



# CORTA Connects



## November 2025 Newsletter

Visit the CORTA website @ <https://corta.ca>

We're looking forward to the months ahead... there is lots going on for our members and friends. we send along CORTA's best wishes for good health, fabulous fall adventures and quality time spent with friends and family during November!

It's never too late to become a CORTA member – whether you retired years ago or only last June, just click on the BCRTA link below to join the BCRTA & CORTA (be sure to check the Central Okanagan Retired Teachers' Association box when you fill in their form). Your first year of membership is completely FREE, but you must register to take advantage of this offer! Here's the link: <https://bcrt.ca/join/>

This year, CORTA's membership increased by 40 members – welcome to these 'newbies'. We hope you'll consider joining us for future CORTA events!



## CORTA Executive Committee for 2025-2026

**President:** Cathie Mutter

**Vice-President:** Linda Keil

**Past President:** Charlene Hodgson

**Secretary:** POSITION AVAILABLE

**Treasurer:** Val Larson

**Historian:** Terri Perrin

**Members @ Large:** Delores Jensen, John Pendray, Brian Street, Derek Turvey

**Membership:** Willie Findlater

**Programmes:** Jeannette Mergens

**Social Concerns/Wellness:** Anita Prescott

**Sunshine:** Karen Bernath

**Webmaster/Digital Communications:** Leslie Plummer

## Meeting Dates

### Executive Committee Meetings:

- November 3rd
- February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

### General Meetings:

Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (AGM)

If you'd like to try the role of "secretary", please send an email to [news@corta.ca](mailto:news@corta.ca). Terri, our former secretary, has moved into a new role and so we need a new notetaker! Thanks for considering getting more involved!

## FACEBOOK & CORTA WEBSITE (<https://corta.ca>)

We are continually updating the available information on our website & Facebook page to inspire and keep CORTA members informed about our events, seniors' issues & opportunities for involvement in the community. If you are a Facebook user, you can "Like" and "Follow" us by going to:

<https://www.facebook.com/centralokanagan>

# Coffee with CORTA



Join us!

- **Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**  
... for a very informal, first-ever CORTA event... we're meeting for coffee!
- **from 9:30-11 am**
- **at the Deli City Backroom Café** (on Springfield Rd.)
- **Pay \$10 at the door** for a bottomless cup of coffee/tea and a sweet treat...  
CORTA will pay the bill and cover the cost of your tip.
- **RSVP** if you'd like to attend to Cathie ([president@corta.ca](mailto:president@corta.ca))

## UPCOMING EVENTS



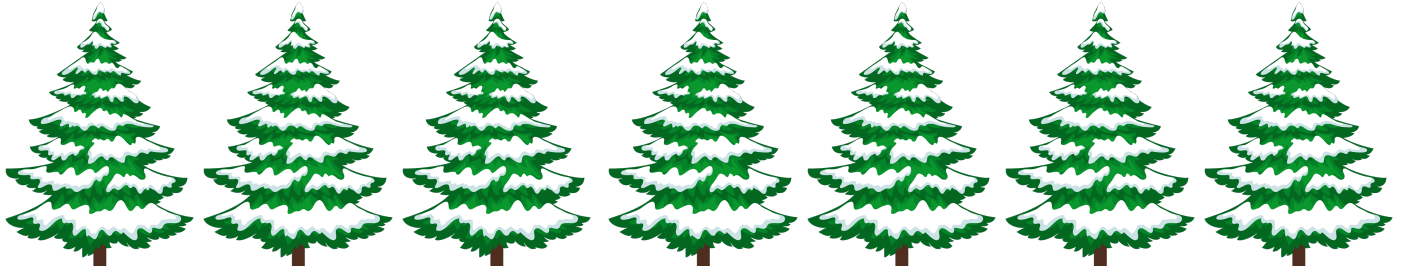
## CORTA Calendar

### 📅 **November 19<sup>th</sup> - Meet & Greet at 1 pm**

With Carolyn Malm (BCRTA President) and Lisa Hansen (new BCRTA Executive Director). We are gathering at Reid Hall at Benvoulin Heritage Park (the meeting room can be entered thru' the back of the church).

- This is a **FREE** event (sweet treats and coffee/tea provided)
- RSVP to Cathie ([president@corta.ca](mailto:president@corta.ca)) if you'd like to attend

## • WINTER WONDERLAND LUNCHEON



Dig out your **favourite**, ugly Christmas sweater and join us for this **favourite**, festive event at our **favourite** luncheon venue. We have room for 70 feasters!!!!

**DATE:** Monday, December 1st

**TIME:** Doors open at 11:30 am, Turkey Buffet ready @ noon (we're still deciding the details with our caterer – Crazy Apples. Your meal will include the buffet roast turkey luncheon with all the fixin's, salad, dessert and coffee/tea

**COST:** \$25 (pay by cash or cheque to CORTA @ door)

**PLACE:** Benvoulin Heritage Park - Reid Hall (enter from the parking lot behind the church @ 2279 Benvoulin Road, Kelowna

**RSVP:** to [hodgsoncharlene@gmail.com](mailto:hodgsoncharlene@gmail.com) by Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> @ noon (space limit of 50 guests)



An RSVP reminder will be sent to members in mid-November. This event will also feature a Silent Auction & 50/50 Draw in support of COBSS (cash/cheque only for participation in both of these activities). Or, you can simply make a direct donation to the COBSS (with cash or cheque payable to Central Okanagan Bursary & Scholarship Society) and indicate that your contribution should be added to the Sig Ottenbreit Retired Teachers' Bursary.

**CORTA members are invited to donate a Silent Auction prize to use for this event. We'll take care of the rest - prepare the gift baskets and bidding sheets and announce winners. Thanks for contributing!**





## What is CARE?

Climate Action Ripple Effect (CARE) is a unique and dynamic education program that teaches students about climate change and inspires them to become agents of change in their own communities. By linking their work to

municipal climate action objectives and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, students explore real-world solutions to a global challenge—starting right here at home.

## How Does It Work?

**Student-Driven Projects** help learners reflect on their skills, talents, interests, and concerns, which they use to create collaborative projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and/or helping their communities adapt to climate change.

- 🌀 **Research** is undertaken by all student teams to inform and guides project objectives and design.
- 🌀 **Community Mentors** support project teams with topic-focused expertise, ideas, and community networks related to nature/biodiversity, agriculture/food, energy/buildings, waste, transportation, and human health/culture.
- 🌀 **Innovative Thinking** by students results in projects ranging from science studies and engineering prototypes, to eco-business and public education strategies, to policy-change campaigns and art installations.
- 🌀 **Strong Local Partnerships** including school districts, municipalities, post-secondary institutions, and climate-focused nonprofits and businesses that enable broad-based cooperation and funding that expedite community climate action. This proven collaborative approach can also be applied to other community challenges and opportunities.



*Grade 11 George Elliot Secondary students Carter (left) and Jayda worked with mentor Kelly Fehr (Vernon City Councillor) to create and distribute CARE Bags with hygiene products, food, and other items for local unhoused folks who could be impacted by extreme weather events. They won a CARE Community Impact Award to expand the project next year.*

## Why does CARE matter?

- ◆ **AGENCY ORIENTED** – Turning climate anxiety into action
- ◆ **PROCESS FOCUSED** – Emphasizing growth and learning over perfection
- ◆ **TEAM DRIVEN** – Fostering collaboration and community connections
- ◆ **STRENGTHS BASED** – Exploring, incorporating, and celebrating each student's talents, skills, interests, and concerns
- ◆ **LEADERSHIP FOCUSED** – Giving students a platform to lead and inspire
- ◆ **AUTHENTIC & LOCAL** – Tackling real challenges with relevant, viable, and impactful change that matters right here



CARE is delivered by the Fresh Outlook Foundation  
in collaboration with community partners, granting organizations, and sponsors.

Please contact the local contact for CARE if you're interested in this mentoring opportunity:

**Kasey Van Sickle**

CARE Mentor/Sponsor Coordinator School Districts 22 / 23

778-363-0303

[kasey@freshoutlookfoundation.org](mailto:kasey@freshoutlookfoundation.org)

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## **ONLINE RESOURCES FOR CORTA MEMBERS**

THESE ARE USUALLY MADE AVAILABLE TO OUR MEMBERS SO YOU CAN VIEW PRESENTATIONS OR READ A HANDOUT FOLLOWING A CORTA WORKSHOP OR OTHER PRESENTATION. YOU'LL FIND THE LINKS UNDER THE 'DOCUMENTS' TAB ON THE CORTA WEBSITE – VISIT: <https://corta.ca>

HERE ARE TWO THAT WERE ADDED RECENTLY:

- **BCRTA Fall Conference Presentation by Crawford Killian-** <https://bcрта.ca/crawford-killian-conference-2025-keynote-speech/>  
(this link was shared to the BCRTA website on November 7<sup>th</sup>... the remaining presentations should be made available soon)
- **October 27, 2025 Luncheon Presentation by Claire Smith-Burns (Director: Kelowna & District Genealogical Society)-** <https://corta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Discover-Your-Ancestral-Story-Oct-2025-CORTA.pdf>

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS OR RECENT PRESENTATIONS.

TICKETS CAN BE ORDERED AT: <https://phoenixrisingsingers.weebly.com>

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## Phoenix Rising Singers – A Concert Presentation

with dramatic storytelling and choral music

Project: 'Twas the Night Before

Christmas (by Clement Moore)

Script adapted by: Neal Facey

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Kelowna Unitarian Hall

1310 Bertram Street, Kelowna



Evening Concerts @ 7:00 pm on December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Matinée (Saturday only) @ 2 pm on December 6<sup>th</sup> ONLY  
Tickets available from choir members/thru' the website –

<https://phoenixrisingsingers.weebly.com>

Adults- \$25, Students- \$20



**You'll see a few retired teacher's faces in the group... it promises to be a wonderful holiday celebration, perfect for the whole family!**