I will continue as a music TOC, but also intend to travel, write more music for publication, volunteer, and enjoy our trailer on the Sunshine Coast.



Retiree: Roberta North

School retiring from: Shortreed Community Elementary

Number of teaching years: 36

History about my teaching career:

I was hired by SD35 in October 1990 and spent the first year and a half working as a “substitute teacher”. My first contract was a six-month term assignment teaching half-day Kindergarten at Langley Fine Arts School. From December 1993 to June 1996, I taught Grade One and Two at Betty Gilbert Elementary before moving to Gordon Greenwood Elementary for the 1996-1997 school year where I taught Grade Three. The following two years were spent at Parkside Centennial teaching Grades Two and Three. By September 1999, I finally had enough seniority to be assigned my first continuing position at Murrayville

Elementary. I taught mainly Grade Two there until the school closed in June 2008. After that, I returned to Betty Gilbert Elementary for another year, only to be surprised again when it was transformed into a middle school. Fortunately, three teachers ahead of me on “the list” for Shortreed accepted positions elsewhere, and I unpacked my boxes for the last time in September 2009 (aside from the inevitable packing and unpacking during the school painting project and seismic upgrades). After 17 wonderful years at Shortreed, it’s time for me to gather boxes to pack once again...but not too many boxes this time!

In my retirement I hope to:

Spend more time with family and friends, travel, and say “yes” to more experiences and opportunities that I feel I missed out on while I was teaching full time. Being a TTOC might even be in my future!



Retiree: Gillian Parker

School retiring from: Learning Support Services

Number of teaching years: 42

History of my teaching career:

I started my career in the UK in 1984, after graduating with a degree in Speech Language Pathology & Therapeutics. Three years later, I took a leap of faith, and moved to Northern British Columbia to work for School District #88! I lived in a tiny First Nations community called Hazelton. After spending two years there, I moved and started working for the Hope School District, followed by Surrey School District #36. Some people take time out to have children, however, I took time away from the B.C.

education system, to start a Speech Language Therapy service in the country of Mongolia, Central Asia, where I lived and worked for 10 years. Upon returning to the lower mainland in 2016, I took a job working for Langley School District #35 until my retirement in December 2025. I received the 2017 Honours of the Association Award, from BCASLPA (BC Association of Speech/Language Pathologist & Audiologists) for my work in Mongolia and for writing various children's books in Mongolian, which were later translated into Chinese and English.

In my retirement I hope to:

I am looking forward to having time to travel (outside of school holidays!), and to find some meaningful ways to help others in the community. I look forward to a different pace of life and opportunities to develop new friendships and new skills!



Retiree: Laurie Penner

School retiring from: Aldergrove Community Secondary

Number of Teaching Years: 40

History of my teaching Years:

I taught in other schools early on, but I have been at Aldergrove Secondary since 1993. It was through a newspaper ad that I learned of the job opening. (remember newspapers?) As a child I grew up in Aldergrove, so I have been connected to this community for many years. The first half of my career was teaching high school music (Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Choir, classroom Guitar). I even had a student named Jeremy Lynden in my Guitar class! I am grateful to have worked in the

Aldergrove music department with Marty Summers. He was a great colleague and mentor. We built a thriving music program, and traveled to music festivals all over Canada. The second half of my career was teaching English 8-12. Stories are powerful. I have enjoyed introducing students to Shakespeare, and Richard Wagamese, and to themselves. I will miss the humour and wisdom of my colleagues in the English Department. I have seen many changes in 40 years, but in other ways, teens are still the same! I am grateful I could be part of their learning and growth.

In my retirement I hope to:

Travel, write, spend time with family, and occasionally TOC.



Retiree: Steve Penner

School retiring from: DW Poppy

Number of teaching years: 28

History about my teaching career:

I have spent pretty much my entire professional teaching career at D.W. Poppy Secondary School. I have been the English Department Head for several years, and throughout my time at Poppy I have taught English 8 through 12, including English 12AP, English 11AP, First Peoples English 12, and Creative Writing 12. For the last few years, I've also had the opportunity to teach a senior guitar class. In the past, I have been a member of various committees, including those involving provincial exam development & leadership, literacy, and new assessment practices. I was one of the Grad Council Coordinators for several years, and I have also been a member of the Poppy Pit Band for

various musical theatre productions in the past. I was even an assistant coach for a few seasons but, fortunately for everyone, I realized coaching was not in my wheelhouse! I have enjoyed my time as an educator, as there is no other profession quite like this one. Teaching is an honourable vocation, and I consider myself lucky to have been a part of it for so long. I will always cherish the relationships that I have built with both my students and colleagues.

In my retirement I hope to:

To travel, do more hiking, and play more music. Most importantly, I hope to spend more time with my family.



Retiree: Cathy Rensing

School retiring from: Learning Support Services

Number of teaching years: 34 as Speech-Language Pathologist

History of my teaching years:

I completed my Master of Science degree in Audiology and Speech Sciences in April 1992 and began my career as an S-LP based in Fredericton, New Brunswick. I was assigned to 11 schools in the Oromocto area requiring 700 km per week of travel to my schools for the two years I worked there. My husband and I moved back to B.C. in September 1994 because I secured part-time employment at the Child Development Centre in Abbotsford. Fortunately, a posting went out for a part-time term position in October 1994 for SD #35, and I was the successful applicant. During the 1997 – 98 school year, I worked 3 days per week for the Gulf Islands School District and continued working 1 ½ days per week in Langley. The following year, a full-time term position was available in Langley, and I have worked solely in this district ever since.

In my retirement I hope to:

I am looking forward to attending the regularly planned luncheons with my fellow retired S-LPs from SD #35. I plan to continue taking wine education courses, starting with WSET classes now that I will have more time. I am very much looking forward to travelling outside of school vacation times!

Retiree: Penny Shaver

School retiring from: Langley Fine Arts

Number of teaching years: 37+

History of my teaching years:

I was hired by SD35 to be a “substitute teacher”, before “TOC” was the term, in November of 1987. I “subbed” on three separate days in 1987. I ended up teaching two term positions at Parkside Centennial from January to December, 1988. I was on call January to June of 1989, and “subbed” at various Langley schools, including several that no longer exist such as Langley Central, Langley Prairie, and Aldergrove Elementary. My very first classroom was at Murrayville Elementary (another school which has gone), teaching grade 3 in a spacious classroom in the old heritage building. After my first year there, I was in a portable where I taught grades 3, 2, and a 3/4 split over four years. After James Hill was built down the road, several of us were surplus from Murrayville. I applied for, and was hired, to teach primary at James Hill. I taught 2/3 splits and full grade 3 classes there for 8 years. Once again being surplus in 2003, I attended many job interviews and accepted a primary class, part time, at Langley Fine Arts. I ended up teaching two years of primary, 6 years of grade 6 core and 6 years of grade 5 core at 80%. For three of those years, I was able to TTOC 20%, often at Douglas Park. I have spent the past 8 years teaching full time as the elementary prep teacher. The role adjusted to the needs of each year, and has involved working with ten classes from kindergarten to grade 5: teaching Phys. Ed., taking classes for library book exchange and teaching library skills, supporting numeracy and literacy concepts with whole classes, providing literacy support to individuals or small groups by pulling them out of class or pushing in,

and assisting with assessments. For several years, I have supported after school events such as middle school long jump try-outs and practices, as well as supervising at the K to 7 spring Let's Move program where students run or walk a circuit for 40 minutes twice a week.

In my retirement I hope to:

Spend more time enjoying family and friends. Work in my yard on a regular basis. Work on fixing up our house. Work on jigsaw puzzles. Read a lot of books!



School retiring from: Langley Secondary School

Number of teaching years: 28

History of my teaching years:

In 1999, I began teaching in the Mission, but it was a long drive, and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace, so I eventually moved to Langley, where I'd heard the bulldogs all have rubber teeth, and the hens lay soft-boiled eggs. It wasn't true. But it was still a fantastic place to work. During my time in both districts, I was privileged to partake in many extracurriculars, from coaching Reach for the Top to emceeing Commencement. Recently, my best memories (at my age, they're all recent) come from my time with our teacher band, The Acronyms, as well as playing in the pit band for the last three musicals, where I learned that I actually do not know how to play guitar that well. The more you know, right? I will miss my students and my colleagues, and I will miss being part of something important. To misquote a Coen Brothers character, "The institution has worth, and you have worth if you serve the institution."

In my retirement I hope to:

Continue to serve as a TTOC while getting back to a few creative enterprises and maybe a little more fishing.



Retiree: Deborah Yeo

School retiring from: Topham Elementary

Number of Teaching Years: 26

History of My Teaching Years:

I began my teaching career in 1988 at Big River Indian Reserve in Northern Sask., where I lived on site and felt welcomed in the community. Finding the reserve to be rather remote for a young single teacher, I ventured into a nearby small town to teach. In 1990, craving new experiences and adventures, I left Canada to teach in Japan. I taught English for 5 years at the high school level. My years there were well spent learning and absorbing a new culture that fascinated me. My one claim to fame was meeting and chatting in my embarrassingly limited Japanese language, with the Emperor and Empress of Japan when they visited my classroom during a school visit! In 1995 I returned to Canada to start a family. In 1997, I began teaching for the Langley School District. After 3 months, I was asked if I would be interested in taking a term position at Topham to teach Japanese. The rest is history. Ranging from part time to full time back to part time, with a variety of amazing job share partners, I have loved teaching all my years at Topham with its supportive parent community and coworkers with whom I think of as family.

In my retirement I hope to:

Finally be able to travel during the cheap seasons! I also look forward to leisurely lunches and unscheduled bathroom breaks with luxury-ply paper! I may even try to squeeze in a few art classes and take on other creative projects that will horrify my family.