

The K.R.T. Bridge

Fall 07

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Our motto: "It's great to remember but the bliss is to forget."

Raffle raises TRU Bursary to over \$ 50,000



Bursary Chairperson Bev Maxwell on the right presents the lovely Swedish knit throw donated by Joan Cole to the happy winner. Liz Bryson, now of Vancouver, has taught for many years in Kamloops and purchased the ticket on one of her frequent visits to our dinners. Congratulations, Liz! We are all happy for you.

Bev reports that the raffle has raised \$ 1,390 Dollars and as of April 1, 2007 the balance in the KRTA-sponsored TRU Bursary has reached \$ 51,355.53. She says Liz was "thrilled to receive the throw, cushions and quilt stand, especially when she knew the throw was donated by Joan Cole." She concludes: "We can be very proud of our contributions over the years." Indeed, Liz, and thank you and members of the Bursary Committee for your efforts.

Donna Sharpe: YEAR END PARTY AT MCQUEEN LAKE

About 30 of our group went to McQueen Lake on Friday, June 8, 2007. This was our Year End social event. We had a lovely time, with the weather cooperating, good food to eat and lots of time to visit. We traveled to McQueen by school bus just like in the old days. Donna Walsh kept track of us so we wouldn't leave anyone behind.



It was nice of Art Blackwell to meet us there and spend a while telling us about some of the changes that have taken place over the last few years. The full time custodian, Dan Sargent, also told us much about the place and some of its history.



Indeed, as can be seen from the following pictures, many changes have taken place at McQueen Lake Environmental Centre over the years. The woodburning stoves from the cabins are gone as they are virtually rebuilt. The outhouses are a thing of the past as a heated washroom facility has been built on the site as well as a very bright and well heated classroom. Only a corner of the old woodshed remains and its days are numbered.



Centrally heated washroom, top left and conference/classroom outside and inside, below.



Some of us hiked to the day centre and caught the bus home from there, still amazed.

Stuart Wood School 100 years old

Stuart Wood School will celebrate its centennial birthday on October 12th and 13th. We salute the school and Special Services on reaching this illustrious milestone. The celebrations were a great success. Several of our members attended.

Treasurer's Report

According to the last available report in April "\$ 9,129.48 is in the account, with approximately half of that being Heritage Project and Bursary funds."

Book at the printer, out soon.

The Retired Teachers Association in Kamloops is publishing a new book of remembrances and recollections of Kamloops secondary school teachers. Adventures in education from Barriere and Clearwater, from Brock to Westsyde, in science, shop and physical education as well as those from English and French and history. **Warren Damer and Marie LaRoche** conducted interviews and co-authored the publication.

Oh Canada!

In 1987 25 enterprises controlled 1116 corporations and owned 41% of all assets.
 The top 1/100th of 1% of all enterprises controlled 56% of all assets.
 The top 1% of all enterprises controlled 86 % of all assets and made 75% of all profits.

Put another way, in 1987 99% of all corporate enterprises owned 14% of assets and have made 25 % of the profits.

Then came "Free Trade." Said Eric Kierans, then serving on the House of Commons Committee on External Affairs and International Trade on December 3, 1987:

"The name of the game in the Free Trade Agreement is money. Not money for real investment and creating new, and better goods and services, but money for takeovers, mergers... money for accumulation and concentration of wealth and power."

(Mel Hurtig, The Betrayal of Canada, pp. 158-9)

(Apparently, money and power was not concentrated enough, even then. Since then we got globalized, and presumably many of the Canadian taker-overs had been taken over themselves – by Walmartians perhaps?)

*** To write with a broken pencil is pointless.**

*** A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.**

Kamloops Retired Teachers' Executive 2007/2008

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2007/2008 Executive Meetings ABC Family Restaurant

Sept. 18, 2007	Feb. 19, 2008
Oct. 16, 2007	Mar. 18, 2008
Nov. 20, 2007	Apr. 15, 2008
Jan. 15, 2008	May 20, 2007

Kamloops Retired Teachers' Association Cottonwood Centre 2007/2008 Luncheon Meetings

Sept. 28, 2007	Feb. 29, 2008
Oct. 26, 2007	Mar. 28, 2008
Nov. 30, 2007	Apr. 25, 2008
Jan. 25, 2008	May 30, 2008
June - Year End (to be booked)	

President's Message

Welcome to another year that is hopefully filled with those wonderful retirement activities. I give a very special welcome to our new retirees who joined the BCRTA. Our membership continues to grow steadily. We were at 361 members as of September 14. That was an overall increase of 28 members. We continue to have a number of members who pay their fees by cheque each year. Many did not renew. This is a reminder that you need to if you plan to attend regular meetings of the local. The BCRTA has changed the application form this year so that fees are deducted automatically from the BC Teachers pension of new Active members. The yearly renewal process has been awkward and time consuming for our two office staff. They have also taken a lot of flack from some members who were annoyed that they had not received their notice/reminder or Postscript. **I REMIND EVERYONE THAT IF YOU MOVE, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LET THE BCRTA KNOW.** The BC Pension does not give the BCRTA any notice of changes, as they are two separate organizations.

The BCRTA AGM occurred September 19 – 20 in Richmond. The frightening drive through a dreadful rain and hailstorm in Surrey may have been the most exciting part. Workshops covered topics such as Ten Tips for Public Speaking, and a format for writing letters of advocacy. The only item to cause a stir was a presentation on the fact that our government is selling vast tracts of land and water rights on sights identified for hydro development. Sales to private developers are for as little as \$10,000. Stay tuned to your media sources, as there will be much more to be heard. The pension chair reported that our pension is very secure. However, some of our benefits such as our cost of living increase are not a part of the secure funding. Just as the demand that was put onto the Dental plan by subscribers resulted in the need to have a plan that was covering the cost, it is likely that the same will happen in the next few years for the extended health benefits.

I remind all members that through your membership in BCRTA you are eligible for some excellent insurance programs offered by Johnson, Inc. Medoc travel insurance is one of the best available and they do have a neat one trip plan available. They also provide house insurance (see the back of your Postscript), long term care insurance and life insurance as well as Legacy planning.

Advocacy

Initiated by the BCTF, the function of this office is to speak on behalf of those who are too weak to be heard or unable to speak for themselves, but whose cause is of concern for all of us. The field includes such things as illnesses and insurance, the environment, protection of rights and freedoms, privacy, et al. Initial causes being considered are the proposed 1000 plus private hydro projects and the high tax on books. Sheila Park and Frank Veszely offered to help. **WANTED: A CHAIRPERSON.**

Food for Thought

Frank Veszely: The Homeland of Pretense Security

Heart and brain-halting changes have taken place in the United States the past few years, apparently without protest. A few years ago I could still take family and friends visiting me in Vancouver across the border to Seattle, proud of “the world’s longest unguarded border” and the ease with which we could cross the border manned by friendly and courteous personnel waving us through. We always stopped by the Peace Arch Monument, that meaningfully symbolized our long-standing, friendly relations. As a Canadian, I valued my big brother being next door. As a former Hungarian freedom fighter who had escaped Communist oppression in 1956, I felt free, safe and at home for decades in the United States whenever I visited there, the homeland of freedom and democracy. Today I can no longer cross the border freely, and do not feel free nor safe when I am in the United States, and I would not even think of taking my folks there. I would feel embarrassed because they would be sure to recognize the armed border and the suspicion which greets foreigners there as one of the loathed features of life under communism. While with the advent of the European Union Eastern Europeans can now travel freely anywhere in Europe, the American border with its ten foot walls and guard posts has become reminiscent of the walled East German border under communist dictatorship. Sounds incredible? Incredibly, it isn’t!

What is even more unbelievable is that no political opposition leader seems to have noticed, even acknowledged the drastic change, let alone protested it! How is this possible? As one who grew up in a communist state I feel like a seer of a terrible future where I had already been, who knows it is futile to warn people, futile to shout – for no one would listen. The folks here have not experienced the surreal Communist oppression that I have in my native Hungary. North Americans think it improbable if not impossible that a dictatorship could control their lives here now or in the future. Yet what scares me is that that future is already here: Homeland Security has the power to detain anyone anywhere, and even his mother won’t know where he/she is. The man on the street believes that the modified provisions of the Patriot Act affect only the terrorists, and never imagines that – as a result of a bureaucratic mistake or a false report for instance – he himself could become victimized, and have no way of defending himself. Ironically, he believes the Patriot Act’s amendments are there to defend him, when in fact they render him defenseless.

It seems that just as during the last few decades the American people failed to notice that they now live in an oligarchy and not in a democracy, they are failing to notice that their personal freedom has been wolfed down by this wolf in sheep’s disguise, ironically called “security!” He is in touch only with the wool - oh how good it feels to have another strong institution with the reassuring name of Homeland Security being there to protect him, how nice to have put more teeth into the Patriot Act to defend him from all those evil terrorists! And, should the wolf hidden under the sheep’s skin gobble up one of his fellow citizens, it is him whom he blames, not the wolf. He must have done something to anger the animal! He must have done something or the security people

would not have taken him away. I have been there, done that. Yet the cases of wrongful arrests based on “profiling” just keep adding up. The communists, too, did a lot of profiling. Hapless individuals affiliated with the West, policemen and bureaucrats of the previous regime, politicians, landowners, the clergy, nationalist sympathizers were all profiled as “socially unfriendly elements” and were blacklisted, sometimes harrassed, falsely accused of crimes they never committed, or interned. Injustices continued unabated.

How can it be that the American people cannot see this? How could they reelect a President that has misled them so obviously, who has taken away their freedom? I called my childhood friend who, like I, had escaped the communists and has been living in California for decades, to share my concerns. He was a God-fearing Baptist in Hungary, and he is a God-fearing Baptist still. “Relax,” he told me, “everything is happening according to God’s plan in America. President Bush is a believer, he lives a clean life, not like some of those degenerate liberals who want to see gay marriage and abortions, and who want to use human embryos for experiments. Christians built America on the Bible and Christians are still a majority in America. They have clearly shown this. The result of the election is a triumph of Christianity over immoral liberalism. He knows that the President was an alcoholic and a drug user before he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior, but this is how powerful Christ really is – Christ can completely change the person who accepts Him, and who believes in Him.” He let me know that he is not afraid at all, he trusts completely in his Lord. I was afraid to ask him which Lord he had in mind, but hoped it was God.

President Bush’s greatest lie was not about Iraq’s nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, but the lie about Homeland Security. He created a huge secret security force between and above the FBI and the CIA, and empowered it with unlimited power. He did it insidiously. As you may recall this was achieved by avoiding enacting new legislation, which would have required debate and examination. Instead, he modified the existing Patriot Act, adding small details, too numerous to reference to the original text and to follow, adding a word here, subtracting one there, several hundred times: muddling the meaning here, overturning the meaning there... perhaps? Maybe? Who knows? Already the President had created a war mentality effectively silencing opposition. The senators were made to feel that there is a war going on, they would be committing treason not to stand behind their President. They could hardly vote against a *Patriot Act* without being seen as unpatriotic, could they? Nay, they couldn’t even delay passing the amendments without sabotaging the war on terrorism – and thus without committing political suicide. They really had no choice, they had to trust the President, the senators had to vote as asked! As film director Michael Moore of *Fahrenheit 911* discovered, the senators have never read the bill they voted yes to.

For far and away this is the greatest lie: this myth about security, this myth about “winning the war on terrorism.” Its price: the loss of individual freedom in America. Thanks to the changes in the Patriot Act thus passed, security police has unrestrained power to arrest anyone anywhere at any time on the *mere suspicion* that he is a terrorist, deprive him of his right to defend himself, detain him for any length of time, reportedly even ship him off to outsourced torturers at will. No proof is ever required and no apology. In short, security agents can do exactly as the KGB could do in the former

Soviet Union during the worst years of stalinist terror. And, as during soviet days anyone could be accused of being “a spy,” in the United States of today anyone could be accused of being a “terrorist.” As a consequence no one is secure and no one is free from the authorities. A telltale feature of a dictatorship.

For the concept of who is a terrorist is the most elastic concept in the world. One would think, for example, that those who indiscriminately explode bombs daily in Iraq, killing innocent people by the score, amply fulfill the requirement of being terrorists. However, these people are not “terrorists,” these are “insurgents.” But the Chechens, the Tamils, the Basks, who do the same thing, they are terrorists. The difference apparently is that those who terrorize people in Iraq can not be called terrorists, for then the President could not claim to be winning the war on terrorism, and the myth that he is the best man to protect us from the terrorists would be shredded. *This way, however, the concept of “the terrorist” becomes so arbitrary and so vague, that it can be applied to anyone – or not applied at all.* In the United States the hapless accused does not have to commit any crime – it is enough if he could be *suspected* of being “a terrorist sympathizer,” or accused of “harboring a terrorist,” and he can be carted away as a “terrorist.” The thought makes me shudder for when the Nazis took over Hungary an early similar hue and cry was raised. It went: “He who protects a Jew is a Jew and will be treated like one!” It seems dictatorships of all ilk are alike in their creating fear in the citizenry in order to pursue their agenda.

The present day power of the newly created Homeland Security Department extends over the citizenry of every nation in the world, including the United States. In other words, anyone who steps on American soil or who lives there is subject to – if he is labeled as a terrorist – to being arrested at any time anywhere, and he can’t hire a lawyer to protect himself, can’t let his own Embassy or family know where he is – he is completely at the mercy of his captors. It seems the President has learned a thing or two on his Texas ranch when he hosted “his good friend,” Comrade Putin – the former head of the KGB.

Although no one seems to be aware of it yet – and to my greatest regret – America is no longer the land of the free. For my part, I do not take visitors to the United States and I don’t go there myself if I don’t have to. Knowing what I know, and remembering what I have seen living under a communist dictatorship, I feel the same unpleasant, anxious feeling come over me at the U.S. border that I have escaped from in communist Hungary. No wonder I have no desire to visit the United States! For it may well be that what the terrorists with their nonexistent weapons of mass destruction and always being pursued and “on the run” can really do could hardly cause more damage to the world’s most powerful state than a flea bite could do to an elephant, and that my chances of me being hit by a car are far greater than my being hit by a terrorist, but what Homeland Security could do to me, based on what has happened under G. W. Bush’s presidency since 911, I find truly frightening.

You see, the paper dossiers the communists maintained on us is nothing compared with the computerized, video camera and distant listening devices-equipped, centralized information banks holding, multibillion-dollar budgeted, many-tentackled security forces that are up and running now in the United States. And I have said nothing of the power and clandestine capabilities of the FBI and the CIA. With your privacy goes your freedom. *Big Brother now has every means at his disposal to keep unprecedented, 24-7*

surveillance on the American citizenry. With this, the foundations are laid for a dictatorship the likes of which the world has never seen.

Moreover, and, to my greatest sorrow, another terrorist attack on the mainland United States appears to be only a matter of time because, for sure, it will be impossible to prevent. In spite of all the delays and indignities imposed on travelers and for all the surveillance put in place in the world, America's borders are going to remain porous, period. For all the strengthening of the borders by walls, Mexican immigrants continue pouring into the United States and drugs continue pouring in from all directions. The container traffic entering legally through the ports of the United States is inspected at the rate of a handful per the thousand. If much more were to be inspected, commerce would grind to a halt. The American businessman's willingness to make sacrifices for the war on terror does not extend this far. Perhaps the loss of personal freedom of the unsuspecting citizenry and the gross inconveniencing of the traveling public in the name of security is one thing, the loss of serious money is quite another. ***Thus for all the hype about security, the borders and the ports are going to remain porous for traffickers and terrorists alike.***

So I am pulling my head back between my shoulder blades, even here in Canada. For let not the innocent Canadian be lulled by the protection offered Canadians by their Charter of Rights and Freedoms! It may have been designed and created as a mighty wall for the purpose of enshrining and protecting the rights of the individual, but our own fighters against terrorism had seen to it that the Charter now has a little gate right through it that enables our security people to do the same job that their colleagues are doing in the United States. Of course our security forces can't just arrest anyone willy-nilly, based on his "profile" or on mere suspicion, nor can they ignore his rights, his citizenship, and deport him against his will to another country! Not, that is, unless they have been issued a special "ticket" by the government first. Any number of these are now made available to our security forces at their request and, provided that they have the ticket, they can cheerfully ignore the Charter of Rights, individual freedoms, Canadian law, whatever – and carry on "the war against terror" unimpeded by rights or laws. Considering the real – still relatively small – threat posed to the state by real terrorists in Canada, this is remarkable. Needless to say we are following the leader elsewhere as well, arming our own border guards. Say nothing and wait: internal passports with coded profiles are on the way.

So what is the reality today in yesterday's home of democracy and freedom? Democracy had been bought up by the oligarchs decades ago, and now freedom has been quietly put under the counter for their own use: to freely pursue *their* agenda. It has become hard to miss: the will of the big money holders is the determinant political force, and has been for decades. Where a handful of rich and powerful people rule the state, that state the Greeks called an oligarchy. The United States has been for many years, as it is now, an oligarchy. Addressing his big moneyed audience at a fundraiser dinner, President Bush said: "Some people call you the elite. I call you my base." And Canada is not far behind. The personnel changes – big money remains.

Regrettably Big Money, we see daily, has no responsibility and knows few scruples. Politically, big money's rule is inspired by the interests of big money, and big money feels free to pursue whatever policies it pleases to stuff his proverbial pockets with more money until they split and beyond, including policies that are decidedly anti-American

and destructive to American society at large. Witness “globalization” which has gutted America’s manufacturing sector, indebted population and state alike, and is threatening to destroy the middle class there. CNN’s Lou Dobbs calls it “the war on the middle class.” So perhaps, just perhaps, Homeland Security is not needed for fighting al Kaida at all. But it may be soon needed domestically, to keep in check the millions of impoverished and displaced middle class Americans whose jobs big money had outsourced to Asia, and who may soon become very upset with the oligarch’s rule.

Sounds incredible? Remember, anyone can be labeled a terrorist. Soon perhaps new labels may be added, or no label will be needed at all, just point a finger! (It works. In Afghanistan, large monetary rewards were offered to finger terrorists, so unscrupulous people were fingering innocent neighbors to collect the reward money with impunity: their victims were shipped off to Guantanamo Bay!) So perhaps my Californian friend is right, after all: security is being looked after all right – only not his – and everything is taking place in accordance with the plan of our lord – he just got the lords mixed up.

*** Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.**

*** We'll never run out of math teachers because they always multiply.**

Child rearing course a success at Valleyview



Marian Trestaine with her not-so-dumb dummies at our April luncheon. Darrel Johnson got into the act as did most of us as the dolls were passed around during the presentation.

Marian gave an account of the program designed to educate young people about what it is like to care for a baby. Simulation games are an effective and still under-utilized means to educate in the public school system. Way to go Marian! In the program the students are asked to take home and care for the life-sized babies, who are computer programmed to cry for food and attention. The students learn to recognize the facial features of drug and alcohol syndrome babies as the computer-programmed babies range from normal to various special needs. Taking care of these dolls provide a life-like experience in child rearing for teenage students. Students have found the course quite an eye-opener, attested

to by their comments to Marian, like: “Having a baby at home made a big difference in my life. I was too tired to go out.” And “I think I will wait a while before I have a baby.”

... Speaking of computers, your editor found the following circulating as a forward on the Internet:

SCHOOL 1977 vs. SCHOOL 2007

Scenario: Jack goes quail hunting before school, pulls into school parking lot with shotgun in gun rack.

1977 - Vice principal comes over, looks at Jack’s shotgun, goes to his car and gets his own shotgun to show Jack.

2007 - School goes into lockdown, the RCMP are called, Jack is hauled off to jail and never sees his truck or gun again. Counselors are called in to assist traumatized students and teachers.

Scenario: Johnny and Mark get into a fistfight after school.

1977 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up buddies.

2007 - Police are called, SWAT team arrives and arrests Johnny and Mark. They are charged with assault and both are expelled even though Johnny started it.

Scenario: Jeffrey won’t sit still in class, disrupts other students.

1977 - Jeffrey is sent to the principal’s office and given a good paddling. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2007 - Jeffrey is given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADD. School gets extra provincial funding because Jeffrey has a disability.

Scenario: Billy breaks a window in his neighbour’s car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1977 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2007 - Billy’s dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy is removed to foster care and joins a gang. State psychologist tells Billy’s sister that she remembers being abused herself and their dad goes to prison. Billy’s mom has an affair with the psychologist.

Scenario: Mark gets a headache and takes some Aspirin to school.

1977 - Mark shares Aspirin with the school principal out on the smoking dock.

2007 - Police are called and Mark is expelled from school for drug violations. His car is searched for drugs and weapons.

Scenario: Pedro fails high-school English.

1977 - Pedro goes to summer school, passes English, goes to college.

2007 - Pedro's cause is taken up by local human rights group.

Newspaper articles appear nationally explaining that making English a requirement for graduation is racist. Canadian Civil Liberties

Association files class action lawsuit against provincial school system and Pedro's English teacher. English is banned from core curriculum.

Pedro is given his diploma anyway but ends up mowing lawns for a living because he cannot speak English.

Scenario: Johnny takes apart leftover Canada Day firecrackers, puts them in a model airplane paint bottle and blows up an anthill.

1977 - Ants die.

2007 – Canadian Firearms Centre and the RCMP are called and Johnny is charged with domestic terrorism. CSIS investigates parents, siblings are removed from the home, computers are confiscated, and Johnny's dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly again.

Scenario: Johnny falls during recess and scrapes his knee. His teacher, Mary, finds him crying, and gives him a hug to comfort him.

1977 - Johnny soon feels better and goes back to playing.

2007 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces three years in federal prison. Johnny undergoes five years of therapy.

Overstated perhaps, this sounds to have come more likely from a parent than from a teacher. Nevertheless the scenarios do have a ring of truth to them, don't they? Glad to have retired!

Two Notes of Caution

Norm Moss sent along the following clip from an AP report: "Millions of Americans don't take their medicine correctly – or quit taking it altogether – and the consequences can be deadly. On average, half of patients with chronic illnesses skip doses or otherwise mess up. It goes beyond the issue of affording prescriptions. Often, people buy their drugs but misunderstand what to take or how. Or forget doses. Or start feeling better and toss the rest. Or fear side effects..." (The subliminal messages of the article: 1. If you don't take your medication you may die. 2. Side effects are no good reason to toss pills, for they won't kill you – not taking prescribed pills can be deadly. Which drug lobby put this scary message out? I'll be taking my pills with both hands now and will go back for more! By the way, how many pills am I supposed to take when I am instructed to "take two pills twice daily?" Two or four? This also from the article. FV)

Events Calendar

Our program committee met early in September to look at the suggestions from the membership and to set up a schedule of programs for the year. Meetings this year will continue to be held at the Cottonwood manor on the last Friday of every month except December and June. At this time, all of the listed programs are tentative, as we still need to contact people and make arrangements. We have tried to balance the selection of programs to match the varied interest of our group, with travel, health, service, the arts, and of course fun in mind. Here is our list of possible programs for this year.

Sept. 28 – Introduction of new retirees, AGM reports of our delegates.
Social time. Sharing the fruits from your garden.

Oct. 26 – Peter Grauer talking about his book “Interred with their Bones: Bill Miner in Canada, 1903-1907”, a research story about Bill Miner and his escapades.

Nov. 30 – Christmas program
A choral group to entertain us
A sing-a-long
Donations for Christmas Amalgamated

Jan. 25 – Wellness in retirement with Stephen Karpuk (chiropractor) as our guest speaker

January 31 – Deadline for submissions to the next Bridge, coming out in February after the Executive meeting and before the February luncheon for those receiving it on the Internet. Printed copies will be available at the luncheon. Those that are not on the Internet and did not attend the luncheon will receive their copy by mail soon after.

Feb.: Jerry Ohlund on his experiences in China
March: We hear from our Bursary recipients
Social time

April: Something on an African theme

May: Our AGM and fund raiser (Silent Auction & Loonie Auction)

June: A Social – perhaps a bus trip out of town (Wells Gray Park, Hat Creek Ranch, or somewhere like that)

* If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.

* A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

* What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway)

Norm Moss: KALS begins its Third Year

This fall, the Kamloops Adult Learners' Society again offers courses to people that are retired or semi-retired. Central to our vision is that we continue to learn throughout our lifespan and prefer doing so in a non-stressful environment free of costly fees, textbooks and exams. Our low-cost annual fee of \$15.00 gives you choices on courses which are held in the Henry Grube Centre in the daytime. Most courses are three to six weeks in length for two hours at a time. The cost of each course does not exceed forty dollars; some are less expensive. Our instructors are drawn from the community or Thompson Rivers University. The courses we have offered this fall are:

Really Basic Computers – Del Turner
 Beyond Basic Computers – Del Turner
 Regional Geography of B.C. – Ken Favrholt
 Children's Literature – Lynn Wiltse, PHD
 Cultures and societies in S.E. Asia – Del Turner
 Canadian History Reading Group – Dr. Anne Gagnon, PHD
 Geology: Rocks and Minerals – Ken Klein, MSc
 Astronomy: Viewing the Night Sky – Dr Roland Cobb, PHD
 Gemology – Jonathan Buchner
 Canadian Historical Fiction – Ginny Ratsoy, MA
 Travel with Wells Grey Tours – Roland Neave
 Criminology – L. Deutshchmann, PHD

Some of the above courses might be offered again. A membership survey helped us plan new courses for the spring such as Current Events, Foreign Cultures and Cuisine, Improving your Life and Health, and other interesting topics. Watch for course descriptions in the Senior Connector newspaper. Check also our website www.KALS.ca Or get answers to your questions from our information line: 571 – 5002

This year share our vision by being part of KALS and continue your path to life-long learning.

Norm Moss, President,
 Kamloops Adult Learners' Society

Education history?

This is part of the eighth-grade final exam from 1895 in Salina, KS, USA. It was taken from the original document on file at the Smokey Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, KS, and reprinted by the Salina Journal.

Orthography (Time, one hour)

1. What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, syllabication?

2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, sub vocals, diphthong, cognate letters, linguals?
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u! '.
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.
- 6 Give two uses of silent letters in spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi, post, non, inter, mono, sup
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

Could our Grade 8 students write this test without a dictionary? Could we pass it with one? Perhaps.

Hmm!

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you will have to catch up!

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you have tried!

About Stroke...

1. **Prevention:** *control blood pressure * control diabetes * balance cholesterol levels * maintain a healthy weight * don't smoke * drink in moderation. Note: stroke is one of the most preventable
2. **Symptoms:** * weakness or numbness on one side of the body * facial droop *dimness or loss of vision, particularly in one eye * difficulty speaking or trouble understanding speech * sudden severe headache with no known cause * unexplained dizziness, unsteadiness or falls, particularly with conjunction of above symptoms.
3. **Effects:** In addition to mental functions, these can be physical, emotional, behavioral, social.
4. **Damage control:** * Ideally, you want to be at the hospital within the hour, and not later than three. * Do not lie down or wait for symptoms to go away! * Don't be afraid to call an ambulance! * Do not be guided by lack of pain – some strokes are painless. * Even if symptoms go away, go to the hospital to be evaluated anyway. (Condensed from an article in the Sept-Oct issue of Vancouver Tabloid.)

Poetry Corner

Pity the man

Pity the man who does not own a garden,
 knows not the many joys the arbor brings:
 from bursting blooms and bulbs to branches laden,
 like ornaments, with many-splendored things.

Pity the man who does not see the garden
 awakening from frost in early spring,
 stays closeted in his city apartment
 and shuts out air when shuts out the wind.

Pity the man who can't sit in his garden
 on sunny days and see the trembling light
 flutter on birds' wings, feel his spirit hearken,
 feel bliss of life, find flowers of delight.

Pity the man who can't plant in his garden
 the seeds of hope, the promise of return:
 Who cannot see his fruits of labor ripen
 on summer days or when the fall's flames burn.

Pity the man who knows not that a garden
 is more than labor, more than fighting pests --
 that man is also nature's ardent warden,
 committed to a life-preserving quest.

But pity most the man without a garden
 when life's last flames are burning in his hearth,
 his calcified existence, like bones, hardened --
 no solace left: no earth to claim his heart.

For man should always cultivate his garden,
 in just the way the great Voltaire had said,
 and lead his life in deed and spirit laden
 with toils of love and joy until the end.

Frank Veszely

A footnote – Frequently requested phone numbers:

B.C. Seniors' Line: 1- 800 - 465 – 4911 B.C. Nurse Line: 1 – 866 – 215 – 4700

B.C. Retired Services: 1 – 877 – 683 – 2243 or visit www.bctf.bc.ca/rta for more info.

In Memoriam

David Muir, Marjorie Palmer, Vic Pashnik, Josephine Raymond, Tom Shannon.

All will be missed for some time to come; may they all rest in peace. I remember Dave as an idealist colleague since we worked together at BEES, with Len Fowles as principal. Dave idealized Len and followed him to Bert Edwards. We were gung ho about open areas, individual reading, and the new math. We had classrooms draped in crepe paper until the fire chief paid us a visit. Soon after that we were “back to basics.” We were still young then and played a lot of ping pong and foot tennis in the gym after school. We did not play baseball, but Dave served a fast ball over the ping pong table a pitcher could be proud of. And so it is that our colleagues become a part of our lives, and a part of us dies when they are gone.



“Torrent and Trickle” (F.V.)