

The K.R.T. Bridge

Spring Issue, 2007 Editor and assistant: Frank Veszely and Donna Sharpe

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



Editorial (F.V.)

This is the first day of the rest of your life, mine, and that of The Bridge. Your new editor is filled with whim, vigour, and not much else, but has some gas to burn. He has turned seventy last year and in a moment of temporary insanity he felt his hand rise when The D. J. asked for a volunteer, so here we go until the gas lasts in the tank... I do mean to liven up these pages with some new features added to the tried and trusted ones:

Oh, Canada! A few facts about our country that the title inspires, **Alerts** about things not to be missed, **Goings on** for the wannabe informed that has not made the newspapers or those who would like us to know what they are doing, and pass on their news to the BRIDGE, **Calendar** for the wannabe organised, **Swap** for the barter minded – lamps, books, husbands (har-har) et al by naming the item and giving a phone number, **Presentations recaps and/or follow-ups** from our lunch presentors, **Travel Tips** for those who would share recommendations or alerts, **Close-up** featuring a member or two at the time to get to know, **Fun(ny) Page** for jokes and puzzles **S. O. S.** Calls for assistance by members that need trustworthy help, **Announcements** et al, **Tribute and/or in memoriam** lines about our still loved colleagues, **Literary Leanings** short originals from our members submitted to the

editors, book recommendations **I wish...** column for your requests and gripes, and of course **Letters to the Editor** you would like to see published. Your chances of being accepted are very good indeed. Donna and I mean this connection to be of service to you, first and last, quality comes next.

You will have to read *The Bridge* s-l-o-w-l-y, for you won't see another till the fall, September, that is. At least you know that it comes tax free!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General meetings at Cottonwood Manor: March 30, April 27, May 25. (AGM)

Executive meetings at ABC Family Restaurant: March 20, April 17, and May 15

Programs The programs for the meetings this spring are as follows:

February 23 – Reality Works (Baby? Think it Over!) by Marianne Trestain

March 30 – Bursary winners –Loree Holmes and Tracy Noble

April 27 – Africa update –Pat Petley and Drummers?

May 25 – AGM – Election and Wellness in Retirement by Stephen Karpuk

June - Inter branch Social in Kelowna –No details yet

Year-end –McQueen Lake or Wells Grey (Clearwater)

KALS WEEKLY COURSES HELD AT THE H. GRUBE CENTRE.

Website: www.kals.ca Info line 571 - 5002 Watch for upcoming courses on the Website and in the Seniors Connector.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! We are well into the year, but it is the first opportunity to wish you good health and prosperity in 2007. The year is looking to be an exciting one with many issues on the tables of our various levels of government. Barry Beesley, Doug Nicol and I attended the rally on February 3 to stand up for public health care. We handed out Council of Senior Citizen Organization (COSCO) pamphlets on Friday evening and Saturday to those selected to participate in the Conversation on Health. I encourage each of you to put your thoughts and/or experiences on paper and offer ways to improve on what we have. You can gain information, and respond on the website at www.bc.conversationonhealth.ca or email

ConversationOnHealth@victoria1.gov.bc.ca

You can phone 1-866-884-2055 (Monday to Friday 8:00 to 8:00) or mail your letter to:

Conversation on Health
Ministry of Health
5-3 1515 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8

A very big thank you to Barb Stankiewicz for her years of dedication to the creation and publication of "The Bridge". The first edition was published in October 2002. Frank Veszely has very graciously taken on the role of producing our newsletter. A team of recruits is still needed to assist in handing out at meetings and then mailing those that we do not reach by email or meetings.

The Champagne Campaign to increase membership in the BCRTA continues. We have grown to 352 members in the Kamloops branch. Our membership area covers from Lillooet/Lytton to Chase and Merritt to Clearwater. We are inviting the 101

members of the BCRTA, who live in Kamloops, but are not members of our branch to join us.

Darrel Johnson

Loree Holmes and Tracy Noble receive our awards at T.R.U.



Bev Maxwell, Tracy Noble, Loree Holmes and Darrel Johnson at the T.R.U.

Our President **Darrel Johnson**, Bursary chairperson **Bev Maxwell** and **Mary Ellen Patterson** attended a reception, hosted by the T. R. U. Foundation on November 23rd, 2006, to present two \$ 1,500 bursaries on behalf of the Caribou-Mainline Kamloops retired teachers Association. The recipients were **Loree Holmes** and **Tracy Noble**. Both students were very pleased to be selected to receive the bursaries. They look forward to attending our March 30, 2007 General Meeting and hope to share some of their experiences, as students in Education. We were especially pleased to learn that **Loree Holmes** is the daughter of **Margaret Catherwood**, a member of our retired teachers' association. It was an honour to attend the 2006 awards ceremony. There were 326 students receiving a total of 391,000 in funds from donors who have established annual and endowment funds with the Foundation.

As reported by Bev Maxwell

ALERT

Prior to 1984 the contributory service was incorrectly recorded at the same rate as pensionable service for part time teachers. A member who worked .5 daily would receive .5 pensionable services and .5 contributory services whereas the contributory service should be 1.0 This impacts on a group of members who retired before age 60 and who are not at 90 when they retired. If this applies to you, you may be receiving fewer pensions than you are entitled to.

COSCO (COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS' ORGANIZATIONS)
YOUR EDITOR'S NEWS DIGEST www.coscobc.ca

- Look for regional awareness seminars to be conducted by COSCO in our area.
- Concerns and planned actions: Public policy, health care practices and public attitudes have not caught up with the present longevity of seniors. The principles of aging in place, full human rights and participation of seniors are not reflected in government and health care practices and policies. COSCO is working with universities' continuing education departments. Another COSCO initiative is to help seniors help seniors. COSCO is looking for retired adult educators, retired health care professionals and writers around the province to be volunteers to help put this program together.
- Disaster preparedness: make up a survival kit, have a battery operated radio, flashlights, etc.
- **Tax breaks are available** for the hearing disabled, the wheelchair bound, the blind, the markedly speech impaired, the markedly memory, thinking, perceiving handicapped, if you have difficulty looking after yourself, you may be eligible retroactively as well for the Disability Income Tax Credit. Have form T2201 filled out by your physician. For specific information call 1-800-959-2221 or online @ www.cra-arc.gc.ca/formspubs/topics/disabled-e.html
- **Reverse mortgages** Sheila Gair cautions about them in an article, pointing out that reverse mortgage is actually an expensive form of borrowing. The lender will have first mortgage rights to your house and that mortgage will not be paid off as a normal mortgage would be, that the interest would be regularly compounded against your house and you, the borrower will end up paying compounded interest on the loan. A borrower unable to pay back the loan or pay taxes will face foreclosure on the property. She recommends you open a line of credit instead, using the house as a collateral.
- **Ottawa extends market protection for drug makers** The new rules will mean it will take three years longer before generic copies of new drugs can be put on the market in Canada, as it extends exclusive rights protection from five years to eight.
- **If you are parked illegally** leave your windshield wipers on. It is very difficult to place a ticket under a moving wiper blade. No, this did not come from COSCO. This was a freebie, a reward for those of you who read this far.

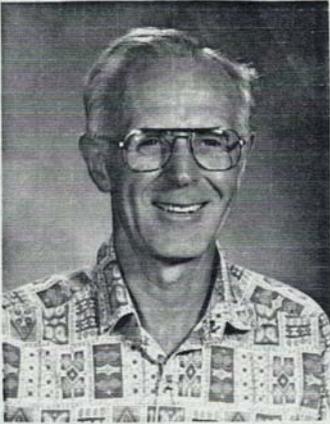
REPORT ON THE RCMP PRESENTATION: ID THEFT

Those present at the January luncheon were treated to a lively presentation coordinated by Christy Morris from the RCMP Community Policing detachment. The main presenter, "just call me George," was a personable veteran of the force who came with a slide presentation of written notes highlighting his messages. Identity theft, second only to Internet fraud, he said is the current and growing main problem for the police, and phone (telemarketing) fraud is especially popular locally. George was engaged by several of our members sharing stories of the latest scams, some of which seemed to be so new, they were even new to him. The criminals, it seems are still a step or two ahead of us.

Top five scams

1. Internet fraud: Scammers use e-mails for *phishing* (representing themselves as a legitimate company) *spoofing* (look-alike website designed to get your vital information used to impersonate you later) *bogus website* impersonating payment service, auctions. *Spyware* (gathers information from your computer through your internet connection without your knowledge.) Defence: do not respond, use spyware protection programs, firewalls.
2. Identity theft: Not using a computer, but your trash or recycle bins, over the phone requests for information pretending you won a prize, stealing your mail. (George says mail offering you a new credit card is especially dangerous and not much you can do about it except collecting your mail fast.) Defence: use a shredder, tear up and place in different bags, contact Phone Busters 1-888-525-0262, check your credit report annually with both Equifax (www.equifax.ca or toll free 1-800-465-7166) and Trans Union Canada (www.tuc.ca or toll free 1-866-525-0262)
3. Fraudulent telemarketing: Lottery scams, fraudulent cheque/overpayment schemes. Defence: Hang up, call Phone Busters.
4. Cheque/overpayment schemes: The fraudster contacts an online seller, pays by a larger cheque, asking for a refund. The cheque bounces, the seller is out of goods and money. Defense: Consider using an online payment service.
5. Home repair scams: Scam artists pose as home repair workers who knock on the door claiming to be doing some work in the neighbourhood. They'll persuade unsuspecting homeowners into making renovations and all too often leave a mess of shoddy workmanship while they make a quick profit. The homeowner is left to pay again to get the job fixed. Defence: Check with the Better business bureau first. Do not let yourself be pressured.
6. Others: Movers with hidden fees, fraudulent health treatment claims like rapid weight loss promises, bogus charities, deceptive vacation schemes and lottery and sweepstake fraud round out the top ten list.

CLOSE-UP

JIM TULLOCH			
Total teaching years: 35			
Years in this district: 35			
Taught at:			
Chase Secondary	Sept. '61	4 yrs.	
Norkam Secondary	Sept. '65	27 yrs.	
Kamloops Secondary	Sept. '92	4 yrs.	
Positions held in School, District, or KDTA:			
Shops, Math, Science (Industrial Arts)			
Coordinator at both Norkam and K.S.S. of Technological Education Dept. President of local Technology Education Association during its start-up years.			

See Jim? This is Jim. The picture is old. So is Jim. Poor Jim? Jim is not poor. Jim wins from Frank in poker sometimes. He goes fishing and camping with his buddies. He makes beautiful things of wood in his basement. Jim is happy. Frank is in trouble.

FRANK VESZELY ON THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION OF 1956

At the November luncheon I shared some of my memories of the Hungarian revolution of 1956. The presentation generated a lot of questions. I would like to follow up on the presentation by giving you the background of the story

Hungarians and communism

My little country's first encounter with "the Red menace" came in 1919. WW I was lost, the Hungarian Army that had fought on behalf of the Empire in Italy was disarmed, the prolonged negotiations at Trianon were under way and anxiety gripped the land with rumors that large tracts of Hungary was being given away there at two negotiating tables, without a single Hungarian representative present at either. The rumors turned out to be true. At Trianon Hungary lost 2/3 of its former territory and 3/4 of its natural resources. To what was left of the country the victorious allies assigned more war reparation payments than they did to Germany. Fictitious countries (Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia) were at the table as was Romania and these were to receive this free gift of land from the hands of those whose it was not theirs to give. The allies had no troops on the ground to control or to enforce what they predicated, although the French armed the Romanians and the Czechs and the Serbs and Croats were never disarmed. While the negotiations were still going on near Paris, and the League of Nations was being formed, these armies descended on disarmed Hungary from all sides "to take possession of what they were given" in the usual manner of the Balkans, complete with "ethnic cleansing," (the murdering of the men and the raping of the women), in the manner that we were to see repeated under Milosevich a few decades later, without ever getting the publicity Milosevich got. If you have never heard of it, that is why. But it has happened. The Hungarian government resigned; there was a power vacuum. Into this vacuum stepped the Communists. They instituted a reign of terror the country has never seen in its thousand-year history and effectively weakened it from the inside. Another of their accomplishments was to give the Romanian army an excuse to overrun and loot the country, taking many trainloads of valuables and keeping the rolling stock, too, in the end. (See Margaret McMillan: Six Weeks that changed the World) All this could happen without publicity largely because the press was occupied with the real and present communist danger that Budapest now represented. Understandably, that, and not the looting or the embarrassingly violent, out of control taking of possession of two thirds of Hungary was The News. For these reasons in Hungary, Hungarians widely blamed the communists for bringing more devastation onto the country than the war did, the first time around. But the best was yet to come.

Life under the communists

Hungary has not yet paid off its huge war reparation payments when it was dragged into WWII following a German invasion and a nazi putsch with its own "ethnic cleansing" of Jews. More men were lost than in WW I and more devastation wrought upon the land. Again, the communists were to top that, too. They were unpopular to begin with and never had more than 17 % of the vote, so it took two years, even with the help of the occupying soviet Army, to take control. But once it gained control of the country in 1947, step by systematic step, the Communist Party concentrated all

power in its own hands and made everyone almost completely dependent on the state they completely controlled. From the outset, all dissension was outlawed and treated as treason against the state. People complaining about the government or its leaders found themselves arrested, accused of being the enemy of the state and sentenced to labor camps. It proved to be an effective way of silencing all opposition.

Soon the state controlled everything. In the state-run Employment Agencies communist officials assigned the individual to its place of work, and assigned his next place of employment if he quit. He was assigned to worse and worse jobs until he learned not to quit. Labor was compulsory; not working was against the law. In Budapest, the state came to assign not only one's place of work, but his housing as well. Citing shortage of housing, those who had lived in larger apartments found themselves with a state-designated tenant. Petty communist officials took sadistic pleasure in housing known drunks and criminals in the homes of former middle class "bourgeoisie" and intellectuals to further their "social education." Hard to grasp?

Now imagine, if you can, that your communist boss has the power not only to fire you but to ensure that your next job will be a worse one and, if you lived in a desirable location, that you may be transferred out of your residence as well (next stop the Gulag), and you get a sense of the completely dependent situation you may find yourself under communist rule... But there is more.

The state set prices of all commodities and set all wages, and could change both at will. There was no television. There were two radio stations and a few newspapers. All became channels of Communist party propaganda, from which there was no escape. (For a while large tenements had wired in speakers "for public education," the tenants listening to a radio they could tune out, but could not turn off or down from six o'clock in the morning till ten o'clock at night.)

All the country's resorts were taken over, and workers were told when to take their holidays and where. This power was delegated to the communist-run labor unions, which exacted a fee from every worker, as membership was compulsory. Needless to say the best resorts and the longest holidays were assigned to party officials. When the state issued bonds, workers were told how much they should subscribe for. (There was great pressure applied to subscribe for a month's wages as a minimum) The money was deducted from their paychecks.

Most galling and humiliating, everyone was required to play the communist charade of pretending to rejoice at every resolution the Party has made. These were announced over the radio and the papers were full of the details, but your local party boss called a meeting after work to explain it to you in person and watch your rhythmic clapping of approval. You were to stand there and clap until he signaled that you might stop. You were also to show up enthusiastically on weekends to perform "socialist work" without pay, to turn up on state holidays to parade in front of the communist leaders carrying state-issued placards and to smile and wave enthusiastically. The personality cult of Stalin was mimicked by the personality cult of Rákosi, "our wise and revered leader", "Stalin's best pupil," according to the endlessly repeated propaganda – this being a fat, bald, middle aged, Muscovite Jew. (Hungary's leaders were designated in Moscow, and for some reason nearly all of them from Rakosi to Kadar were Jews.)

All clubs and organizations were outlawed unless they were set up and run by the Communists. There were no independent dance troupes, for instance, no choirs, no privately owned press, not even duplicating machines available to the general public. I could not organize a chess club on my own. Even literary reading circles were state run or not run at all. All organizations were viewed as possible cover for potential seeds of resistance. (This is why it is taking so long to organize an effective opposition to former communists in Eastern block countries even today – there were not the simplest of grass root organizations present. On the other hand there was lots of communist leadership experience in how to serve a foreign power, which is why the former communists have become such agreeable leaders for Western powers to negotiate with later. They were experts at selling out country and countrymen.)

The leadership of Churches of all denominations was coerced and threatened, secret pacts had to be agreed upon to allow churches to stay open. A system of informants was introduced where lower ranked priests reported on their superiors and on their congregation. There was no escaping the informants, who often had to become informants to escape themselves. (Threats and blackmailing was used in recruitment more often than bribes as these cost less. Only important spies were paid.) Anti-religious propaganda was widespread. Church leaders, who refused allegiance to the Communists, were jailed.

All along a concerted campaign of intimidation was carried on mercilessly. At least one person from almost every city block was dragged out of his bed at dawn, tortured and interrogated to confess to whatever trumped-up charges the interrogators accused him of. This left the whole block speculating what he had done, what he might have said, who will be next. The informers themselves were scared. They found themselves having to report innocent people just to show that they were still ‘vigilant,’ because those who did not report frequently on others became suspect themselves, and were exposed to charges of “collaborating with the enemy.”

Soon the atmosphere of fear and mistrust permeated everything, as people became afraid to say anything in front of anybody, sometimes even their own friends or family members, as nobody could be trusted. The burden became unbearable. Something had to give. We just could not take it any more. This is why the people were so desperate, why the revolution could be spontaneous and sweeping – so liberating an experience.

Humor, more than anything, maintained our sanity. Here is a joke from the era:

St. Peter is minding the gate of Heaven when he hears a loud banging on the gate. He opens it a crack and recognises Stalin.

“What are you doing here?” He demands, “You do not belong here. Go straight down to hell!”

He barely has time to sit down when he hears frantic knocking at the gate.

Looking out he sees seven little devils.

“What are you doing here?” he asks.

“We are the first refugees.”

S. O. S.

Were you aware that the Retired Teachers Association in Kamloops was publishing a new book of remembrances and recollections of Kamloops secondary school teachers? Let us publish your favourite story from your own teaching days. Send us an e-mail about it and we will give it the royal treatment it deserves, We have the money for publication, but we do need more authors. Tell us about your 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. Send your tales of the classroom to **Warren Damer at wdamer@ocis.net** or to **Marie LaRoche at mplaroche@telus.ca**

By Warren Damer

LITERARY LEANINGS

Behold the dawn day

Behold the dawn day winter waning
 melt puddles weeping of ice
 flowing gathering dribbling little streams
 each hesitant but knowing where is down
 Sun not yet warm yet bright
 highlighting latticed branches
 not yet green no longer gray
 blazing birds darting the sky
 crimson allegories in apostolic robes
 heralding the rites of spring everlasting
 closeting cold closing winter
 at last opening our beings
 to the coming of spring

Frank Veszely

IN MEMORIAM



PEGGY KOCH 1938 - 2006

Born in Brandon, Manitoba raised in a log home at Copper Mountain, near Princeton. Met husband Dave there. They went to school in Vancouver and got married there, then moved to Trail, where their children Dana and Colleen were born. The family moved to Kamloops in 1969, Dave working at RIH, Peggy at Kay Bingham, teaching grade one all her career. Retired in 1996 to a busy social life, golf and travel. Died in an ICU unit in Vancouver of complications brought on by rheumatoid arthritis. Her heartwarming smile, down-to-earth personality, and her many many small kindnesses towards students and staff endeared her to many. She will be remembered. (F.V.)

FUN(NY) PAGE

Marriage is all about sharing everything. Really? Really!!

Help Needed

The Kamloops Track & Field Club is holding trackmeets on the following dates:
May 18-20- Kamloops Centennial- Athletes from Alberta, Sask. and B.C. will be competing.

June 23,24- B.C. Jr.-Sr. qualifying championship to go to Canadian and onto the World Championships if they qualify.

July 13-15 B.C. Junior Development Championships (9-14 yr.)

Boogie the Bridge- Sat. April 24

If you can help with any of the above trackmeets, please phone Alwilda van Ryswyk at 372-9642 or e-mail.

If you would like to take a track & field clinic, one is going to be held on Sun., March 25.

Alf Law: Memory Flow on Vancouver Normal School (1945 & 1946)

It's amazing what comes to mind when one thinks of Normal School times. The staff was most interesting. Mr. Boyes (Tat) with his Geography, Mr. Weston with his art and advice on saving a lesson for Inspector's visit, Mr Martin with science, The magic and the handwriting of H B Maclean, Grace M. with her music and Miss Bollert's primary material all supplied the ideas that made teaching possible. One of the most amazing things was to listen to the stories by the principal and vice-principal, Hall and Lord, on the rural schools of the Cariboo when they digressed from the English Grammar or Provincial School Act. These I remember quite well as I taught five years in some of their favourites. One year each in Dog Creek and Alexis Creek before three years in Lac la Hache.

To top off all this academic stuff there was the Phys Ed program by Ernie and Marjorie Lee. She was really responsible for my understanding that there must be nearly 20% of elementary school PE time in Phys Ed used for dance and rhythmic. I have seldom used her particular dances but the time ratio always seemed important to me. Ernie gave us a quick introduction to each sport including volleyball (which I had never thought of previous to that time). MY life would have been entirely different were it not for their insights into PE/

Besides the program from staff we spent time on the stage each day and lunch hour was often a quick meal followed by 3 of an hour of dancing – in 44-45 there were four complete classes of girls and only one class of male students. My mother taught me how to behave at dances and Normal (Bob Sciewitz, I think) taught me to jive. He and I had no lack of partners.

There were other days when I managed myself into trouble, usually with Miss Bollert, and days when we had wonderful group effort. I coached a couple of teams to play against High School teams and Victoria Normal. Once I told Miss Bollert not to blame the other boys I kept them in the gym for pictures. She didn't.

(If you can think of any names left out or activities that were useful let me know and I will add them to my list. I couldn't afford the annual and don't have one but would like to see it.)

SOLUTIONS: Chess: PXP a. p. 1. Man overboard 2. I understand 3. Two degrees below zero 4. neon light (knee on light) 5. Backward glance 6. Think big 7. Long time no see (no "C")

I WISH...

From whence the wish

From whence the wish that every fool
eternal life covet?

Why should be all remembered, when
the bliss is to forget?

Who needs stories that never end?
They'd be an endless bore!
Enjoy the flight, the ride, the trip --
don't ask for ever-more!

Imagine tyrants who won't die --
to be endlessly chained,
forever-stuck husbands and wives
eternally migrained!

To have been poor, sick, and oppressed,
to be ruled by money!
For such indeed is now the lot --
if not all -- the many.

Ever-piling-up memories?
I say to hell with hell!
I love life but when death arrives
we'll get along just swell.



Frank Veszely

(Picture snapped between waves on
Long Beach, Vancouver Island.)