The K.R.T. Bridge

Fall 08

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Our motto: “It’s great to remember but the bliss is to forget.”

NOTE:
Online edition on www.krta.ca

Cottonwood Centre
2008/2009 General Meetings

Sept. 26, 2008        Feb. 27, 2009
Oct. 31, 2008         Mar. 27, 2009
Nov. 28, 2008         Apr. 24, 2009
Jan. 30, 2009         May 29, 2009
June – Year End (to be booked)

We have a New President!
Long time KDTA and KTTA executive and political activist, noted primary teacher Sheila Park was acclaimed President of our association at our Annual General Meeting in May. She comes with a wealth of experience, having held just about every leadership position there is over a lifetime of service to this district. If one can ever be overqualified for the KRTA President’s job – Sheila certainly is.

Sheila needs no introduction. Literally. If you don’t know her you have not lived here. For certain, our association is fortunate to be able to replace a human dynamo in our outgoing President Darrel Johnson with another human dynamo in incoming President Sheila Park. I can attest: she is already buzzing. Along with her President’s Message for The Bridge, I have already received the Agenda for our first executive meeting under her direction. Once again, Executive, we had better hop to it, just to keep pace with our leaders! But let’s hear from Sheila:

President’s Message

Another fall is here and I cannot believe I am in my 4th year of retirement. Time flies by just as quickly in retirement as it did when I was teaching full time. I was sad that Darrell Johnson decided not to be President anymore but absolutely elated that he had decided to start a COSCO branch in Kamloops and take on the Advocacy Chair of the Kamloops RTA. So… a good way to support him in this endeavour was to run for President (easy to as no one ran against me). So here I am President of the Kamloops RTA. “After all,” I said, “If I do it at 60 I won’t have to do it at 70!”

Being President of the KRTA is actually an honour as we have great executive members that do tasks with the same enthusiasm and dedication that they put into their teaching duties. It is also fun to meet with folks that you used to meet up with at Kamloops Primary Teachers Association meetings, KTTA meetings and other district Meetings and workshops.

This year we are looking forward to new programs at our luncheon meetings and we are to host the Inter-Branch meeting in the spring. The Inter-branch Meeting will be a great opportunity for teachers from this area to meet up with colleagues from other districts in our region.

We have also just come through another Federal Election this fall with yet another minority government. We are in the middle of devastating economic times. May of 2009 there is the Provincial Election. All of these events will impact our lives in some way. We need to continue to work together with other organizations to bring issues of concern to our members such as improved Public Health Care, Quality Care and Housing for Seniors (yep you are one!) and Income Security to the attention of our politicians.

See you at the next meeting,

Sheila
Food for Thought

After retirement, I worked for a B.A. in English Literature at CUC – now TRU. One of my electives had to be something NOT English. The course that fitted my schedule turned out to be a Political Science course on the Middle East. While working on the course I realised that although the Middle East was in the news almost daily, I understood a lot less than I thought about Middle East politics. I became fascinated by the topic and have been reading about it ever since. I recently came across an old article on the Internet, translated from the Israeli press some years ago, that offered a solution to the conflict from an Israeli human rights activist’s perspective. While I still find the news emanating from this part of the world often confusing, sometimes bewildering, the article below makes me feel more hopeful. It seems we just need a bit of clarity of thought and even the most complex of problems become solvable to the dispassionate mind.

Israeli Discriminatory Practices

Are Rooted in Jewish Religious Law

By Dr Israel Shahak

This is an abridged translation of an article by the author published in the Israeli newspaper Davar on March 15, 1995. The author of the following article, Dr. Israel Shahak is a retired professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, also chairman of the Israeli League of Human Rights.

The rabbis of Salad, joined by the Chief Rabbi Bakshi-Doron, recently issued a judgment prohibiting Jews living in the Land of Israel to lease or sell any real estate property to non-Jews. These rabbis are on the State of Israel's payroll. Yet all too clearly, their judgment contravenes Israeli state laws proscribing public expressions of racism and utterances hurtful to human dignity.

Nonetheless, the rabbis of Salad did not invent this prohibition. The racist rulings are part and parcel of the Jewish religious law (halacha). Furthermore, all rulings of Jewish religious law concerning non-Jews, and incidentally, also Jewish women and some other Jewish sectors, are racist and discriminatory. Yet for years such rulings have been routinely invoked by rabbinical courts, which are a recognized part of the State of Israel's judiciary.

Two examples show what the application of such laws may involve. According to Jewish religious law, both non-Jews and Jewish women cannot validly testify in rabbinical courts. True, Jewish women are permitted to testify in a few strictly limited matters considered "female affairs." If a case involves "a major judicial effort," however, a Jewish woman's testimony is per force invalid, because "all women are lazy by nature." (The example given in Halacha is that a Jewish woman can testify that a single dish or several dishes are kosher. But if she testifies that many dishes prepared for a big reception are kosher, her
testimony is invalid on the assumption, that her laziness and resultant reluctance to make a major effort could make her lie if they really were non-kosher. Internet Ed.)

But even in cases not involving a "major judicial effort" when Jewish women can testify, a problem appears when the testimony of a Jewish woman is contradicted by the testimony of a Jewish man. Jewish religious law solves this problem by the formula that "a testimony of 100 Jewish women is equivalent to a testimony of a single Jewish man."

The second example concerns the definition of the term "harlot" in Jewish religious law. "We have learned by tradition that the term 'harlot' as designated in the Torah means any woman who is not a daughter of Israel (i.e., not born Jewish), or a daughter of Israel who has had intercourse with a man she is forbidden to marry" (Maimonides, The Book of Holiness, Forbidden Intercourse, Chapter XVIU, Law 1, translated in Yale University Judaica series). According to this racist definition, all women who happen to have been born non-Jewish are automatically considered to be "harlots." On the basis of this definition every female converted to Judaism is still considered by Jewish religious law to be a "harlot" - and as such forbidden to marry a Jewish "priest" (i.e., a supposed descendant from the Biblical "Aaron the priest"). (In the U.S. this ruling is accepted by the Orthodox and the Conservatives, i.e., by the majority of American Jews. Neither they nor the Reform Jews (who do not accept it) ever discuss the matter in their English-language publications. Internet Ed.) It is easy to imagine what the Jews would have said if any religion or movement branded all Jewish women as "harlots" and maintained that they remain "harlots" forever only because they were born Jewish.

Lands defined as owned by the State of Israel can be leased only to Jews

All too clearly the enforcement of such laws in the State of Israel is irremediable unless the religion is separated from the state. It is impossible, and in my view even improper, to demand that Orthodox rabbis not issue rulings conforming to Jewish religious law, which has for them an incontestable validity as the Word of God. But it is reasonable to demand that those who do not believe in the sanctity of Jewish religious law know what is its real content. The secular Jews should not fall prey to an indoctrination presenting "the Jewish morality" as supposedly enshrined in Jewish religious law, or extolling compatibility between the norms of historical Judaism and modern democracy. As Jews, we should be aware of the undeniable historical fact that for long centuries the entire Jewish nation really believed that all non-Jewish women were "harlots" and that the religious Jews in Israel still so believe.

What is really surprising is that people so seldom realize that laws of the State of Israel pertaining to the use of land are no different in essence from the rulings of the Salad rabbis. The State of Israel has turned most of the land, whether in Israel or in the West Bank, into "state land." After these lands are defined as owned by the State of Israel they can be leased only to Jews. The right to lease such lands is denied to all non-Jews, without a single exception. Placing all state lands under the administration of the Jewish National Fund, a branch of the World Zionist Organization, whose racist statutes forbid their lease or any other use to non-Jews, enforces this denial. It is easy to see that such Israeli regulations are nothing but an effect of corresponding rulings of Jewish religious
law, just as secular anti-Semitism is often an effect of secularization of religious anti-Semitism.

On closer inspection it turns out that almost everything the State of Israel does or says in its relations with non-Jews is an effect of such a secularization of religious notions. As an example let me give the recent spontaneous pronouncement by senior officials of the Housing Ministry in justification of their policy of supporting the Jewish settlers who squat in houses that the ministry builds. In such cases the ministry's policy is to spend public money for connecting such houses to the electricity, water and sewage networks. When asked why they do it, the Housing Ministry officials answered that "it was inconceivable to leave the Jews without electricity or sewerage, no matter what they do."

**Gentile Villages**

It is not difficult to point to Arab villages in Israel (let alone in the occupied territories) whose residents have been left for decades "without electricity or sewerage," often until the present day. It is not difficult to point to the striking contrast between spending tax money for construction of magnificent public buildings in the center of Jewish Gush Etzion (in the West Bank) or Jewish Gush Qatif (in the Gaza Strip) and the dilapidation of Druze villages in Israel which are not being granted budgets for the most essential amenities, even though a large majority of their residents serve in the Israeli army. We are often told of "an alliance of blood" between the Druze and the Jews. For all such talk, however, the Druze are Gentiles, which automatically turns them into frequent victims of discrimination, both by Jewish religious law and Israeli policies.

There are well-intentioned people who believe that this situation could be significantly remedied if the Knesset enacted more laws against discrimination, or if the Supreme Court passed more verdicts against it. In fact, there is no basis for such hopes because the State of Israel has a multitude of ways of circumventing legal obstacles. The Supreme Court verdict, which ordered the government to let the Arab villagers of Baram and Ikrit return to their villages has never been made effective and the Meretz ministers in the present government did not help these villagers either. ([The verdict was issued in 1951. Ben-Gurion's response was to order the Israeli air force to bomb the two villages on Christmas Eve of that year, with the adult male villagers rounded up and forced to watch from the nearby hill as their houses were being demolished. Such practices are possible, because Israel has two systems of laws, both equally in force. One comprises various "emergency regulations" which are hardly ever applied against the Jews, and the other relatively liberal laws applied whenever the Jews are concerned. Int. Ed.) Racist and inciteful pronouncements of Jews against non-Jews, especially against Arabs, abound in the State of Israel. Yet I do not recall a single instance of a Jew being convicted for such an offense, although many Arabs have been convicted for incitement against the Jews.

I do not deny the existence of major differences between Israeli laws and Jewish religious law. But the most important of these differences seems to be that the manner of drafting the Israeli laws permits obfuscation of what Jewish religious law states with bluntness. Official racism and discrimination pervade all walks of life in Israel.
Israel is not the only state, which robbed the natives of their land, whether in the West Bank after 1967, or by more legal means in Israel in the 1950s and 1960s. In those decades most land owned by the Arab citizens of Israel (let alone the refugees) was in effect filched from them. There are many states, which in the past were systematically engaged in land robbery. The U.S., for example, robbed Indians of their land, transforming most of it into state land. Nevertheless, this land is now available for use by any U.S. citizen. One of the differences between Israel and other states is that the latter might have practiced racial or ethnic discrimination in a specific period of time in the past, whereas in Israel such discrimination still is practiced.

We need to recognize that in Israel the real issue is discrimination not only against the Palestinians (including those who serve in the Israeli army, police and Shabak), but against all non-Jews. This discrimination has the same character as that which the anti-Semites want to apply against the Jews. Unless we understand those realities, we will not be able to change them. But these realities include the fact, that Israel practices systematic discrimination against non-Jews because it defines itself as a "Jewish state mandated to preserve its Jewish character."

Until the beginning of the Jewish Enlightenment in the 1780s (6) all Jews firmly believed that non-Jews should be discriminated against whenever possible. It now turns out that the Jewish Enlightenment failed to change the attitudes of all, or perhaps even of most Jews in this respect. Many completely irreligious Jews still believe, that for the sake of the Jewish tradition, which commanded discrimination against non-Jews, the latter should be discriminated against in the "Jewish state" forever. (The Enlightenment spread rapidly in France, Britain and Holland after the French revolution, slowly in Germany and the Austrian Empire, but it begun in the Russian Empire only in the 1860s and in the Ottoman Empire even later. Int.Ed.) Of course this argument cannot justify discrimination against non-Jews. On the contrary, it closely resembles the arguments that also exist in all other Middle Eastern states, of anti-Semites in favor of continued (or renewed) discrimination against the Jews to the point of virtual identity.

Separation of church and state

Challengers of the view that adherence to tradition justifies discrimination can be divided into two completely different categories. Some argue that a racist and discriminatory tradition is to be denounced in any event, even if in the past it helped provide a state or society with some cohesion. The advocates of this view assign to justice a priority higher than to tradition and are accordingly willing to oppose their own or their ancestors' tradition if it conflicts with the principles of justice. According to this view, social reforms should aim at a removal or change of such traditions. I fully concur with this view.

But there also exists a second category of challenge to tradition. Its advocates can be recognized by their refusal to adhere to universalistic values and, even more typically, by their hypocritical and self-interested recourse to democratic principles. A good example of that is the behavior of a great majority of diaspora Jews. They have always
been vociferous in demanding equal rights for themselves. Accordingly, they are right when they become enraged at opponents abroad of equal rights for Jews and proponents of at least some anti-Jewish discrimination who invoke the need for social continuity and respect for tradition. For example, the current official definition of the concept of a "Frenchman" in France or a "Turk" in Turkey includes the Jews of these countries. But in France before the French Revolution the Jews living in that country were not considered French, whether by officialdom or by common people. Likewise, before the reforms of Kemal Ataturk, neither the Jews nor the Christians living in Turkey were regarded as Turks. Now, both the French fascists and the Turkish Islamic extremists want to reenact the traditional definition of nationality in their respective countries: a definition in which nationality is roughly co-extensive with religion.

Let me sum up. A solution to the problem of discrimination against non-Jews by the State of Israel seems to me much more important than the peace process. Such a solution, however, in turn depends on the rejection of the linkage between Israeli policies and Jewish traditions. At the same time, we must never lose sight of the fact that all the problems stemming from the linkage between the state and its national character also exists in all other Middle Eastern states, with the exception of Turkey. All these states define themselves officially, as either "Arab" or "Muslim" or both. Needless to say, I oppose the concept of an "Arab state" or a "Muslim state" no less than the concept of a "Jewish state". This is why I believe that the separation of religion from the state in all Middle Eastern countries is a precondition of a true durable peace between them. Before the struggle for such a separation is crowned with at least a partial success, we can at best expect only truces and cease-fires, even if some of them would be dignified by naming them peace treaties. This applies not only to the Arab-Israeli conflict but also to all other Middle Eastern conflicts. Needless to say, a truce is preferable to a war, but it should not be regarded as a "solution". A true peace in the Middle East can be made only between the citizens of democratic states rigorously applying the principle of equality before the law, resting on adherence to universalistic values. Such a peace can only be established by looking forward, not backward. +++

(This article also appeared in The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, July/August, 1995)

The American Dollar after the Great Meltdown
A PICTURE ESSAY ON GLOBAL WARMING

Oh Canada!

FROM THE OTTAWA CITIZEN – ON OUR M.P.’S RECORD:

30 have been accused of spousal abuse.
9 have been arrested for fraud
14 have been accused of writing bad cheques.
95 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses.
4 have done time for assault.
55 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit.
12 have been arrested on drug related charges.
4 have been arrested for shoplifting.
16 are currently defendants in lawsuits.
62 have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year.

And these are our lawmakers. How many of these people did we actually reelect at election time? (Banish the thought!)
Congratulations to Sandy Baird, the winner of the 2008 Bursary Draw. Sandy was delighted to receive the basket of goodies. As she has been a collector of bears for many years, she was thrilled to add Mary Ellen Patterson’s original handcrafted bear to her collection. The beautiful throw, made by Babs Enns, was a perfect match to the sea-green vest worn by the bear. Many thanks to all who donated items to the Bursary Draw basket. As a result of fundraising efforts, the KRTA was able to donate a further $1471.70 to the TRU Foundation endowment account. As of March 31, 2008, the balance of the Retired Teachers’ Bursary account was $53,295.53. (Report by Bev Maxwell)

Insight Bits

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. * A penny saved is a government oversight. * The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. * Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf. * Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

Member's Ad

Want to shed a few pounds? I am forming a group of ten people to join our team to help and assist each other. People can join the group in person or online. Phone 250-679-2715 evenings to talk to Teresa or ttbohn@hotmail.com (Teresa also offers free facial spas to ladies in Kamloops wanting “just to relax and be pampered.”)
Alvilda von Ryswik and Al Thompson, organizers of a planned group trip to India, showing off their brochure. They need people to commit to the trip a.s.a.p. See their brochure on page 17 in this issue.


Above: The Wells Gray tour (Marie Laroche photo) and Norm Moss with guide Helen Knight. More photos by Norm and Marie are to be posted on our website @ www.krta.ca

Below: Floral decorations being prepared by retirees Irene Smith, Donna Walsh and Bev Maxwell for the Retirement Banquet and bouquets won for a loonie by some very lucky luncheoners. Where else can you have a good meal and return home with such flowers?
We ought to publicly thank

Darrel Johnson for his untiring efforts as KRTA president and multipurpose volunteer these past years. Darrel has been running our organization smoothly and efficiently without pay throughout his mandate and will continue to work for our association as Past President and Advocacy chair. As well, Darrel will take a leadership role in COSCO, the Council of Senior Citizens’ Organizations and continue serving in several volunteer roles.

Sheila Park for taking on the job in trying times when no one else would. Sheila comes with a long list of experience and competencies as she has worked in teachers’ organizations throughout her career. We are lucky to have her as our new President. Sheila’s about the only person available who may fill Darrel’s rather large shoes.

Bev Maxwell for yet another year of hard work on behalf of the Bursary she has come to personify. Under her leadership the Bursary is nearing self-sufficiency: enough funds to generate generous bursaries for many years to come. Bev also serves as Secretary along with Glenda Miles, keeping the books of our organization.

Marie Laroche and Warren Damer (bless his soul) for working through serious health issues in bringing to fruition our Heritage Projects. Thanks to their efforts, two books (A Passion for Sharing and A passion for Learning), now enrich the history of education in Kamloops and area.

Also, for serving in multiple roles and/or for multiple years on the Executive in the recent past: Evelyn Baziuk, Dale Brandt, John Forsyth, Eva Harvey, Alf Law, Mary-Ellen Patterson, Donna Sharpe and Donna Walsh.

Member’s advertising

Do you want to have fun, meet more people, and have the opportunity to travel more? Join our home-based business team to have fun and supplement your income! Call Teresa @ 250 – 679-2750 evenings.

A machine with human parts? The cucumber harvest in Byelorussia.
Memorandum To: BCIMC’s Pension Clients

From: Doug Pearce CEO / Chief Investment Officer
British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (“bcIMC”)
Date: October 1, 2008
Subject: Financial Market Turmoil

The current turmoil in the financial markets has generated concern amongst pension plan members and clients about the impact that this volatility may have on their pension plans’ investment portfolios, and in turn, their pensions. I would like to reassure clients and their members that their pension funds are secure.

It is true that these are challenging times and bcIMC expects this volatility to continue into 2009. However, I believe that bcIMC and our clients are well placed to weather this environment in a number of ways:

• bcIMC had been expecting this market correction for some time and positioned the plans’ investments defensively (for example, underweighting equities and increasing cash);

• The plans’ investments are well-diversified across a wide range of asset classes including cash, government bonds, stocks, real estate, and infrastructure (e.g., utilities, roads and bridges); and

• bcIMC is not directly exposed to the risky products at the root of the upheaval such as subprime mortgages, non-bank sponsored asset backed commercial paper, credit default swaps, or hedge funds. Furthermore, bcIMC does not use leverage, or borrowing, in the public markets.

Despite our conservative investment approach, bcIMC and the plans’ investments are not immune from the broad market impact. Although short-term volatility will impact performance, bcIMC invests for the long-term. The long-term investment returns of the pension plans remain strong and, as long-term investors, the plans are well positioned to weather the recent events of the financial markets. Within this environment, bcIMC will continue to adhere to our disciplined investment philosophy.

On the positive side, bcIMC expects that the recent market correction will eventually restore a more balanced view of risk in the marketplace, and will help purge the excesses from the system. Down markets like these also present opportunities in the form of undervalued investments that large investors, like the pension plans, can take advantage of to enhance future returns. bcIMC is expecting to capitalize on some of these opportunities.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that bcIMC’s clients can rest assured that their pension fund investments are safe and well-positioned for the long term.

Regards,

Doug Pearce, CEO / CIO

Following the problems in the financial sector in the US, uncertainty has now hit Japan.

In the last 7 days the Origami Bank has folded, the Sumo Bank has gone belly up and the Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches. Yesterday, it was announced that the Karaoke Bank is up for sale and will likely go for a song, while today’s shares in
the Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived. While Samurai Bank is soldiering on following sharp cuts, the Ninja Bank is reported to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black. Furthermore, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at the Sushi Bank where it is feared that staff may get a raw deal.

Simple Simon asks: Wanna know what’s really going on?

“The problem is the banks don’t trust each other to lend money,” explained President Bush. What he did not say was why? That there is a bank war going on as the banks play their real life monopoly game for command of the world’s finance business. As my stockbroker explained to me: “The U.S. housing credit crisis originated NOT by people defaulting their payments en masse, but by some banks wanting higher interest than they were getting, bringing into question the value of the ‘bundles’ being traded. This triggered the rise in mortgage rates, which in turn triggered the foreclosures.” The (by whom?) privately owned media-amplified panic aids the stronger banks and weakens or bankrupts the weaker banks. The result is that their shares may be bought up cheaply, or “for a song.” If you want to know which banks are gaining and which banks are losing, all you have to do is look at the price of their shares. In Canada, as I write this, Citygroup lost 68% of the value of its shares, the Bank of America 46%, the National Bank of Canada 27%, the BMO 11%. (Earlier the BMO was down 37%!) At the same time CIBC almost held own, RBC gained 19% and TD shares are up a whopping 59.27%. Now who owns which? (Actually, a lot more is going on, but at least Simple Simon knows why.)

Programme of Events

September - Provincial AGM Report - meet new members
October - Saving Public Health Care presenter Rick Turner
November - Christmas Social Musical presentation Children’s choir - Donations to Christmas Amalgamated - Food bank donations
January - Author Richard Wagamese. Richard presented at this year’s Young Authors’ Conference. An absolutely amazing Calgarian.
February - Vancouver Travel agent to talk about Trip to India
March - Bursary Recipients - Brian Thompson talks about Wills Representation Agreements, Power of Attorney
April - Ian Currie Environmental Issues
May - Silent auction for bursary
June - Interbranch event, location to be announced when confirmed.

NOTE: Free Book exchange (no magazines) at every luncheon meeting all year long.
The last issue of COSCO News is composed of editorials from past years, which reflect the desire of seniors to get government, and society generally, to plan WITH seniors, not FOR seniors. We still have a long way to go to assure that planning is done with full input from seniors. Not only do we have to convince government and the public, but also we have to convince many of our fellow senior citizens that older adults must be involved in the planning process and also in the establishment, execution, promotion and evaluation of programs affecting seniors and society generally. This will require increased and continued advocacy, organization, education and participation of seniors in public life. COSCO prefers discussion over confrontation, but we would not be worth our salt if we ignored senior’s abuse and neglect for example. We will continue to respond strongly to unjust treatment of individual seniors and to government decisions, which adversely affect the well-being of British Columbia’s senior population.

This conference started with a motivational address from the Hon. Roy Romanow. Having been the Commissioner on the Future of Health Care in Canada and as the founding chair of the Canadian Index on Wellbeing (CIW), he first talked about our Canadian values of inclusiveness. He then spoke about CIW, which is a partnership of national leaders, organizations and grass roots Canadians across the country, working in consultation with international experts. The first findings will be released next spring and you can learn more at www.ciw.ca.

COSCO has developed five health and safety promotion workshops. Sessions are free, presented by trained facilitators and last 90 minutes each.

1. Falls Prevention
2. Healthy Eating for Seniors
3. Preventing Elder Abuse and Neglect
4. Safety in the Home
5. Medication Awareness for Seniors

To book, contact Shelia Pither at 1-604-684-9720

Other presenters covered such topics as:

   Dr. Elaine Gallagher (UVic) is involved in a study involving several small communities in B. C.
3. Health Literacy Among Seniors
4. Planning for the Future –wills, joint account, property transfer, trusts, Power of attorney, representation agreements

Learn more about COSCO, and how this organization is working for seniors, or become a member by checking out the website at www.coscobc.ca. A Local branch will be formed in November.

Submitted by Darrel Johnson
Pun intended

1. The roundest knight at king Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
   He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. Now matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
12. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
13. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before. Practice safe eating - always use condiments. Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death. A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy. A hangover is the wrath of grapes. Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play. Does the name Pavlov ring a bell? (I'd tried this on a dog but they can't read!) Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion. Reading while sunbathing makes you well red. When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I. A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired. What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway.) If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress. The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered. He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key. Those who get too big for their breeches will be exposed in the end.

Messages from a Vancouver garden
THE WIND

The wind can do so many things
Be gentle or be mean
Fly kites about on lengthy strings
But never can be seen.

The wind can whisper with the leaves
And slip around with ease
My teacher says that he believes
Such wind is called a breeze.

The wind can dance with flowers fine
And flow across the field
They bend and sway to his design
And to his will they yield.

The wind can touch your cheeks with frost
And finish flowers with cold
And turn the leaves when summer’s lost
To heaps and piles of gold.

The wind can do so many things
Like sweep the sidewalk clean
Or lift an eagle by the wings
Too bad it can’t be seen.

The wind can whistle round the wall
And pound upon the door
And sometimes seem to gently call
And sometimes seem to roar.

The wind can blow the clouds away
Or break them into specks
And then with angry strength one day
Leave seaside towns in wrecks.

When mother hangs her clothes with pegs
I know the wind’s her friend
It makes them dance though they’ve no legs
And dries them in the end.

I feel when wind is on the go
I smell where it has been
And all its different sounds I know
But still it’s never seen.

Sometimes the wind with mighty force
Becomes a hurricane.
Sometimes it seems to sleep, of course
And we get gentle rain.

Sometimes the wind may sigh and sough
And through the woods will go
A gentle touch upon each bough
To start it to and fro.

Sometimes it murmurs, sometimes shrieks
Sometimes ‘tis harsh and shrill
And even through a year of weeks
It seldom will be still.

It’s known to blow snow storms about
Spray drifts across the street
‘Til blizzards lash and scream and shout
And then next day be sweet.

A sailor out to sail the world
Knows winds will hold the key
Should winds be strong and some sails furled
Still o’er the waves he’ll flee.

The gentle zephyr feels so fine
A cyclone’s fury scares
The weatherman foretells the line
And one who hears it cares.

Each wind is given its private name
Like bora, berg or bise
A French wind which is just the same
Is mistral if you please.

’Tis willy-willy might say Blue
The Swiss might feel a foehn
In Argentina, Chile, too
The pampero is known.

The Tramontane in Italy
Blows southward cold and dry
While trade winds blowing cross each sea
Make sloop and schooner fly.

The wind may growl, be blustery
At other times just waft
And though to eyes a mystery
To touch it’s hard or soft.

I’ve seen a whirlwind whip up dust
It’s plain enough to me
But though descriptions I can trust
A wind I’ll never see.

(Alf Law, early 1999)
INDIA
October 8 to 29, 2010

Where will you find a more colourful land? The sights and sounds will excite you; the palaces, forts and old walled cities will thrill you; the varied and exotic scenery will captivate you; and the warm and smiling people will charm you. Join your fellow sports enthusiasts on a post-Games tour through this land of enchantment.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Five nights in Dehli with free time to attend the Commonwealth Games, plus sightseeing tours of Old & New Dehli
• Exploration of the forts, palaces and natural wonders of Rajasthan, including the pink city of Jaipur
• Two days of game-viewing safari in Ranthambore, featuring the magnificent Indian tigers
• Two train journeys on the Shatabdi Express, exotic and exciting mode of travel in this country
• Full day to explore Agra and the Taj Mahal, truly one of the great wonders of the world
• City frozen in time, Orcha, with its splendid legacy of art, architecture and gardens
• Famous temples of Khajuraho, built around 1000 AD and rich in carvings depicting life in heaven
• Varanasi, the eternal city and Hinduism’s most important on the sacred Ganges River
• Visit to Sarnath, major Buddhist centre and site of Buddha’s first sermon after enlightenment
• Exploration of the Himalayan Mountains, including the city of Darjeeling, the Himalayan Mountain Institute, the Tibetan Refuge Self Help Center, and Himalayan Zoological Park
• Gangtok’s beautiful monasteries, including impressive Rumtek, Pudong and Enchey Monasteries
• Research Institute of Tibetology, with one of the largest collections of rare books and manuscripts

Est. $8000 pp

Price included round trip airfare from Vancouver, all meals after leaving Dehli, taxes and gratuities. Price does not include accommodation or meals in Dehli (to be determined), India visa, fuel surcharges. Price is an estimate based on 2008 rates with anticipated increase. Final price to be determined.

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2008/2009 Executive Meetings @ ABC Family Restaurant

Sep. 12, 2008    Feb. 17, 2009
Oct. 21, 2008    Mar. 17, 2009
Nov. 18, 2008    Apr. 14, 2009
Jan. 20, 2009    May 19, 2009