

# The K.R.T.A. Bridge

## Spring 2010

Editor and Assistant Editor: Frank Veszely and Donna Sharpe. We can be reached at 376-2359 / fveszely@shaw.ca or 376-2806 / sharpe2d@shaw.ca Our motto:  
"It's geat to remember but the bliss is to forget."



I trust this 1910 Ford "Tin Lizzie" to evoke thoughts of how much technological progress we have made the last hundred years. That's what it did for me. But then I came across the following and wondered if there has been any change in us at all?

### TWO WOLVES

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all. "One is Evil - It is anger, envy, jealousy, bad will, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good - It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed." (Did you notice that superiority and ego we have been strengthening in our students while fostering their development and positive attitudes are listed among our evils?)

## Kamloops Retired Teachers' Executive 2009/2010

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### 2009/2010 General Meetings/Programs at the Cottonwood Centre

Sept. 25, 2009	Provincial reports – Int. new members – sharing fall produce
Oct. 30, 2009	Power Point Presentation by Frank Dwyer of the Naturalist Club
Nov. 27, 2009	Christmas Program by Classy Chassies
Jan. 29, 2010	Can Go Grannies – Presentation by Mary Baker
Feb. 26, 2010	Healthy Eating – Presentation by Lanny Balcaen of Nature’s Fare
Mar. 26, 2010	Bursary Recipients
Apr. 30, 2010	Presentation on her DWC trip to India: Donna Sharpe
May 28, 2010	AGM +
June –	Year End Surprise Trip, cost approximately \$ 50 - 70 (to be booked)

### 2008/2010 Executive Meetings ABC Family Restaurant

	Feb. 16, 2010
Oct. 20, 2009	Mar. 16, 2010
Nov. 17, 2009	Apr. 20, 2010
Jan. 19, 2010	May 18, 2010

## BURSARY COMMITTEE

On November 26, 2009, Bev Maxwell, Donna Walsh and Darrel Johnson were pleased to attend the TRU Foundation Awards Ceremony to present two \$1000 bursaries on behalf of the KRTA. It is always a rewarding experience to see the enthusiasm that the students exhibit, as they work toward achieving their goals in education.

The recipients were two first year education students: Diana Flieger and Melissa Campbell. Both students were extremely pleased and grateful to receive their bursaries.

Diana Flieger was born and raised in Kamloops. She attended George Hilliard Elementary. As a single mom of two young children, she is most appreciative of the bursary to help ease her monetary burden, while pursuing her education.

Melissa Campbell is from Burns Lake. Melissa, her husband and their 2 year old daughter reside in Kamloops, as Melissa pursues her goal of becoming a teacher.

Both students are looking forward to attending our March 26<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting.



Bev Maxwell, Melissa Campbell, Diana Flieger, Donna Walsh

Photo credit to Darrel Johnson

## Food for thought

A) A LITTLE KNOWN FACT... The first testicular guard "Cup" was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974. It took 100 years for men to realize that the brain is also important.

B) HISTORY IS STILL HIDING IN OUR WORDS. In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence: the expression - 'Okay, but it will cost you an arm and a leg.' ( Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint. )

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced'. . Wore a tightly tied lace.

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were

eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' Hence the term, 'minding your P's and Q's.'

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem . . . How to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. **However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it.** The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?

#### C) 'OLD' IS WHEN...

Your sweetie says, 'Let's go upstairs And make love,' and you answer, 'Pick one; I can't do both!' ... Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes, and you're barefoot. ... Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face. ... You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along. ... You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police. ... 'Getting a little action' means you don't need to take any more fiber today. ... 'Getting lucky' means you find your car in the parking lot. ...An 'all nighter' means not getting up to use the bathroom. And old is when you are not sure if these are facts or jokes?

#### D) PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS

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 whiskey 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. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery. 6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering. 7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart. 8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie. 9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall.. The police are looking into it. 11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization. 12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.' 13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me. 14. A sign on

the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.' 15. The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large. 16. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran. 17. A backward poet writes inverse. 18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes. 19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion. 20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

#### E) NEW DEFINITIONS FOR THE DICTIONARY

**Nurse:** The person who wakes you up at night to give you sleeping pills. **Marriage:** It's an agreement in which a man loses his bachelor status and a woman gains her masters. **Tears:** The hydraulic force by which masculinity is defeated by feminine finess. **Lecture:** An art of transferring information from the notes of the Lecturer to the notes of the students without passing through 'the minds of either.' **Conference:** The confusion of one man multiplied by the number of prople present. **Compromise:** The art of dividing a cake in such a way that everybody believes they got the biggest piece. **Dictionary:** A list where success comes before work. **Conference Room:** A place where everybody talks, nobody listens and everybody disagrees about the outcome later on. **Father:** A banker provided by nature. **Boss:** Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early. **Politician:** One who shakes your hand before elections and your Confidence after. **Doctor:** A person who kills your ills by pills, and who kills you by bills. **Classics:** Books, which people praise, but do not read. **Smile:** A curve that can set a lot of things straight. **Office:** A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life. **Yawn:** The only time some married men ever get to open their mouth. **Etc.:** A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do. **Committee:** Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit around to decide that nothing worthwhile can be done together. **Experience:** The name people give to their mistakes. **Atom Bomb:** An invention to end all inventions. **Philosopher:** A fool who torments himself during life, to be thought of as wise after death.

#### F) WHAT'S IN THE PARTRIDGE BEHIND THE PEAR TREE?

From 1758 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember. -The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. -Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. -Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. -The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John. -The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. -The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. -Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. -The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. -Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self

Control. -The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments. -The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples. -The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

## G) DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

A Saskatchewan rancher got in his pickup and drove to a neighboring ranch and knocked at the door. A young boy, about 9, opened the door "Is your Dad home?" the rancher asked. "No sir, he isn't," the boy replied. "He went into Town." "Well," said the rancher, "Is your Mother here?" "No sir, she's not here either. She went into town with Dad." "How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?" "No sir, He went with Mom and Dad." The rancher stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other and mumbling to himself. "Is there anything I can do for you?" the boy asked politely. "I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one. Or maybe I could take a message for Dad." "Well," said the rancher uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to your Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter, Suzie, pregnant." The boy considered for a moment. "You would have to talk to Pa about that," he finally conceded. "If it helps you any, I know that Pa charges \$500 for the bull and \$50 for the hog, but I really don't know how much he gets for Howard."

## Flash News!

The KRITA has only four copies of A Passion For Sharing left. Comments by Warren Damer's children at his memorial service has given the Heritage Committee the motivation to publish a second edition. This will enable those wishing to record their experiences to have their memories added. Current submissions can be expanded upon, corrected, etc. We are adding a section to allow for members experiences out of the Kamloops Thompson District to be added in a second section. The book was published in 2005, so we hope to have many submissions from recent retirees as well as those of us that did not submit in the first round. We look forward to submissions from members that taught in other districts or live in districts that are part of the Kamloops Branch such as Merritt and Gold Trail. More info will soon be posted on our website ([krta.ca](http://krta.ca)) as well as the fall issue. Those wishing to help or discuss can contact Marie Laroche at [mplaroche@telus.net](mailto:mplaroche@telus.net) or by calling 250-376-2597.

## Pointed pointers

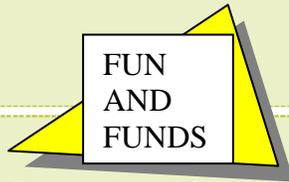
- \* The Kamloops RCMP Victims Services Unit offers a variety of information and services, at no cost, to any victim or witness to crime and trauma. RCMP at 560 Battle Street Victim Services operates 24/7 and may be accessed by calling 250-828-3223.
- \* Adults need 30 to 60 minutes of moderate activity most days of the week. Doing ten minutes at a time that add up to 30 minutes or more works, too.
- \* The 2010 Seniors Games will be held in the Comox Valley Sept. 15-18. Call Kathy Brand for more information @ 250-314-1416

\* Chronic health workshops (heart, asthma, etc.) April 16-May 21. Diabetes workshop March 8-April 12. Toll free call 1-866-902-3767. Free book given to participants.

## Kamloops Retired Teachers Association

### MYSTERY TOUR

Friday April 23, 2010



Departure from The Executive Inn 6<sup>th</sup> and Victoria 9:00 am sharp. Best to have someone drop you off/pick you up or share parking fee with you.

The Bursary Committee has organized a fund-raising Mystery Bus Tour. Spend the day learning about areas surrounding Kamloops, getting a little moderate exercise, enjoying beautiful scenery and having lunch. Proceeds will support KRTA projects. A receipt will be issued. **Limited to 45 passengers so get your application in early!**

**HOW THE TOUR WORKS** – You will board a deluxe motor coach at 9:00 am The Executive Inn in Kamloops. There is a morning coffee break and lunch (included in fee) with arrival back in Kamloops between 4 and 5pm. Clues about where the tour goes will be e-mailed or phoned to you periodically.

**WHAT TO BRING** – Comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, water, camera, binoculars, medications, diabetic snacks if needed.

A newsletter will be issued periodically with further information.

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE March 26 2010

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Payment of \$55 per person includes lunch and morning coffee break and **must accompany registration. Non-retired teachers fee is \$60.**

**FIRST COME – FIRST SERVED.**

\_\_\_ cash \_\_\_ cheque

**Cheques should be made payable to Kamloops Retired Teachers Association and mailed or delivered to**

Marianne Trestain  
2 Whiteshield Cres South  
Kamloops, BC V2E 1P4 by March 26.

For more information e-mail [trestainmd@shaw.ca](mailto:trestainmd@shaw.ca) or phone (250)374-2524

## Mary Baker presents Can Go Grannies in January Meeting



At our January meeting Mary Baker's slide and talk presentation held everyone's attention while tugging at our heartstrings. We were proud to learn that Can Go Grannies, now a national organization with local chapters popping up all over the country, was started in Kamloops, inspired by a presentation Stephen Luis has made in the recent past at TRU. "After the presentation, we felt we must do something to help," explained Mary. "Stephen is such an eloquent speaker, and the need is so great." Can Go Grannies is an organization of grandmothers, who help the Stephen Luis Foundation and its cause every way they can. They have raised a considerable sum for the foundation, and the now national chapter has brought a number of African grannies for an experience exchange to Canada with a view of creating and maintaining a personal connection between grandmothers here and there. But the main thrust of the Grannies is to help the Stephen Luis foundation's fundraising efforts. Our dollars make a huge difference.

The SLF eases the pain of HIV and AIDS by supporting grassroots projects in Africa to ease the pain of women who are ill and struggling to survive, to assist orphans and other AIDS-affected children in every possible way from the payment of school fees to the provision of food, to assist courageous associations of people living with HIV and AIDS who have openly declared their status, and last but not least, to support grandmothers, who bury their own children and then care for their orphaned grandchildren. The Foundation funds over 100 projects in 14 African countries, including The Umayya Training Centre in Zambia for girls aged 14 to 18, the Rwanda Women's Network Village of Hope, aiding women raped and infected in the Tutsi genocide, Catholic AIDS Action in Namibia that pays school fees for orphans, and provides food and psychosocial counselling, or the Reach Out Mbuya integrated centre in Uganda that does counselling, HIV testing, healthcare, orphan care, support for grandmothers and income-generating projects.

We can donate online, by cheque, credit card or pre-authorized monthly payment to Stephen Luis foundation, 260 Spadina Avenue, suite 501, Toronto, On., M5T 2E4, or online at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) or find out more at [www.stephenluisfoundation.org](http://www.stephenluisfoundation.org)

## Remembering Ken J Smith by Sheila Park

Ken J Smith passed away in January 2010 after a lengthy battle with lymphoma. He was amazingly active and involved (as always) with pensions issues right up until the end. It was hard to believe that he was really ill. I saw him at the BCRTA AGM in September and it was as if we were back at my first BCTF Representative Assembly in 1976. Listening to Ken speak at the microphone, discussing pension issues, moving motions and voting.

Ken was the KDTA President from 1974 to 1976. One could not be President of the KDTA and not get involved in pensions issues. Mr Karl Knapp ensured that you were knowledgeable about Teacher Pensions. Ken got involved in a big way and worked for the BCTF in the Income Security Branch helping teachers with Long Term Disability and Pensions. Many of you folks reading this will have attended workshops he gave or received advice on your pension from him. After his retirement he became very active in the BCRTA using his skills and knowledge to represent retirees and working to better our pensions and benefits.

My personal favourite story about Ken dates back to the spring of 1976. I was ending my first year on the KDTA Executive as a Member at Large. We were holding our Executive Meeting at Westsyde Secondary (ever hopeful that teachers might attend). I rushed in just before the meeting started. Des McCambridge and Ken Smith convinced me that as the nominations were to close for First Vice President in a few minutes I should let my name stand so that we would finally have an election for a position. Being a naïve, rooky on the executive I agreed. A few minutes later Ken (as President) announced that I was the First Vice President for the following year. Of course he was grinning away. The joke perpetrated by Ken and Des was on me, no one else had run for the position, they had neglected to tell me that. You could say that Ken was responsible for me becoming the KDTA/BCTF activist I became. We laughed about that day through the years as we met up at various BCTF/BCRTA. events. [Ken served us all until the last with all his might. Ed.] He will be missed. Sheila

## Ingrid Heeley: KRTA Advocacy News (Abbreviated)

- 1. January 20, 2010 at the Coast Canada Inn from 7:00 to 9:00 pm there was the community event entitled ‘Advocating for Seniors Advocacy in BC – Residential Long Term Care Tour’.**  
**The guest speaker was Ms. Toby Edelman the Senior Policy Attorney of the Centre for Medicare Advocacy. This event was cosponsored by the BCHC, BC Seniors’ Advocacy Network and the Hospital Employees’ Union. These organizations wish to develop a more constructive dialogue among advocacy groups that work with individual advocates and pursue systemic advocacy goals.**  
**I was unable to attend due to another meeting commitment, however some members did attend and Darrell will provide a brief highlight for us today.**
- 2. COSCO – BC (go to [www.coscobic.ca](http://www.coscobic.ca) for their full December 2009 issue)**

### Some highlights include the

- Continued concern around the HST which will raise the cost of any presently taxed items to 12% and tax many presently untaxed goods and services at 12%. This will hurt seniors and most consumers since everyone needs staple items like toothpaste and toilet paper, while the rich will scarcely notice the tax. COSCO has a survey on their website entitled HST SURVEY(pdf), click on it, fill it out and send it to COSCO. BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT!!
- The American contractor hired by TransLink – MVTBus – said the drivers, office staff and maintenance workers must agree to give up their pension plan before it will return to the table. “It’s time for TransLink to get involved and help restore this service,” said Lorraine Logan, Chair of COSCO’s Transportation Committee. “TransLink is responsible for HandyDART. It can’t duck its responsibility to seniors and people with disabilities by signing a contract with an American corporation.”

On December 31, 2009 it was reported that “The ten week-long Handy-Dart strike was over. Both the company that runs the bus service , M-V-T Canadian Bus, and unionized workers agreed to binding arbitration with veteran mediator Vince Ready.

- New residential care rates will mean higher costs for thousands of families. On October 8, 2009 the Health Minister, Kevin Falcon announced a new rate structure for residential care services. The government’s “take” on these new rates is that they will “enhance patient care”. Since nothing else is going to change in the services provided, what is there to enhance? If you share our concern that this rate increase is unreasonable then you need to contact the Health Minister, the Health Authority where the resident lives, and your MLA.
- The Canadian labor movement has launched an aggressive campaign to win “retirement with dignity” for all Canadians. “There is a crisis in our pension system,” said Carolyn Rice, secretary-treasurer of the New Westminster and District Labor Council. Yet Joel Harden, Canadian Labor Congress pension specialist pointed out that governments have spent \$13 trillion – ten times the annual output of the entire Canadian economy – to bail out financial institutions which continue to collect disproportionately high management fees on workers’ RRSPs.
- Defending public health care continues to be a challenge as private for profit care is exploding. Health care privatization is occurring at an ever increasing pace in B.C., says Lew MacDonald, Coordinator of the B.C. Health Coalition. It’s taking place in many forms, including contracting out important workers, private cleaning, turning over long term care and seniors’ services to the private sector, for-profit testing, and so-called

market-based funding of these facilities. “In the last five years, the number of private clinics has grown dramatically. It has more than doubled. There are now 73 clinics which provide service on a for-profit basis,” he said. Ironically, this booming industry is only financially viable if it is publicly subsidized. The B.C. Health Coalition is calling for an end to public funding of private clinics, complemented by an immediate expansion of not for-profit surgical and diagnostic facilities.

[Editor’s note: It is worth noting here that in a September 15, 2008 speech delivered at a COSCO conference in Richmond and quoted by the Vancouver Tabloid’s 2008 Nov.-Dec issue, Ray Romanow reportedly said: “I was very pleased to see your overt recognition of what this “new way” really means: an attack against universal health care and other social programs. That when proponents of this “new way” [individualism vs. social responsibility] talk about “innovation” what they mean is privatizing health care as if it were just another commodity, like lumber and oil and pork bellies; that when they talk about “flexibility” what they mean is operating outside of the parameters of The Canadian Health Care Act; and when they talk about “modernization” what they really mean is returning to the old days of life before Medicare. And many of us here today will remember the kind of “pay as you go” health care we had before Medicare.”

Putting this together with the above the question arises: So whose will is being executed here against whom?]

### **3. Keeping the Brain synopses fit**

- The Canadian Council On Learning [www.ccl-cca.ca](http://www.ccl-cca.ca)  
This organizations mission is to be a catalyst for lifelong learning, promoting and supporting evidence based decisions about learning throughout all stages of life, from early childhood through to the senior years. This site has a plethora of information and research on learning.  
\*\*\*\*In its great wisdom The Government of Canada has decided to end its funding of CCL when the current agreement expires on March 31, 2010.[Ingrid]
- On a local level go to the Kamloops Adult Learners Society [www.kals.ca](http://www.kals.ca)  
This society has an interesting and diverse number of courses to encourage you to be a life long learner! The cost of the courses is right!! Keep exercising your brain, you know what they say ‘use it or lose it’! At the site one can access their informative Newsletter.

Under their Internet Links you can access the Senior Connector link or if you want to play directly on your computer go to [www.seniorconnector.com](http://www.seniorconnector.com) And if you want to spend more time browsing on the internet the Senior Connector has lots of entertaining links to follow.

#### 4. Local Advocacy

- Alzheimer's Walk took place on Sunday January 31, 2010 from 10:30am to 11:30 am. It was held at the TCC Indoor Track @ 910 McGill Road.

The Save Kamloops Group was formed Saturday January 30, 2010. The aim is to prevent the installation of two one-megawatt gassifiers on Mission Flats to incinerate about 450 creosote treated railway ties per day.

##### Recycling at Multi Family Dwellings

Residents living in condominiums, townhouses and apartments right now have to haul their recyclables to one of the City's four depots. The City will take another crack at recycling for multi-family dwellings when council digs into the budget process during the coming months. If approved, a \$50,000-pilot project could perhaps begin in the spring. **If you think this is important contact one of your city councillors!!** (By Ingrid Heeley, Advocacy Chairperson on January 22, 2010)

### Harvey Dalley, the Man who designed and runs our Web Page



A big Thank You to Harvey Dalley, a retired teacher who developed his computer skills further than most of us after retirement. I snapped this picture of him as he was attending our January Luncheon with wife Lily. Harvey posts the Bridge on the Internet on his own server on our website ([www.krta.ca](http://www.krta.ca)) days before the printed copies appear in February and October at our general meetings, and well before they are mailed. Past copies are always available on the site that features opportunities for members to share pictures and an up-to date notice board. The site averages 300+ hits a month, a very respectable number indeed, considering that nearly 200 of our membership does not appear to use the internet at all. (The following article is for them!)

### Challenged Senior

I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, 13 grandkids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweeter, Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetie and Twittererific Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone and every other program within the texting world. My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything except the bowel movements of the entire next generation.

I am not ready to live like this. I keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag. To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 4 years, but I still haven't figured out how I can lose three phones all at once and have run around digging under chair cushions and checking bathrooms and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused but I never remember to take them in with me. Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or Plastic?" I just say, "Doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual.." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look.

## Alert from Brian Thompson: The Canada Revenue Agency warns of Nation wide Scam

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is warning taxpayers to beware of a recent scam where some Canadians are receiving a letter fraudulently identified as coming from the CRA and asking for personal information. The letter is **not** from the CRA. A [PDF version of the letter](#) is available on the CRA Web site at [www.cra.gc.ca/alert](http://www.cra.gc.ca/alert). The letter claims that there is "insufficient information" for the individual's tax return and that in order to receive any "claims," they will have to update their records. The letter attaches a form specifically requesting the individual's personal information in writing, via fax or email, including information on bank accounts and passports. This letter is not from the CRA and Canadians should not provide their personal information to the sender.

All taxpayers should be vigilant when divulging any confidential information to third parties. The CRA has well established practices to protect the confidentiality of taxpayers' information. The CRA has notified the proper law enforcement authorities of this scam. For information about this and other similar scams, or to report deceptive telemarketing activity, visit [www.phonebusters.com](http://www.phonebusters.com), send an email to [info@phonebusters.com](mailto:info@phonebusters.com), or call 1-888-495-8501 1-888-495-8501.

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VALUE INVESTING: The art of buying low and selling lower. BROKER: What my broker has made me. STANDARD & POOR: Your life in a nutshell. FINANCIAL PLANNER: The guy whose phone is disconnected. PROFIT: an archaic word no longer in use. (Source: Vancouver Tabloid.)

## Christmas in November with the Classy Chassies



The Classy Chassies entertaining, obviously delighting the audience

Once again last year we celebrated an early Christmas with the Classy Chassies who performed a popular song and dance routine to the delight of the audience. Tellingly, the performers returned the offered remuneration saying they had too much fun themselves! The group has been performing for fun since they were first formed – in their teens!



Above left, and on the left side of the picture, Eva Harvey is seated behind a table, doing the thankless job she shares with Marie Laroche: collecting money and issuing tickets for the turkey or ham luncheon, while the gathering is gathering. The din of the rowdy bunch hasn't started yet, but Rita Chouchoun (sp?) in the foreground is getting ready to cover her ears. She knows well that no class of kids can match a class of teachers! Darrel Johnson, right, was the surprised winner of the Mystery Package. Bev Maxwell has a bevy of helpers who prepare these prizes that are meant to be incentives to donate to the Bursary Fund. (See the happy recipients and Bev and Donna on page 3.) While our group is involved in several charities world wide, The Bursary remains the single most important fundraiser and Bev has done a yeoman's job over the years assuring year after year that the recipients receive a substantial bursary. Year after year she manages to find new and creative ways to raise money. Thank you to Bev and her recruits. Well done!

## Frank Dwyer naturalist at our October (Halloween) meeting



Suzanne Legault thanking Frank Dwyer for his outstanding visual presentation while Sheila Park looks on.

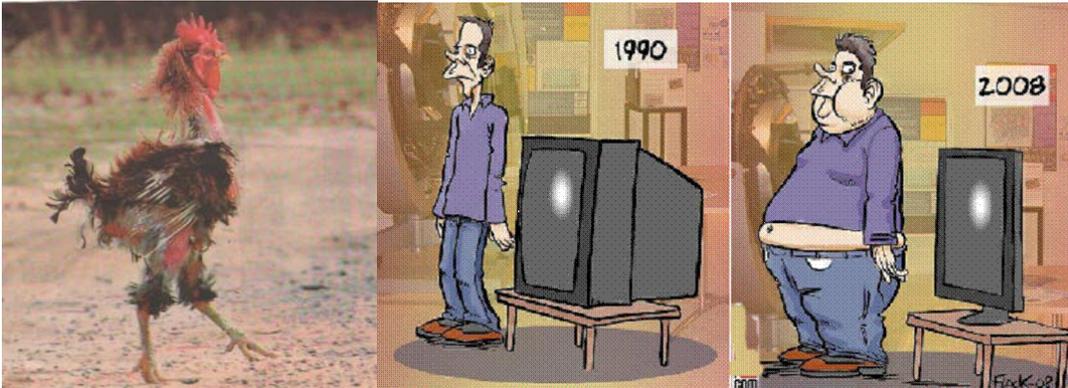
Frank, an ardent naturalist and a gifted photographer took us on a fascinating 2000 + mile family trip to the Grand Canyon and some other well known and not so well known sites in the “snowbird zone” of the United States. Thank you Frank for a truly sumptuous visual presentation!

The quantity of the visual presentation of Halloween by our members at the luncheon was sharply reduced from last year, but the quality was outstanding as can be seen from the photos (Yes, Virginia, there is two of them!) below:



From left to right: Sandy Baird, Mary Ellen Pattersen, Suzanne Legault, Ingrid Heeley, and Marlene Olinek

## The not so Funny Page



Your editor at deadline... Remember, this was two years ago! Imagine now!

Connie Miller sent in the following: “According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November – early December. Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, every one of Santa’s reindeer from Rudolph to Blitzen has to be a female. We should have known. Only women would be able to drag a fat-ass man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.” Not funny? Just say ha-ha-ha!



This could be a serious picture essay, as intended, except if one imagines the following conversation between the driver and the commanding officer. CO: “Idiot! Look what you have done!” D: “But Sir, you said the enemy has gone underground! I just manouvered to have it in our gunsight!” CO: “If that’s the case, then, what are you waiting for? Fire!” Still, it’s not really funny. Nor is this church story:

The pastor got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Or when the minister asked a youngster in Sunday School if he knew what the Bible stood for and got the reply: “It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'” Hm!

## *A Kamloopsian's Howl*

On its coat-of-arms snake-necked vultures are sitting on the branches of a "Y" which is fitting for this is what I have been asking myself for twenty-seven years: Why am I here, why did I stay in a place too small to be a city – too large to be a town?

This town that never wanted to be a town, was built in separate villages each having its own ranches, with sheep and cows but no chickens, or with llamas and game farms and ginseng but no pigs. This settlement that swallowed a reservation, and a reservation that swallowed industry, one never digesting the other, so Kamloops remains a place to which industry comes rarely, like the geese, does like the geese, and expands with reservation.

This settlement, crowding the valleys, climbing the hills, spilling into the open spaces but never quite escaping a chimney so foul it spoils the landscape as well as the air - and we build boxes inside of boxes insulating to R32 in vain, riveting down our windows, welding down the blinds to no avail: the acrid smells, all-pervasive, all-penetrating, nauseating the pilots in the sky, creep through our intakes, crawl through our ducts, rise from our carpets, overtaking our closets as they overtake our lungs - the choke reaching into our minds.

This place - once a geological lake bottom that *should* have stayed a lake bottom, in a glaciated region that should have stayed under a mile or more of ice - a place the Earth itself once tried to swallow and did spit upon, repeatedly spewing megatons of ash on it while the local volcano erupted time and again - and yet the ash could not bury the place quite deep enough.

The melting ice tried to drown the place and did turn it into a lake bottom for a while, where the silt tried smothering it, piling on it high enough to fill the valley but it could not cover the mountains, and so the place stayed.

Oh yes, the flooding rivers are still trying to drown the place now and again in vain, and the wind is trying to blow it away still - (just try to stand in the open in the valley when the wind howls like I am howling) but no wind could haul it away, and the blasted place remained. The forest tried to swallow the place and put its lips to it, it opened its jaws wide but could not close on it: Kamloops got stuck in its throat and it is stuck in there yet, just needing to be washed down – but there is never quite enough rain.

And so the place endured as we, the people, are enduring *and staying*, no flood sweeps us away, no rain drains us down. The rivers flooding together cannot take us, and no wind can blow us away. The volcano may erupt again and another ice age may well follow - but we will burrow into the silt-laden ice in our R32 boxes, even boxes within boxes, (each separate and behind its own blinds) - eyes, ears, noses filled with sand, deaf and dumb to the world as to the passing of the ages - we, the Kamloopsian Sages - grinding the silt between our teeth into clay. Frank Veszely (1997)