

# The K.R.T.A. Bridge

Spring 2011

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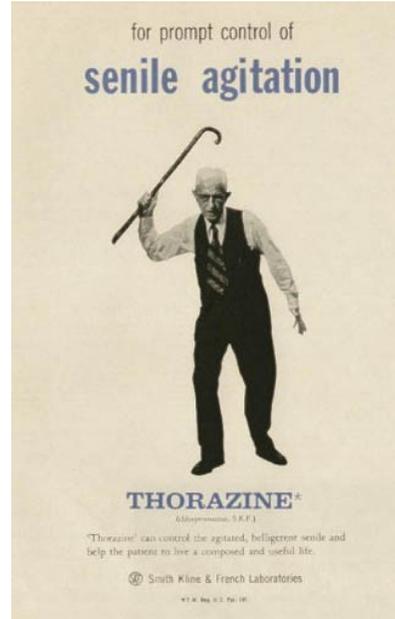
**Our motto: “It’s great to remember but the bliss is to forget.”**

I came across this old ad and the affinity I felt with the old man was instantaneous. For some time now, I knew, I had been suffering from “senile agitation,” I just did not know it was called that. ⇒

affliction with “the American Dream” – of getting rich fast. To the thus afflicted, money is no longer a means – what it should be. Instead, making money becomes the accepted goal of life. Everything else becomes secondary. Worse, we believe that with money we should be able to buy anything we want. Add to this the self-serving belief in individual “freedom” and the removal of governed checks and balances, and we create a condition in our society, where Finance can, and has ⇒

she! Meanwhile, “finance” has come to mean more than our bank, or even The Bank. It has become synonymous with our economy; finance taking credit for every job. Finance has become our landlord, its tentacles of credit reaching into every household, every

Increasingly, like the old man in the ad, I have been feeling the need to grab someone’s cane (I don’t own one yet), and wield it myself in defence of reason, to say nothing of justice and fairness, which in



enterprise, every institution, including our governance; its reach is in every pocket, always taking more with interest than what it has lent, syphoning from us not only our money but our power as well. Make no mistake: money is power, as power is money.

my view have been declining in proportion as money has taken over our lives. Politics and religion seem to command more and more of our attention, but they are red herrings: neither can help our

run amok. Finance has ceased to be serving what it was supposed to serve, production, and for decades now has only been serving mainly one thing – itself. There is a largely silent but deadly game being played out by The Almighty Powers of Finance for the monopoly of unholy money (and power) world wide, over countries, everything. The dreamer is not alarmed by the growing power of the rich. To him, the more power the better, for one day, he dreams, that rich man will be he or

Justice, fairness, the common good, even common sense has gone damned by this greed for ever more money. Not God, The Almighty Dollar rules all. Watching it all, I am driven to senile agitation. Help! I’m going mad. Pass me the Thorazine!

F.V.

## Kamloops Retired Teachers' Executive 2010-2011

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### 2009/2010 General Meetings

<b>Sept. 24, 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 25, 2011</b>
<b>Oct. 29, 2010</b>	<b>Mar. 25, 2011</b>
<b>Nov. 26, 2010</b>	<b>Apr. 29, 2011</b>
<b>Jan. 28, 2011</b>	<b>May 27, 2011</b>
<b>June – Year End/Interbranch (to be booked)</b>	

**Planning Meeting**  
**Sept 10 at Donna W's at 10:00**

### 2008/2010 Executive Meetings ABC Family Restaurant

	<b>Feb. 15, 2011</b>
<b>Oct. 18, 2010</b>	<b>Mar. 15, 2011</b>
<b>Nov. 16, 2010</b>	<b>Apr. 19, 2011</b>
<b>Jan. 18, 2011</b>	<b>May 17, 2011</b>

## At our October Luncheon

After the September luncheon, where home grown garden produce was exchanged over catching up on the news from a very dry, very hot summer – in October we did some serious listening to a couple of experts on fraud. Apparently senior citizens are the chief targets of fraudsters. Why? Are we really that naïve? Confused? Or is it just that we hail from a kinder, gentler age, where trust was a given and mistrust had to have a cause? For sure, we don't want to be taken for fools. We were listening so intently one could hear a pin drop during the whole presentation.



Janet Doubt was the happy winner of the Bursary's Mystery Bag raffle. The raffle is one of several continuing efforts to make a deserving candidate receive a substantial cheque, along with the container change drive and the book exchange at our meetings.



Jean Klepachek has got Barb Stankiewitz hooked on something other than phonics, but it did not hurt!



Busy Bee Donna Walsh looks on encouragingly, as Bev Maxwell shows Dale Brandt's Mystery Bag. A bag is donated freely by a member, who always makes sure the contents of the bag is well worth wanting.

Above: Wisdom and Innocence, alias Mary Egstrom and Marlene Olynek

# FRAUD

**RECOGNIZE IT**

**REPORT IT**

**STOP IT**



Darrel Johnson and Eva Harvey, one indubitably the hardest worker, the other the most trusted. Guess who collected the cash for the luncheon?

The serious topics discussed were: internet fraud, investment fraud, consumer fraud and identity theft. Typical frauds included door to door scams, phoney scratch and wins, bogus charities, stealing bank and credit cards, deceptive telemarketing, “free” prizes, pyramid schemes, “prime bank investments,” mail fraud. Key advice: keep your anonymity. Refrain from giving away information about yourself needlessly on the Internet. You do not have to give your SI number to banks, insurance companies, although they are asking for it. (!) Giving your e-mail address to stores invites unsolicited mail. Discarded ads addressed to you that contain some of your personal information, even entries into Facebook pages can lead to identity theft. Once your identity has been stolen, it takes an average of 1200 hours to prove that you are NOT the person the collection agencies that are after you really should be after. After all, they have your name and address, and it was your credit card that had been used to amass the debt in your name!

**DONNA SAMBOLEC’S PRESENTERS AND THE PREZ**



**THE SERIOUS FUN-SEEKERS AT THE MEETING**



From left to right: Donna Walsh, Mary Egstrom, Evelyn Baziuk, Jean Klepachek, Sharon Olsen, Suzanne Legault, Darrel Johnson and Bev (Batsy) Maxwell.

## Food for Thought A) BEWARE OF POWER



On our security forces: some are yet friendly, some are not. Expect them to disguise themselves, and you'll know that the black Spaniel is the friendly one. But what if they all wear the same uniform, and even the friendly ones must look fierce if only not to be bitten by their colleagues?

Behavioral science still has a way to go, but it has advanced enough for us to know what types of individuals should be invested with power, and which should not. Briefly, those to whom it is a burden and a responsibility and not to those to whom it serves as self-actualization. But has such a knowledge been ever applied to screen out who should be parents, teachers, politicians, dictators, or just be exceedingly rich and thus very powerful? Of course not. We only know for certain who should or should not hold authority *when it is too late to select*, when they are already exercising power – rightly or wrongly. An ounce of prevention would be worth a pound of cure – but no ounce is ever applied. Watching a documentary on another fledgling field of science – dog genetics – I noted it has made a point of saying that what has been learned by studying dogs has gone far beyond dogs, and gave us new insights into all manner of domestication, including ours. It seems that *selection based on a single attribute – aggression – results in genetic changes in the offspring* within two generations! Although dog science has shown unequivocally, that all dogs descended from the grey wolf, Russian experimenters breeding silver foxes using aggression as the single criteria of selection have managed to turn the foxes' progeny into creatures that actually physically looked like, and behaved like dogs. The aggressive foxes' progeny meanwhile retained their silver fox appearance and became extremely aggressive and vicious.

Having spent my formative years under a communist dictatorship (i.e. a scientifically organized power run amok), I have grown up to be wary of power and have seen first hand the *behavioural changes possession of power has wrought on individuals* and came up with my own expanded generalizations on who should and who should not wield power. Now backed by some dogged evidence I can say that people aggressively disposed are first on my no-no list to entrust with power. (Yet how often have you seen these very people grab it first?) Last, but not least, the zealous. Some of the most dangerous Communists came from those idealists who believed in the virtual reality of it, for whom communism was a substitute for religion. Luckily, the zealots often found themselves falling on their own swords. Which leads me to another proverbial truth: unbridled power is so dangerous, it devours everything, including, at the end, itself. Alas, small comfort this proved to be to the 100 million plus victims of communism world wide!

After Communism, there can be no doubt that society has to keep those in power accountable for their power. Yet, as history shows, by and large we are not doing a good job of that, even in the democracies. (One of the reasons, that there is so much abuse of power in our world today.) Worse, power often becomes entrenched, seizing control of the army, the police, the law, etc., and becomes very hard to remove. Mass action is required, but the mobilization of the masses have never been easy, and itself is wrought with problems of abuse. *It seems the shadow of corruption follows every light, and the lower the light, the longer the shadow.* The most oppressive regimes are often the most corrupt. Internationally, power is typically in cohorts with power, unless it rivals its own. And so the abuse of power continues virtually unabated world wide and at all levels. As a lifelong observer of power and sometime victim, I at least have learned to recognize some of the signs of power run mad. This occurs when power ceases to serve the common good, and thus loses its legitimacy. In Hungary the communists were a small minority, yet they seized power. How? First came control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and silencing the opposition in the press. Markedly increased surveillance and an overblown concern with security came next, as those horrible imperialists were forever threatening us. Then came intimidation, big time, as power bared its teeth and made us afraid to open our mouths. The communists borrowed from Hitler's playbook: "Those who are not with us are against us," and soon began to aggressively hound those, who tried to remain neutral. *We had to fake we were enthusiastic supporters of what was happening to us, or risk raising suspicion.* Intimidation kept the lid on discontent for decades and provided "the peace" the commies needed to continue to exercise their almost unlimited power over us. But there was a breaking

point, when society as a whole has had enough. The Hungarian Revolution broke out, and swept them out of power. It was the most uplifting experience of my life, just to be able to say openly what I thought. It was also amazing to witness this construct of power so invasive, so overwhelming, fall like a deck of cards in a couple of days. How did we dare oppose the mighty Soviet power that had us by the throat? We became desperate enough to be no longer afraid. We simply had to come up for air or suffocate. This is what happened recently in Tunisia, and this is what is happening in Egypt as I am writing this. Moslems, Christians, peasants and city dwellers, workers and students revolted as one together, because they all had to come up for air. ***This should give us a clear indication of the many years growing, and now unbearable oppression in Egypt under Mubarak.*** I had my own eureka moment of understanding this when I heard one of the rebels on TV say: “Mubarak must go. We are not afraid any more.”

Chalk up one more to the list of unsavory alliances between power and power world wide. Think of the unmentioned, yet real embarrassment as virtual reality collided with the real world! Some “cornerstone of the Middle East peace process” and “Israeli security” Mubarak has turned out to be! Oh the “pragmatism” of Barack Obama and the airs of Hilary Clinton’s lecturing Mubarak and purporting to support the people of Egypt achieving their democracy now! ***Where were they when the people of Egypt really needed them to speak out for their democracy because they could not?*** Did they not know what kind of ruler Mubarak was? Or, if Mubarak was okay as their long time man, as indeed he virtually seemed to be, what fickle friends they now show themselves to be as they hurriedly distance themselves from him when he is in trouble? Nothing but moral corruption and betrayal, either way we look. So much for “the champions of the (virtual) free world,” indeed so much for “the (virtual) free world,” if these are its champions, no? And if not, this must be just “world power politics,” status quo. Is that better to take? Should I be more proud now?

The Hungarian revolution was brutally put down after President Eisenhower, we now know, assured Chruschev of noninterference, even as The Voice of America promised Western help and encouraged Hungarians to fight. Well, Communism has reportedly fallen with the Berlin Wall in Europe in 1989, but it has taken Hungarians another revolution – this time in the ballot box last year – to rid themselves of the same oppressive gang of treasonous thieves that once ruled them as their communist dictators, ***because meanwhile the other Superpower has found it useful to tacitly keep them in power.*** You see, the former Communist regime had great expertise in betraying their own people and knew how to offer abject subservience and reliable cooperation to power – as long as they saved their skins, avoided justice, and could get a slice of the pie to boot. ***And so the former communists were not the least bothered by going to bed with their avowed enemies, the “imperialists,” nor, it seemed, these Western “imperialists” with their former communist enemies.*** This was low light indeed with a very long shadow. Corruption rose to an all time high in Hungary as the former Communist nomenclature privatized some of the national wealth into their own pockets, sold out the rest at firesale prices to Western corporations, pocketing the thus laundered money and, in power again, renewed intimidation of the populace. They kept the apparatus of oppression in their own hands, and they were good at using it. Hungary became a Republic, but kept its former Communist Constitution, not to be changed unless by two-thirds of parliamentary vote. ***This guaranteed the possibility of continued abuse of power and near-complete government control of the people along with the media.*** The change was only window dressing. None of this bothered the least the free press of the West for twenty-some years, and it certainly did not bother the European Union, even after Hungary has become a member of it. The “international media” remained silent and complicit in the oppression, even as Gyurcsany’s security (remember the fellow that was caught on tape saying that he and his government lied night and day?), brutalized protesters in a manner not seen before. ***Illegal weapons, unregistered “police” shooting at eye level in the E.U., but no fuss about it in the press.*** Alas, the new Hungarian government has more than the the two thirds majority required to affect change, and it knows it must deliver change or itself perish. So lo and behold, it is now acting as if Hungarians and Hungarian interests actually mattered. It actually allows Hungarians to officially exist. It is proposing to extend citizenship to all Hungarians who ask for it, wherever they live. Clearly a “nationalistic” if not downright “populist” ambition! Worse, it is embarking on a policy aimed at cleaning the government of its post-communist corruption, establish some much needed checks and balances on the public media by setting up a supervisory board of all stakeholders (scientific, religious, public interest, business representation included). Oh the

concerted hue and cry about this “dictatorial” government “stifling the freedom of the press” echoing all the way to The Globe and Mail! Here is this terrible government rekindling the Hungarian economy (instead of taking on more national debt), controlling the hands that have been wandering freely into the nation’s pockets, and has even had the temerity to question whether its citizens overspent or have been aggressively overlent? (This may be a coincidence, but as I am writing this, *the TV is on in the other room and I can hear Chip Finance enticing Mary to mortgage our house and buy what she wants or go on a holiday!*) Moreover, instead of further tightening the belt which already was cutting off circulation, and instead of cutting back more on health care and education, this tyrannical populist (but not democratic?) government had committed the wilful crime of levying a bank tax! Watch for Hungary to be labeled “fascist” or worse in the international media soon! For this is not a matter to be given the silent treatment any more. This is outrageously courageous, going against the interests of the globalizers and defending the citizens and their country. (Seven EU countries followed suit with bank taxes as much as 3x the Hungarian 5% rate, but Hungary alone bears the wrath for starting it. Therefore Hungary and Hungarians must be made an example of.) Yet there will be no noticing the oppressive new Slovak language law, whose obvious purpose is to stifle and otherwise render ineffective the use of Hungarian by its Hungarian minority even in those areas where they still represent the majority. Imagine the absurdity of a Welshman being fined 5,000 Euros for calling a Welsh doctor in an emergency in Gailic in the European Union, yet that is the effect of the recently introduced language law in Slovakia vis-à-vis Hungarians living in Slovakia! Or imagine suddenly having to redocument yourself in another language or else you and your qualifications officially cease to exist! All documentation has to be in “Slovak only” (i.e. in a Czech dialect), according to this new law. Such discrimination against Hungarians apparently is okay with the E.U.. While this may be the capstone of the Slovak nation-building edifice, and while it is consistent with the forced slovakization of Hungarians there that has been going on for decades against those that were still left after two unheralded “ethnic clensings,” it runs counter to the aims of the European Union. So do all the anti-Hungarian policies of Rumania, Serbia, Croatia, etc. All have been consolidating their grip of Hungarian lands given to them in Trianon (without the promised referendums ever held in predominantly Hungarian regions), by a combination of expelling, settling, populating, and building strong nation-states, all relentlessly, and so far without any having been labeled “fascist” by the international media. ***How could this go on in the EU today, you ask?*** Well, all these states made it a condition of joining the EU, that their treatment of the cutoff Hungarian populations shall remain “an internal matter,” never to be interfered with by the E. U., that’s how! Ever the “pragmatic,” the EU said yes. Meanwhile, and all along, “the international press” (owned by the same globalizing interests everywhere), continues reporting on the happy and “progressive” virtual reality that the EU is.

But perhaps Hungarians should not complain, for even more absurd and deadly, according to recent news, is the Malaysian Junta killing off one of its indigenous ethnic minorities whose villages they are flooding to sell electricity to China to help keep themselves in power. Apparently a good way to fight these local “terrorists” is to drown them all. And so even this genocidal brutality can find its justification in the international press. The trick is to label a whole nation trying to defend itself as “terrorists.” ***“First label, then kill” works every time.*** But let there be no mistake: power needs checks and balances now, more than ever. And we are ignoring the abuses of power at our collective peril.

There! I have now wielded my stick. Pass me the Thorazine, please! I am ready to take the whole bottle now...

B) Ponder upon these imponderables:-

1. If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
2. If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
3. Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?
4. If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
5. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
6. Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
7. When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?
8. Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person who drives a racing car not called a racist?
9. Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?
10. Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
11. Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?
12. 'I am' is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that 'I do' is the longest sentence?
13. If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be

delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed? 14. What hair colour do they put on the driver's license's of bald men? 15. I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? Toothpicks? 16. Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the postmen can look for them while they deliver the mail? 17. You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive. 18. No one ever says, 'It's only a game' when their team is winning. 19. Ever wonder about those people who spend \$1.50 apiece on those little bottles of Evian water? Try spelling Evian backwards: NAÏVE! 20. Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?

C) "Corporations," as shown on the Knowledge Network Jan. 19, 2011 11-12 p.m.

This was Part 1 of a three part documentary series, that defined, gave a historic perview, and examined corporate behaviour. Historians, scientists, business, stock market, legal experts were interviewed along with several active and past CEO-s. Salient points the program made were as follows: The original corporation was created to serve and protect the newly freed slaves and their property. Early corporations that followed were created to prosecute the business of public work projects. These were strictly regulated and always short lived, going out of existence as soon as the projects were completed. With the end of slavery people could not own other people, and Corporations could not own other corporations. *Corporate lawyers then persuaded the government to lift regulations and restrictions, and created the concept of the modern Corporation. This changed the mandate of the institution from that of protecting people to protecting money* (and incidentally reinstated slavery, as while a corpotation is viewed as "a person," the corporation could now own another corporation, i.e. another "person.") So a modern corporation is a legal "person" and has all the rights a person has and more, including the Fifth Amendment rights, but not all the responsibilities. Historically, by and large, these corporations were still serving the people initially, and produced a lot of goods, giving a tremendous boost to enterpreneurial enterprises. The catch is that a corporation is "a person" when its suits it, and not when it does not. Examining "the personality" of this "person" becomes possible by studying its behavior over time. Case after case, attribute after attribute, the program then proceeded to show that *the corporate behaviour profile fits exactly the profile of the classic psychopath*. They are proven manipulators, deceivers, liars, knowingly harming people, animals, the planet. The program concludes: "The modern corporation is a juggernaut money-making machine in control of no one, not even its CEO-s." The modern Corporation is required by law to make money. A well intentioned, and environmentally conscious, socially aresponsible CEO can only do so much; he is in fact obligated to do his best with all means at his disposal to increase productivity, first and last. His hands are tied to full throttle ahead. Big corporations have got maximization of productivity and profit down to a science. They are measuring, the program documented, South American workers's productivity per unit *by the tenth of a second*. Based on this tenth-of-a-second formulae, they pay so much and no more. Corporate costs are similarly minimized, routinely making others shoulder their costs, whenever and wherever possible, no matter how, or with what consequence. All major corporations routinely break the law when it is profitable to do so, routinely pay millions in fines, settle out of court without admitting guilt, and write all off as the cost of doing business. As the program documented, over the years, on average, the cost of per unit production of a typical Big Corporation (ESSO, GE, GM, WALMART, etc.) has gone down steadily, and *the cost is now down to 1% of profits*. Who owns these corpoprations are sometimes known, sometimes not but, according to the program, the owners' number is a fraction of 1% of the world's population. One of the former CEO-s mused on the program over the collective effect of today's corporations robbing blind the yet to be born of untold generations and, if his own activities were to be judged by the courts of the future, if he were not to be condemned as a criminal.

Earlier the same day Knowledge Network aired another documentary, showing Chinese women as young as 14 working in a factory producing jeans. The first month's pay is withheld to discourage leaving. The girls get *paid one third of what is prescribed by Chinese minimum wage laws*, work long hours, are chronically sleep deprived, are

housed in overcrowded company quarters, are fined a hundred hours' wages or more for minor offences. Their wages are sometimes withheld for months as the owner is competing with other owners for orders and has to keep his costs down whatever way he can. The attraction of this life to the girls? The Sechuan girl of the documentary did it to enable her sibling to go to school. Other girls do it because any work for pay beats starving to death. **And so Corporations maximize their profits using the psychopathic model.** They could be completely dehumanized, but luckily, *where* they do their business still makes a difference in how they work. National characters still put a stamp of their own even on international corporations. According to the famous Two Cows Theory of Economics 101:

**AMERICAN CORPORATION:** You have two cows. You sell one, lease it back to yourself and do an IPO on the 2nd one. You force the two cows to produce the milk of four cows. You are surprised when one cow drops dead. You spin an announcement to the analysts stating you have downsized and are reducing expenses. Your stock goes up.  
**FRENCH CORPORATION:** You have two cows. You strike because you want three cows. You go to lunch and drink wine. Life is good.  
**JAPANESE CORPORATION:** You have two cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk. Most are at the top of their class at cow school.  
**GERMAN CORPORATION:** You have two cows. You engineer them so they are all blond, drink lots of beer, give excellent quality milk, and run a hundred miles an hour. Unfortunately, they also demand 13 weeks of vacation per year  
**ITALIAN CORPORATION:** You have two cows, but you don't know where they are. You break for lunch. Drink wine. Life is good.  
**RUSSIAN CORPORATION:** You have two cows. You drink some vodka. You count them again and find you now apparently have five cows. You drink some more vodka. The Mafia shows up and takes over however many cows you really have.  
**IRAQI CORPORATION:** You have two cows. They go into hiding. They send radio tapes of their mooing.  
**POLISH CORPORATION:** You have two bulls. Employees are regularly maimed and killed attempting to milk them. (*From an Internet Forward. Tips to survive the rest of winter come next.*)

***Keep your headlights clear with car wax:***

Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights. It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights. Lasts up to 6 weeks.

***Ice-proof your windows with vinegar:***

Frost on it's way? Just fill a spray bottle with three parts vinegar to one part water and spritz it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water-preventing water from freezing.

***Prevent car doors from freezing shut with cooking spray:***

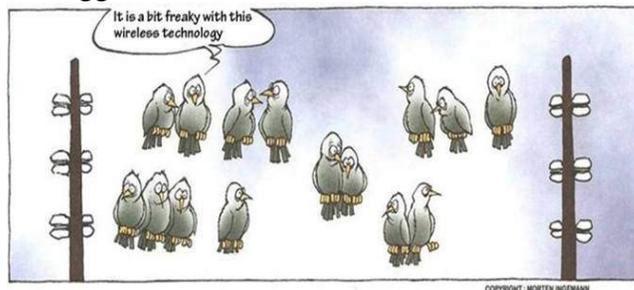
Spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors and rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.

***Fog-proof your windshield with shaving cream:***

Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield and wipe if off with paper towels. Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.



Caption: "Snowplow for Seniors."



Caption: "It is a bit freaky with this wireless technology."

## English as a Second Language: A funny Funny Page

		
	<p>Anyone who has studied a second language later in life knows it's no easy task, involving a lifetime of learning. There are many frustrations along the way, but there is also the joy of discovery, comparisons and moments of eureka along the way. This page is intended to share some humorous moments of insight into EUREKA!</p>	
		

### Use the word in a sentence! Tra to Reed it widda Mexican Egg Scent.

1. **\*Cheese\*** The teacher told Pepito to use the word cheese in a sentence. Pepito replies: Maria likes me, but cheese ugly.
2. **\*Mushroom\*** When all my family get in the car, there's not mushroom.
3. **\*Shoulder\*** My fren wants 2 become a citizen, but che didn't know how to read, so I shoulder.
4. **\*Texas\*** When I'm not home, my fren always Texas me, che wonders where I am!
5. **\*Herpes\*** Me and my fren ordered pizza. I got mine piece, then che got herpes.
6. **\*July\*** Ju told me ju were going to tha store, but ju went to see sum guy. July to me! Julyer!
7. **\*Rectum\*** I had 2 cars, but my wife rectum!
8. **\*Chicken\*** I was going to go to the store with my wife, but che said chicken go herself.
9. **\*Wheelchair\*** We only have one enchilada left, but don't worry – wheelchair!
10. **\*Chicken wing\*** My wife plays the lottery so chicken wing. *[Warning: read no further. The rest is really, really raunchy!]*
11. **\*Harassment\*** My wife caught me in bed with another woman. I told her, "Honey, harassment nothen to me!"
12. **\*Body wash\*** I want to go to the club, but no body wash my kids.
13. **\*Budweiser\*** That women has a nice body, budweiser face so ugly? *[Why no listen to me?]*

# Christmas in November



Yvonne Lancaster, above  
And Betty Debeck are 90!



Buzzing with conversation:  
the congregation



The Belle of The Bells gets a  
Big Hug from SantaClaus



“The bells are held in the hands, but the music comes from the heart.”  
Quoth the Conductor of “Harmony in Hand.”



Oh the Christmas Spirit! Even the stool is wearing a hat! Suzanne Lagault: “And the winners are... is...



...birthday girl Ulrika Davies!” Mary Ellen Patterson and Suzanne Lagault provided the prizes. Left, Mrs. Santa Bev Maxwell hands over the Mystery Bag to Ulrika and Donna Walsh congratulates her on the right for winning the poinsettias. Left, right, left, right – the Bursary Drive is marching on for the Bursary to become self-sufficient. Although our group supports a number of charities, under Bev’s leadership a lot of effort (and money) has gone to the Bursaries. Coin drives, book exchanges, donation envelopes are all ongoing events thanks to a lot of people, especially Bev!



## Bursary Recipients – Picture and Report by Bev Maxwell



From left to right: Kellie Gartrell, Donna Walsh, Breanne Alexander, Erica Ducommun, Darrel Johnson

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010, President Donna Walsh, Darrel Johnson and Bev Maxwell attended the TRU Foundation Awards Ceremony to present two \$1,300 KRTA Bursaries and the R. R. Smith Bursary. The recipients of the KRTA burseries were first year education students Erica Ducommun and Kellie Gartrell, and the recipient of the R. R. Smith Foundation Bursary was Breanne Alexander. The students were most appreciative to be chosen as recipients of the bursaries. We will look forward to introducing them to the KRTA membership at the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 luncheon.

### From CHES: A Woman's Life in Kenya

Written by: Naomi Ludia Kunani, Archbishop of Njenga Girls High School in Kenya

Kenya is a very peaceful country since long ago, comprised of both men and women. Though in past years it seemed as if it had only had men, as women were undermined. In some communities, the moment you are born a girl and attain the age of nine, you are circumcised and then start the duties of being a woman – even getting married was one of the practices they underwent. Education, it was said, was meant for only boys. For women were meant to cook, look after babies and do all the house work. When a girl asked about school she was told she had to wait for all her brothers to learn, even if she was the only girl in a family of eleven children. The father would sell all the animals for his boys, but would not sacrifice even a sack of grain for his daughter. As they put it, "a request from a king is like a demand to his subjects", and the women were like subjects to their father so they followed everything he said, whether good or bad.

After the coming of the missionaries, things changed a lot, though at a slow rate. To me it was very positive, but to others it was negative because it was against their evil deeds. Female genital mutilation was abolished and girls' education was introduced, and many more changes have taken place since then. Kenya is now a gradually developing country with much less gender inequality. Women have started to realize their ability for these so-called "expensive careers". Quite a number of women have managed to get high earning jobs. Courageous

women like Martha Kania, Charity Ngilu, popularly known as Mama Rainbow, and Sally Kosgey, took part in politics and are really matching their male colleagues at a sensible pace. These women challenge their male counterparts through debates in parliament and other activities. These days Kenyan women are also pilots, and managers of big companies. I really feel good seeing women struggling to get good positions in this country, and I was even happier after the promulgation ceremony that took place on August 27th to officially activate the new constitution. For example, in this new constitution (article 127 (2c)) it says of seven members appointed to the parliamentary service commission, three must be women. A hope that one day gender inequality will come to an end. As the adage states, "Where there is a will, there is a way".

## Paraprosdokian Sentences. Pardon me? (Don't worry! You'll get the hang of it.)

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car. \* If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong. \* We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.\* Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.\* To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research. \* A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. My desk is a work station. \* Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy. \* The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas! \* I always take life with a grain of salt... plus a slice of lemon... and a shot of tequila. \* When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water. \* To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target. Got the concept? Make some paraprosdokian sentences of your own! While you are at it, coin some new words using MENSA's rules below: take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some of the 2009 winners: 1.**Cashtration** (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time. 2.**Ignoranus**: A person who's both stupid and an asshole. 3.**Intaxication**: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

## A Note of Thanks

A Big Thank You is owed to **Margaret Catherwood, Sharon Kika and Darrel Johnson**, without whom you would not get the printed editions of The Bridge in your mailbox. Many envelopes must be literally pressed, stuffed, labeled and carted to be mailed, and these people have been doing it faithfully for almost as long as The Bridge has been The Bridge. The KTTA office is printing The Bridge free of charge for us with either **Audrey Reison** or **Lana Rachey** manning the Xerox machine and collating the pages. All I do is pick up the boxed copies and take them to the meeting. Audrey and Lana do the work, often interrupted. Not a simple task as we discovered, when a temporary helper did the job and we found pages missing. Always the troubleshooter, Darrel had to take it back to the office, run off the missing pages and restaple the works. Nothing is as simple as it seems! So many thanks to Margaret, Sharon, Darrel, Audrey and Lana!

## Passion for Learning: Memoirs of Retired Secondary Teachers.

Only a few copies are left. If you would like to purchase one contact Marie Laroche Phone: 250-376-2597 or [mplaroche@telus.net](mailto:mplaroche@telus.net)

## Passion for Sharing, Second Edition

The revision of Passion for Sharing should be available to everyone by September of 2011. We want to thank everyone who contributed to the revision and addition of memoirs. Marie Laroche, Co-Editor

Atrocities during the time of war are not overly common. [I.e. If you lived in Canada during the wars. Ed.] They do occur however, and these incidents touch the humane feelings of all of us regardless by whose side they were committed. Such a story emerged from the beaches of Normandy shortly after the D- Day invasion in early June 1945. Canadian troops had advanced quite rapidly, their goal was to capture Bayeux and Caen on the first day of their attack. Instead, the Canadian forces met stiff and fanatic resistance from the crack troops of the German 716th Infantry division. The next day the Germans reinforced their Infantry division with the S.S. and the 25 S.S. Panzer divisions, commanded by Colonel Kurt Meyer. The Germans counter attacked and drove our soldiers back several miles. The Canadians suffered at least 200 casualties, lost 15 tanks and had several of their buddies taken prisoner, including a young Canadian soldier from Saskatchewan named Allen Owens. Word got back to the Canadian lines that prisoners of war were being shot by the Germans. After the war a special Court of Inquiry was set up to thoroughly investigate these serious charges. In all, the Inquiry uncovered 134 instances where Canadian Soldiers had been murdered after being taken prisoner. Nearly all of these instances occurred under Col. Meyer's command.

This is the eye witness account of the fate of seven captured Canadian prisoners as told at Meyer's murder trial which started on December 10, 1945. The Canadians were questioned in English by a German officer. As their names were called, they were forced to walk individually through a passageway into a garden. As each soldier entered the garden an S.S. Corporal shot him in the back of the head. All the prisoners knew they were going to die. As their names were called they shook hands with their comrades and then walked to their deaths.

Our family has always felt that Colonel Meyer is the man responsible for the murder of Allan Ralph Owens, husband of my cousin, Amy. Colonel Kurt Meyer was found innocent of these 7 murders. He was however, found guilty of other atrocities and sentenced to death by firing squad. He appealed, and eventually served only 9 years in jail. [Senile agitation is setting in again.]

## Telling Prayers

Four Catholic brothers sit in a room, prayer book in hand, saying their evening prayers. Suddenly, the light goes out. What happens next reveals the difference between the orders.

The **Benedictine** carries on with his prayer – he knows it by heart.

The **Dominican** launches into a sermon about Darkness and the Light.

The **Franciscan** greets darkness as his brother, and begins to pray to God for light, until the lights come back on, because meanwhile the **Jesuit** brother has changed the fuse.

## Weights and Measures

**Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram \*\*\* 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahertz \*\*\* 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling \*\*\* Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon \*\*\* Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower \*\*\* 52 cards = 1 decacards \*\*\* Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line... in case you did not know!**

Paddy and his missus are lying in bed listening to the next door neighbour's dog barking. It had been barking for hours day after day. Suddenly Paddy jumps up out of bed and says "I've had enough of this". He goes downstairs. Paddy finally comes back up to bed and his wife says, "The dog is still barking. What have you been doing?" Paddy says "I've put the dog in our yard. See how they like it now!"

At our January Luncheon – Stephanie Whittacker on Healthy Living



Fourth year pharmaceutical student Stephanie delivered a well presented, concise, informative, visually packaged message to an attentive and interested audience on healthy living. It is never too late to switch to a low cal rate, she intimated as she talked about healthy eating (as per the Canadian Food Guide), keeping active and strong, taking screening tests regularly (annually or biannually for blood pressure, vision, cancer... biannually or every three years for sugar), using calcium (1500 mg/day) and vitamin D (800 IU/day) supplements for keeping our bones strong. She talked of the use of pain relievers (Tylenol, Advil and Aleve), and flu shots, before she held a very helpful and frank question period. She fielded questions with obvious expertise, never overreaching it, deferring the answers she was not certain of. Although she focussed on the topics of her presentation, she became a credible spokesperson for People’s Pharmacy, inspiring much needed confidence even in her industry. She invited us to see her at the pharmacy (3<sup>rd</sup> & Lansdowne, below Burris Clinic, Tel.: 250 - 374 - 3112.)

Additional information is available at: <http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile68e.stm>, Dial a dietitian @ 1- 800 – 667 – 3438 <http://www.dialadietitian.org/> <http://www.foodnetwork.com/> <http://www.canadianliving.com/> <https://lifemadedelicious.ca/>

Dr. Art of Global TV: “40 minutes walk three times a week is needed exercise.”

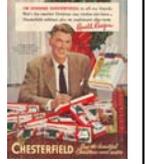
Poetry Corner

László Pintér is a retired forestry engineer, a graduate of the Sopron Faculty of UBC and a lifelong poet. I came across this delightful gem of his and translated it for us:

<p><b><i>László Pintér: Little students</i></b></p> <p>Like most young children of school age,          Going to school I used to hate,          Because it braked, I must confess,          My natural rambunctiousness.</p> <p>Better than study was to play –          We did not know then, that some day          The world awaits us, but could tell:          School was prison, if not sheer hell.</p> <p>We did not like our pedagogue,          Although through no fault of his own,          Blamed him for trapping us in vaults –          We did not yet know our own faults.</p>	<p>At summertime the summer’s heat          Poured forth flowers, freedom, the sweet,          Sweet blossoming of fantasies:          The carefree world of play and dreams.</p> <p>Fall came too soon! On its cue we          Re-en-act-ed the tragedy,          Until we finally learned at last:          The world’s threshold we all must pass,</p> <p>That childhood’s fleeting dream, alas,          Has to become a thing of past,          That learning’s yet the soul’s real pride          That grasp frees, knowledge is divine.</p> <p><i>(Translated by Frank Veszely)</i></p>
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Remember “The Great Communicator”? His famous sayings? My capital C Conservative friend, who sent this to me, forwarded it with the capitalized message: **IF YOU AGREE, PLEASE FORWARD. IF NOT, READ IT AGAIN.** His premise: “if you read something often enough you will come to believe it.” Yet I ask: has anyone in government better articulated the curious position of being anti-government before or since Raegan?



"Socialism only works in two places: Heaven, where they don't need it and hell where they already have it." • 'Here's my strategy on the Cold War: We win, they lose.' • 'The most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help.' • 'The trouble with our liberal friends is not that they're ignorant; it's just that they know so much that isn't so.' • 'Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong. (Hm. Could we still say this after Bush?)' • 'I have wondered at times about what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress...' • 'The taxpayer: That's someone who works for the federal government but doesn't have to take the civil service examination.' • 'Government is like a baby: an alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.' • 'The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this Earth is a government program.' • 'It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first.' • 'Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.' • 'Politics is not a bad profession. If you succeed, there are many rewards; if you disgrace yourself, you can always write a book.' • 'No arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is as formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women.' • 'If we ever forget that we're one nation under GOD, then we will be a nation gone under.' -**Ronald Reagan**

Much of the above seems to ring true to me. However, for my part, I would still like to know, whose government was Reagan talking about? Was it Lincoln’s “government of the people by the people for the people,” or a more recent one – perhaps his own? On a lighter note, this is the guy who was selling us cigarettes, remember? See pic.

### Buyer beware!

<div data-bbox="196 1251 272 1457" data-label="Image"></div> <div data-bbox="469 1272 615 1457" data-label="Image"></div> <p>Water or Coke?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#1. 75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated. (Likely applies to half the world population)</li> <li>#2. In 37% of Americans, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it is mistaken for hunger.</li> <li>#3. Even MILD dehydration will slow down one's metabolism as 3%.</li> <li>#4. One glass of water will shut down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of the dieters studied in a University of Washington study.</li> <li>#5. Lack of water, the #1 trigger of daytime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#1. In many states the highway patrol carries two gallons of Coke in the trunk to remove blood from the highway after a car accident.</li> <li>#2. You can put a T-bone steak in a bowl of Coke and it will be gone in two days.</li> <li>#3. To clean a toilet: Pour a can of Coca-Cola into the toilet bowl and let the 'real thing' sit for one hour, then flush clean. The citric acid in Coke removes stains from vitreous china.</li> <li>#4. To remove rust spots from chrome car bumpers: Rub the bumper with a rumped-up piece of Reynolds Wrap aluminum foil dipped in Coca-Cola.</li> <li>#5. To clean corrosion from car battery terminals: Pour a can of Coca-Cola over the terminals to bubble away the corrosion.</li> <li>#6. To loosen a rusted bolt: Apply a cloth soaked in Coca-Cola to the rusted bolt for several minutes.</li> </ul>
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fatigue.

#6. Preliminary research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for up to 80% of sufferers.

#7. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy short-term memory, trouble with basic math, and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or on a printed page.

#8. Drinking 5 glasses of water daily decreases the risk of colon cancer by 45%, plus it can slash the risk of breast cancer by 79%., and one is 50% less likely to develop bladder cancer. Are you drinking the amount of water you should drink every day?

#7. To remove grease from clothes: Empty a can of Coke into the load of greasy clothes, add detergent, and run through a regular cycle. The Coca-Cola will help loosen grease stains. It will also clean road haze from your windshield.

... and yet:

#8. To bake a moist ham: Empty a can of Coca-Cola into the baking pan, wrap the ham in aluminum foil, and bake. Thirty minutes before ham is finished, remove the foil, allowing the drippings to mix with the Coke for a sumptuous brown gravy.

FYI: The active ingredient in Coke is phosphoric acid. It will dissolve a nail in about four days. Phosphoric acid also leaches calcium from bones and is a major contributor to the rising increase of osteoporosis. To carry Coca-Cola syrup (the concentrate), the commercial trucks must use "hazardous material" place cards reserved for highly corrosive materials. The makers of Coke have been aware of the properties of their product. The distributors of Coke have been using it to clean engines of the trucks for about 20 years! How aware are you of its powers as you are ordering your next glass of Coke?

**When NASA first planned to send up astronauts**, they quickly discovered that ball-point pens would not work in zero gravity. To combat the problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$1.2 billion to develop a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, underwater, on almost any surface including glass, and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to 300 Celsius. Confronted with the same problem, the Canadians used a pencil. [Good joke, eh? In fairness to NASA, it was a private company that developed the expensive ballpoint pen, and NASA only bought a few for under \$ 5.00 apiece.]

## Deep Thoughts for Those Who Take Life Way Too Seriously:

Save the whales. Collect the whole set. # On the other hand, you have different fingers. # 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name. # Remember, half the people you know are below average. # He who laughs last thinks slowest. # Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.# Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have. # A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory. # Change is inevitable, except from vending machines. # OK, so what's the speed of dark? # When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane. # Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now. # How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges? # Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines. # What happens if you get scared half to death twice? # I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder. # Why do psychics have to ask you for your name? # Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened. Light travels faster than sound. That's why why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

**Oh Canada!** Everything is temporary. Enjoy it while it lasts!