

# The K.R.T.A. Bridge

Fall 2013

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

Online The Bridge may be seen at: [www.krta.ca](http://www.krta.ca)



Kamloops Moon

Photo: Jennifer Boyle

While we remain optimistic, in many ways this has not been a happy year for many. We have lost several friends and colleagues who have meant a lot to us and who will be sadly missed. So many in fact, that I am afraid to attempt to name them here, for I would be sure to miss some. Yet at least two must be mentioned to appreciate the size of our loss: long time principal Len Fowles, to whom I am personally indebted, and our Babs, the pastor of many who always said grace for us at our monthly meetings. This has also been the year of the KGHM-Ajax mine, that has made many of our doctors fear for our health. While many consider it beneficial monetarily, it is guaranteed to leave a huge hole where our future growth has been planned. There may be 9,000 other holes to fill across the country; there can be no doubt that this will hit home. The added pollution may tip the balance, turning Kamloops from a desirable to an undesirable place to live in.

## Kamloops Retired Teachers' Executive for 2013-2014

President – Sheila Park	250-372-2806	<a href="mailto:spark1@telus.net">spark1@telus.net</a>
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Second Vice President		
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- Bev Maxwell	250-374-2205	<a href="mailto:bjmax@shaw.ca">bjmax@shaw.ca</a>
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Bursary - Bev Maxwell	250-374-2205	<a href="mailto:bjmax@shaw.ca">bjmax@shaw.ca</a>
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Social Concerns/Advocacy /COSCO-		
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“Seniors Connector” - Evelyn Baziuk	250-554-3409	
Membership – Darrel Johnson	250-372-3194	<a href="mailto:dm.johnson@shaw.ca">dm.johnson@shaw.ca</a>
-Rita Chauhan	250-376-9254	
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-Suzanne Legault	250-828-0133	<a href="mailto:suelegault@shaw.ca">suelegault@shaw.ca</a>
Pensions - Sheila Park	250-372-2806	<a href="mailto:spark1@telus.net">spark1@telus.net</a>
“The Bridge” - Frank Veszely	250-377-7517	<a href="mailto:fveszely@gmail.com">fveszely@gmail.com</a>

### **Kamloops Retired Teachers' Association Cottonwood Centre 2013-2014 General Meetings & Programs**

- Sept. 3, 2013 “No more bells” Drop-in Coffee Party (10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.)  
Sept. 27, 2013 - Introducing New Retirees, sharing Fall produce, flowers, preserves etc.  
Oct. 25, 2013 - “Bridges of Kamloops” (Colleen Stainton) Halloween costumes optional  
Nov. 29, 2013 - Pre Christmas Celebration (entertainment) Christmas Amalgamated.  
Turkey dinner. Don't forget to bring Food Bank donations  
Jan. 31, 2014 - Riverboat Cruising (Presentors: Sheila Park & Carolynne Miller)  
Feb. 28, 2014 - Pensions Presentation (BCRTA VP Patricia Clough) Next Bridge out  
Mar. 28, 2014 - Bursary Recipients in attendance. Harambee Silent Auction  
Apr. 25, 2014 - **KRTA AGM Elections** Tranquille Farm presentation or Hiking & Biking (Charlie Bruce)  
May 30, 2014 - “Mystery Tour” – (a la Marianne Trestain) or Visit to Tranquille Farm

### **2013/2014 Executive Meetings ABC Family Restaurant**

	Feb. 18, 2014
Oct. 15, 2013	Mar. 18, 2014
Nov. 19, 2013	Apr. 15, 2014
Jan. 21, 2014	May 22, 2014

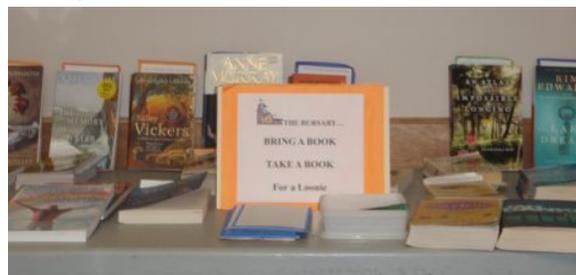
## KRTA Life 2013



C'est la vie! La voilà!



Lots of speakers, lots more listeners, and even more books to read year round for only a buck that goes to our TRU Bursary Fund. Two \$ 1,500 bursaries will be awarded next.



Some forty of us gathered, braving the cold. Charlie Bruce for the Seniors' Games and the Mothers against the Mine both recruited volunteers and Pat Petley updated us about Josephine Joseph, the African student, the second student we have been sponsoring until they graduate for some years now. A good meal was had also.

And that was just February... In March we hosted last year's bursary winners.



The stage is set for the annual Silent auction, a major fundraiser for next year's winners. Hundreds of items were auctioned and over \$1,200 raised. As evidenced by the recipients' faces, Eric Beaulieu & Jessica Hill, it was all worth while! Alf Law also regaled us with a long Robert Frost poem he recited pretty much by heart...



... Then Marianne Trestain held court and our rapt attention about this year's Mystery Tour, that by all accounts turned out to be one of the best with Darrel Johnson hosting the group at the family estate in Lillooet. At our April AGM, elections were held with Mary Ellen Patterson becoming our Sunshine person for the year, and Rita Chauhan was also acclaimed to help Darrel Johnson with membership duties. Marlene Olineck took over from Suzanne Legault, who is staying on to assist. As a group we appear to believe in recycling. Just look at how many executive members are getting recycled year after year! So having a few new faces is an event to be appreciated. A big Thank You to Mary Ellen, Rita and Marlene for their offers to help us out.

Unlucky 13 has lived up to its reputation. Read elsewhere of the many who left us. Our Dynamo President Darrel went to the chiropractor in the summer who grabbed hold of his arm and... broke it! Soon after Darrel was told he had cancer. The prognosis is good, chemo is expected to help. For certain, Darrel is not letting any of this interfere with his dynamism. Although he asked Sheila Park to take over the reins, Sheila says she has nothing to do – Darrel is doing it all. Darrel says keeping busy helps not to focus on what has happened to him. I think I understand this very well. Once upon a time, I recall, when I took a hit, I took on a big job. It not only helped to keep my mind off my problem, it helped me to deal with it.

In April, we decided to skip the May meeting. Dawn Rueckl of Wells Gray Tours (Picture top left) invited us to tour with them. But first we listened to more speakers!



Dawn Rueckl



Darrel Johnson and Rick Turner

Back in January, Jean Hagen presented a well-received program, "Bounce Back, Reclaim Your Health," offering a method to break the vicious cycle of depression. Rick Turner has turned himself into an activist and an advocate in the best sense of both of those words. He is also an intent listener as above, fielding questions from the audience.

"Where did the summer go?" We asked each other in September at the last genuine "The Hell with the Bell" meeting. Apparently it will be renamed next year. Five new retirees joined us for lunch, from left to right Mary Montalbeti, Carolyn Ramsey, Diana



Porter, middle, Judy Mc Laughlin & Joanne Nicholas with grandson Jordan Schellenberg.

### Membership Report by Darrel Johnson

We have 427 members of the KRTA. I have more than half of these members on various email lists. The largest email group is the 234 members who receive regular emails about our luncheon as well as forwards of info from the BCRTA, various issues forwarded by

members, travel info, notice of “The Bridge” being posted on the website, etc. Another 34 members living around the province and elsewhere in Canada receive a notice of “The Bridge” being posted on the website. We have another 25 members who are phoned to contact members without email about our luncheons. If you wish to be added to any of these lists or have your name deleted or moved to another list, please email me at [dm.johnson@shaw.ca](mailto:dm.johnson@shaw.ca) or call me at 250 372 3194.

A **reminder that if you move** that an address change, email and phone number change must go into the BCRTA. Contact info in your Postscript. Many email me so I can change my email. I will forward to BCRTA for you. We have lost contact with at least 10 members that have moved with no notice of where to. Some are more senior members moving to care homes. If you know of any that have moved, please contact me to see if I have a change for them. Thanks. Darrel Johnson, Membership Chair. More from Darrel:

**Gone but not Forgotten**

During this past year we lost a significant number of members of the KRTA. We extend our condolences to the families of the following:

Jeanne Anderson Valoree Baker Wendy Chase Babs Enns	Leona McNeil Mary (Mickey) Reid Heather Tait	Francis Wade Michael Waddington Cliff Weathermon
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**Canadian Health Accord** The federal agreement with the provinces is up for renewal in March 2014. The Federal government is unwilling to negotiate with the provinces and territories to establish a new national health accord. Instead, in December 2011, the Federal Government unilaterally announced a withdrawal from anything but a reduced financial role: in 2017 the transfer to health care funding would be cut from the current 6% increase to a percentage pegged to the GPD, with a guarantee base of 3%. Locally that means a cut of \$137 million from health funding to the Kamloops and surrounding areas over the next 10 years. I encourage all to write letters to MPs and or meet with your MP to make your concerns known. Those members not in the Kamloops area can certainly find workshops and info sessions that may be occurring in their area. I have forwarded info to all on my email lists to get people involved.

**What We Request**

We want the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to negotiate a new 2014 Health Accord that protects and strengthens our universal public health care system.

We want you, as our elected representative, to stop letting the Federal Government undermine our health care system by refusing to come back to the bargaining table.

We want you to stand up and demand that the Federal Government negotiate with the nation's premiers to ensure that every Canadian has access to quality health care services as needed, regardless of ability to pay or postal code.

Darrel Johnson

## People who work for Us – Our BCRTA Representatives - Report



Sheila Park, Marie Laroche, Marlene Wildeman

### RR SMITH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION by Marie Laroche

AGM September 19-21, 2013  
Hilton Hotel, Richmond, B.C.

I want to thank you for allowing me to represent you at the Annual General Meeting. It was an uplifting experience, partly because of the enthusiastic and dedicated members who are willing to give of their time to ensure better pensions, insurances (we even have a pet insurance now) through Johnson and Johnson. At the AGM and through the year the BCRTA are working on maintaining and improving all areas of our needs: pensions and benefits, health and housing, advocacy, social concerns, to name a few.

Many of the executive when finishing their term go on to participate in provincial and national organizations such as COSCO, ACER-CART, CARP. They make a difference not only locally, but provincially and nationally. As teachers we are leaders and have gone on to be on the Executive of these organizations. I would like to encourage you to participate actively in the leadership of the local executive of the KRTA. The executive is the lifeline to our needs, social activities, and communication on Pensions, health benefits and housing.

### THE REPORT

For new members, the history of the RR SMITH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION can be found on the RR SMITH website. There is an Early History 1939-71 when the Teachers' Pension Plan went into bankruptcy causing financial difficulties for retired and retiring teachers.

The Middle History started in 1971 with the creation of the BCTF Assistance Society, there was no longer need for personal assistance, so guidelines were approved for the use

of the money. These guidelines created the RR SMITH FOUNDATION, named in honor of a founding member of the BCTF.

The Recent History. In 2000 the RR Smith Memorial Fund Foundation was established. The Purpose is to advance public education in B.C. and in developing countries by:

- a) -Providing scholarships and bursaries to doctoral students in any area which advances public education.
- b) -Making and administering grants to Canadian registered charitable organizations. Acquiring school materials, books, equipment, and supplies of all kinds and donating them to schools.
- c) -providing funding to support innovative projects which advance public education, working cooperatively with governments in Canada and other countries, and other charitable organizations.

The Foundation makes grants to projects that meet these criteria.

The directors wish to express their appreciation for the donations from individuals and BCRTA branches and \$1.00 per member grant from the BCRTA. These funds made it possible for the directors to award \$19,000 in grants to 13 applicants. In 2013 these are a few of the grants that were made:

1. Families for Children in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The money will be used to help run a school and orphanage for children in an area of extreme poverty. \$1500.
2. Seeds of Hope to buy materials and teaching supplies for Canadian teachers volunteering at a school in Zambia. \$ 1500.
3. Into All the World, to provide financial aid for boys moving from grade seven to high school in Uganda. \$1500.

## Fickle Facts Found in a Hungarian Forward

Duck quacking has no echo. Noone knows why. \* Spinach has no more iron than any other plant. \* Rats can live longer than camels without water. \* Your brain's computer capacity? 1,164,156 gigs. And you're not Einstein. \* All the gold in the world would fit in a cube 20 m x 20 m x 20 m. \* History's shortest war? England vs Zimbabwe in 1896. Duration? 38 minutes. \* Of 20,000 bee species only four (4) produce honey. \* You probably knew this but it is news to Hungarians: men wore kilts first, pants later. \* The tip of a whip breaks the sound barrier. Its crack is the sound of an explosion. \* Wear a headset for an hour – the bacteria in your ear multiplies seven times. \* A plastic bottle takes 50,000 years to break down. \* Einstein started to talk at 6 years of age \*. Winston Churchill was born in a washroom during a dance. \* Marilyn Monroe had six toes. Pablo Picasso was stillborn. His uncle revived him by blowing cigar smoke into his face. \* The first e-mail on the internet was sent in 1972. You were there.

**The math teacher saw that Larry wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said: "Larry, what are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?" Larry quickly replied: "NBC, FOX, ESPN and The Cartoon Network!" \* Teacher said: "Everyone who feels stupid, stand up!" After a while Larry stood up. "Do you feel stupid?" asked the teacher. "No," said Larry, " I just did not want you to stand all by yourself!"**

## Picture Essay



## Food for Thought

### A) Why the current Mineral tenure Act must go

In The BC Guide to Watershed Law & Planning we read: “The *Mineral Tenure Act* governs the granting of mineral **exploration/exploitation** rights within the province... [It] sets out the process **for individuals** to acquire and maintain mineral tenures. The Ministry encourages the recording, exploration and development of coal and mineral claims, on the basis that it is good for the economy and for regional development. Because tax revenue also flows from mineral exploration and development, mining is also regarded as good for provincial coffers. Unfortunately, therefore, environmental considerations are sometimes viewed as an ‘obstacle’ to economic development.” Read it carefully again! Note: Exploration and exploitation go hand in hand and the ownership to the discovered mineral passes to the individual. Finders keepers. Note also how smoothly individual “discovery/exploitation” become equated with “regional development,” and as such trumping local development. Consider just one absurdity that may arise from this. I purchase the mineral rights for part of the city for \$35.00. It can be done. So now I, with mineral rights papers in my hand, bent on exploitation for private gain, can dig a pothole by the side of the road. The city may consider my hole a road hazard, but it cannot do anything about it: it has no jurisdiction. My pothole project is representing “regional development,” and may therefore override the plans of the city I live in. The city is

helpless: the law is behind me. Absurd? Now consider that my name is Ajax, have just arrived from Poland, and can dig a REALLY BIG hole right on the middle of the road of the city's planned development! The city may be really concerned now, this big hole can create many problems for it: air and water pollution, slope stabilization problems in a prime residential area next to it, lowering property values and tax revenue, etc., but thanks to our Mineral Tenure act, the city is as helpless as before. That's not absurd? Clearly, this Act has been written to support individual exploration/exploitation of what otherwise might be considered properly belonging to the natives/locals. Perhaps the Act should be renamed the "Take From Us What You May Find Act?"

To understand how this came about we have to look at the historic perspective. The Act itself harkens back to our colonial past. It was intended to ensure that the colonizing power may develop/exploit the resources of the colony as freely as possible, without much regard to native/local interests. Although tinkered with several times in recent years (2004, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012), clarifying such things as when the land owner should be notified, (!) its intent and effect has essentially remained unchanged in spite of all these "modernizing changes." In the age of globalization our own Mineral Tenure Act (generally supported by the not-necessarily-true myth that what is good for the foreign investor has to be also good for *our* economy), has been rendering us vulnerable to world wide development/exploitation. At long last at least one level of government (the municipal one) is recognizing that fact and is trying to do something about it. The motion passed at the recent Conference of B.C. Municipalities observes, in part, that "the present Mineral Tenure Act gives no weight to other economic activities, current or future, in areas affected by mining claims including tourism, forestry and farming. Local governments and First Nations deserve greater latitude to shape their economic development paths and protect the full range of their residents' interests." It's a no-brainer. This old colonial Act has to go and new laws must be written urgently. Why?

Well, the "individuals" in the Act are turning out to be international corporations from anywhere in the world (in Kamloops' case the Polish KGHM), and the Act casts our city, natives and all, in the role of being the "unfortunate obstacles to development." If conflicting (i.e. "tournament capital" versus "mining town"), all our own plans of development (including the city's planned growth to the South), are simply shunted aside as another obstacle to "regional development." The growth of our city to the South will be effectively stopped. Let this sink in! It is not hard to see why we cannot count on our provincial or federal politicians to protect us from corporate development/exploitation, especially now, when our Premier is declaring our province to be "open for business" to the world. She is going to China with our Finders-Keepers-Take-From-Us-What-You-May-Find Act, peddling a thirty-five dollar license fee for a small cut from their profits for taxes for her indebted, money-starving government – and presto! Our minerals are China's for the taking. What a sales pitch! What a truly "competitive offer" to "attract needed investment!" This is not going forward, folks; this is going down.

The question is not whether The Mineral Tenure Act should be changed or not, the question is why this has not been done long before KGHM put its foot inside our door? And the most obvious, most troubling answer to this is: our representative democracy has

been representing international business better than it has been representing us. I am afraid the fight to change the Mineral Tenure Act will not be easily won. We should be very vocal in supporting our municipal governments, otherwise the interests of provincial and federal coffers, not to mention the all-powerful international business lobby, is very likely to stymie this much needed change and our municipalities, along with ourselves, shall remain explored/exploited and disenfranchised.

An important footnote: The discussion the municipalities are asking for is a welcome first step, yet not nearly enough. Discussion won't solve the problem. We have been discussing the water issue for fifteen years now without acting. Meanwhile our water resources remain unprotected. Yet the law can be changed quickly. Just look how swiftly the GST and the HST has been implemented! The Mineral Tenure Act has been "modernized" five times now, its substance unchanged. We have been kept vulnerable to exploitation. Our governments cannot pretend to represent us while they remain, in fact, the well "lobbied" executors of international interests. FV

**B) Yes they walk among us, are in politics, and continue to breed. (A DC airport ticket agent offers some concrete examples of the degree of ignorance displayed.)**

1. I had a New Hampshire Congresswoman (Carol Shea-Porter) ask for an aisle seat so that her hair wouldn't get messed up by being near the window. (On an airplane!) 2. I got a call from a Kansas Congressman's (Moore) staffer (Howard Bauleke), who wanted to go to Cape Town . I started to explain the length of the flight and the passport information, and then he interrupted me with, "I'm not trying to make you look stupid, but Cape Town is in Massachusetts ..." Without trying to make him look stupid, I calmly explained, "Cape Cod is in Massachusetts, Cape Town is in South Africa ..." His response -- click. 3. A senior Vermont Congressman (Bernie Sanders) called, furious about a Florida package we did. I asked what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean-view room. I tried to explain that's not possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, 'Don't lie to me! I looked on the map, and Florida is a very THIN state!!' (OMG) 4. I got a call from a lawmaker's wife (Landra Reid) who asked, "Is it possible to see England from Canada ?" I said, "No." She said, "But they look so close on the map." (OMG, again!) 5. An aide for a cabinet member (Janet Napolitano) once called and asked if he could rent a car in Dallas. I pulled up the reservation and noticed he had only a 1-hour layover in Dallas . When I asked him why he wanted to rent a car, he said, "I heard Dallas was a big airport, and we will need a car to drive between gates to save time." (Aghhhh) 6. An Illinois Congresswoman (Jan Schakowsky) called last week. She needed to know how it was possible that her flight from Detroit left at 8:30 a.m. and got to Chicago at 8:33 a.m. I explained that Michigan was an hour ahead of Illinois, but she couldn't understand the concept of time zones. Finally, I told her the plane went fast, and she bought that. (Must be blonde.) 7. A New York lawmaker, (Jerrold Nadler) called and asked, "Do airlines put your physical description on your bag so they know whose luggage belongs to whom?" I said, 'No, why do you ask?' He replied, "Well, when I checked in with the airline, they put a tag on my luggage that said (FAT), and I'm overweight. I think that's very rude!" After putting him on hold for a minute, while I looked into it, (I was dying laughing), I came back and explained the city code for

Fresno, Ca. is (FAT - Fresno Air Terminal), and the airline was just putting a destination tag on his luggage. 8. A Senator John Kerry aide (Lindsay Ross) called to inquire about a trip package to Hawaii. After going over all the cost info, she asked, "Would it be cheaper to fly to California and then take the train to Hawaii?" 9. I just got off the phone with a freshman Congressman, Bobby Bright from Ala. who asked, "How do I know which plane to get on?" I asked him what exactly he meant, to which he replied, "I was told my flight number is 823, but none of these planes have numbers on them." 10. Senator Dianne Feinstein called and said, "I need to fly to Pepsi-Cola, Florida. Do I have to get on one of those little computer planes?" I asked if she meant fly to Pensacola and fly on a commuter plane. She said, "Yeah, whatever, smarty!" 11. Mary Landrieu, La. Senator, called and had a question about the documents she needed in order to fly to China. After a lengthy discussion about passports, I reminded her that she needed a visa. "Oh, no I don't. I've been to China many times and never had to have one of those." I double checked and sure enough, her stay required a visa. When I told her this she said, "Look, I've been to China four times and every time they have accepted my American Express!" 12. A New Jersey Congressman (John Adler) called to make reservations, "I want to go from Chicago to Rhino, New York." I was at a loss for words. Finally, I said, "Are you sure that's the name of the town?" "Yes, what flights do you have?" replied the man. After some searching, I came back with, "I'm sorry, sir, I've looked up every airport code in the country and can't find a Rhino anywhere." The man retorted, "Oh, don't be silly! Everyone knows where it is. Check your map!" So I scoured a map of the state of New York and finally offered, "You don't mean Buffalo, do you?" The reply? "Whatever! I knew it was a big animal." Now you know why the Government is in the shape it's in!

In defence of the politicians I think I should point out that other travellers are not necessarily smarter. When I worked on the trains I was asked questions like: Is North the same way in Canada than in the United States? A deep thinker once asked me that, considering the tremendous pressure in the oceans, how does one explain that rivers still flow into it? Seriously. I bear ear witness to it.

### **C) Windows vs. Ford Motor Co.**

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At a computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If Ford had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon." In response to Bill's comments, Ford issued a press release stating:

If Ford had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics: 1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash. 2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car. 3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this. 4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine. 5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast, and twice

as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads. 6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light and would freeze. 7. The airbag system would ask, "Are you sure?" before deploying. 8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key, and grabbed hold of the radio antenna. 9. Every time a new car was introduced (about every 18 months) car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car. 10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off. P.S. When all else fails, you could call "customer service" in some foreign country, and be told in an undecipherable foreign accent how to fix your car yourself!

**D) Paraprosdokians** are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous. Winston Churchill loved them: 1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it. 2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list. 3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak. 4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong. 5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public. 6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left. 7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit... Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad. 8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research. 9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you. 10. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, Notify:' I put 'DOCTOR'. 11. 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. 12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice. 13. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure... 14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target. 15. You're never too old to learn something stupid. 16. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

### **E) On being Green**

I was shopping in a supermarket the other day, when the young cashier suggested I should bring my own bag because the plastic ones are not environmentally friendly. I excused myself, explaining that in my time this green notion did not exist. She responded that we have this problem now, because "your generation did not care to preserve the environment for future generations. You had no green consciousness." I began to ponder. No, in my time there was no green consciousness. But then what did we have instead? I'll write down what comes to mind.

In my day we returned the milk bottles, the soda bottles and the beer bottles to the store. From the store they were returned to the producers, where they were washed then refilled again. So they were always reused. But the young cashier was right: we had no green consciousness.

On the stairs we walked up and down because there were no elevators in every store or office building. We walked to the store, did not hop into our 300 horsepower vehicles every time we had to conduct some business a couple of blocks away. But the young cashier was right: we had no green consciousness.

In those days we washed the diapers, because there were no disposable diapers.

Clothing was dried on a clothes line, not in a 240 Volt machine. Our clothes were dried by wind and solar energy those days. Children walked in clothes inherited from their older siblings, they seldom ever got new clothes. But the young cashier was right: we had no green consciousness.

There was one TV per household, not one in every room. In the kitchen we stirred food by hand because we had no electrical appliances to do that for us. If we wanted to send something fragile in the mail we wrapped it in old newspaper, not in a plastic bubble wrap. We did not use gas powered lawnmowers, we used a push mower. Work represented for us the exercise, so we had no need to go a fitness center to run on an electrically powered belt. But the young cashier was right: we had no green consciousness.

We drank from a well if we were thirsty, we did not purchase drinking water in a plastic bottle. The pens we refilled with ink and reused them, instead of throwing them away when they ran out of ink. We changed the blade in the razor, did not throw the razor away just because the blade got dull. But the young cashier was right: we had no green consciousness.

In my day the kids got on the bus or walked to school, did not use their mothers for 24 hr taxi service. In a room there was one connector. We had no need for multiple connectors to run several gadgets at once. We had no need for multiple computerized fixtures or satellite-based GPS to find the nearest pizza place.

Isn't it sad that the current generation complains how wasteful we were, just because we had no green consciousness?

#### **F) Gotta have pun!**

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer! \* I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest. \* England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool. \* I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now. \* Jokes about German sausages are the wurst. \* I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time. \* I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me. \* This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore. \* When chemists die, apparently they barium. \* I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words. \* Why were the Indians able to settle in North America first? They had reservations. \* What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus. \* I dropped out of the Communism class because of lousy Marx. \* I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough. \* Velcro - what a rip off!

#### **At long last! Blond Men Jokes.**

A friend told the blond man: "Christmas is on a Friday this year." The blond man then said, "Let's hope it's not the 13th." \* Two blond men find three grenades, and they decide to take them to a police station. One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?" The other says: "We'll lie and say we only found two." \* A woman phoned her blonde neighbor man and said: "Close your curtains the next time you & your wife are having sex. The whole street was watching and laughing at you yesterday." To which the blonde man replied: "Well the joke's on all of you because I wasn't even at home yesterday." \*

A blonde man is in the bathroom and his wife shouts: "Did you find the shampoo?" He answers, "Yes, but I'm not sure what to do... it's for dry hair, and I've just wet mine." \* A blond man spies a letter lying on his doormat. It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND." He spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick it up. \* A blond man shouts frantically into the phone: "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" "Is this her first child?" asks the Doctor. "No", he shouts, "this is her husband!" \* A blonde man was driving home, drunk as a skunk. Suddenly he has to swerve to avoid a tree, then another, then another. A cop car pulls him over, so he tells the cop about all the trees in the road. The cop says, "That's your air freshener swinging about!" \* A blond man is in jail.. Guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet. "Just WHAT are you doing?" he asks. "Hanging myself," the blond replies. "It should be around your neck" says the guard. "I tried that," he replies, "but then I couldn't breathe." \* An Italian tourist asks a blonde man: "Why do Scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?" To which the blonde man replies: "If they fell forward, they'd still be in the boat."

### Are(n't) Golfers wonderful People ? (Take your Pick)

A husband and wife are on the 9th green when suddenly she collapses from a heart attack! "Help me dear," she groans to her husband. The husband calls 911 on his cell phone, talks for a few minutes, picks up his putter and lines up his putt. His wife raises her head off the green and stares at him. "I'm dying here and you're putting?" "Don't worry dear," says the husband calmly, "they found a doctor on the second hole and he's coming to help you. "Well, how long will it take for him to get here?" she asks feebly. "No time at all," says her husband. "Everybody's already agreed to let him play through."

A gushy reporter told Phil Mickelson, "You are spectacular, your name is synonymous with the game of golf. You really know your way around the course. What's your secret?" Mickelson replied, "The holes are numbered."

Police are called to an apartment and find a woman holding a bloody 5-iron standing over a lifeless man. The detective asks, "Ma'am, is that your husband?" "Yes" says the woman. "Did you hit him with that golf club?" "Yes, yes, I did." The woman begins to sob, drops the club, and puts her hands on her face. "How many times did you hit him?" "I don't know -- five, six, maybe seven times... just put me down for a five."

A golfer teed up his ball on the first tee, took a mighty swing and hit his ball into a clump of trees. He found his ball and saw an opening between two trees he thought he could hit through. Taking out his 3-wood, he took a mighty swing. The ball hit a tree, bounced back, hit him in the forehead and killed him. As he approached the gates of Heaven, St. Peter asked, "Are you a good golfer?" The man replied: "Got here in two, didn't I?"

The bride was escorted down the aisle and when she reached the altar, the groom was standing there with his golf bag and clubs at his side. She said: "What are your golf clubs doing here?" He looked her right in the eye and said, "This isn't going to take all day, is it?"

. Aagh!

## Ethnic Humor: Jewish comedians on Jews.

And there was not one single swear word in their comedy. Here are a few examples:

\* I just got back from a pleasure trip. I took my mother-in-law to the airport.\* I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years! If my wife ever finds out she'll kill me!\* What are three words a woman never wants to hear when she's making love? "Honey I'm home!"\* Someone stole all my credit cards but I won't be reporting it. The thief spends less than my wife did. \* We always hold hands. If I let go she shops.\* My wife and I went back to the hotel where we spent our wedding night only this time I stayed in the bathroom and cried. \* She was at the beauty shop for two hours. That was only for the estimate. She got a mudpack and looked great for two days. Then the mud fell off. \* The Doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bills, so the doctor gave him another six months.\* The Doctor called Mrs. Cohen saying: "Mrs. Cohen, your check came back." Mrs. Cohen answered: "So did my arthritis!" \* Doctor: "You'll live to be 60! Patient: "I am 60!" Doctor: "See! What did I tell you?" \* Patient: "I have a ringing in my ears." Doctor: "Don't answer!" \* A drunk was in front of a judge. The judge says: "You've been brought here for drinking."The drunk says "Okay: let's get started." \* Why do Jewish divorces cost so much? They're worth it. \* The Harvard School of Medicine did a study of why Jewish women like Chinese food so much. The study revealed that this is due to the fact that Won Ton spelled backward is Not Now. \* There is a big controversy on the Jewish view of when life begins. In Jewish tradition the fetus is not considered viable until it graduates from medical school. \* Q: Why don't Jewish mothers drink? A: Alcohol interferes with their suffering. \* Q: Why do Jewish mothers make great parole officers? A: They never let anyone finish a sentence! \*A man called his mother in Florida: "Mom, how are you?" "Not too good," said the mother. "I've been very weak." The son said: "Why are you so weak?" She said: "Because I haven't eaten in 38 days." The son said: "That's terrible. Why haven't you eaten in 38 days?" The mother answered: "Because I didn't want my mouth to be filled with food if you should call." \*A Jewish boy comes home from school and tells his mother he has a part in the play. She asks: "What part is it?" The boy says: "I play the part of the Jewish husband." The mother scowls and says: "Go back and tell the teacher you want a speaking part." \* Q: How many Jewish mothers does it take to change a light bulb? A: (Sigh) "Don't bother. I'll sit in the dark. I don't want to be a nuisance to anybody." \* Did you hear about the bum who walked up to a Jewish mother on the street and said: "Lady, I haven't eaten in three days." "Force yourself!" she replied. \* Q: What's the difference between a Rottweiler and a Jewish mother? A: Eventually, the Rottweiler lets go. Q: Why are Jewish men circumcised? A: Because Jewish women don't like anything that Isn't 20% off. \* Short summary of every Jewish holiday: They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat!

Apropos celebrations:

**Merry Christmas and a Happier New Year!**

## Our KARESS Team, lead by our SPark receives thanks



“A warm thank you to your team for attending the 2013 Investors Group Walk for Memories, and for your team’s generous contribution to help Kamloops raise over \$70,000 for alzheimer’s disease and related dementia support and research. Carol Tromblay, Volunteer Team Coordinator” The next walk is in January 26, 2014. Phone or e-mail Sheila if you would like to join the team. 250-372-2806 / [spark1@telus.net](mailto:spark1@telus.net)



Once again, the KRTA Bursary Committee had a fund raising Mystery Bus Tour, organized by our wonderful tour guide, Marianne Trestain. The mystery destination was Lillooet, where President Darrel Johnson surprised the group with a wonderful buffet luncheon at his Lillooet home. The outing included a walking tour of downtown Lillooet and stops at local wineries.  
**Report by Bev Maxwell .**



Host and hostess Darrel and Marg Johnson

## Poetry Corner

### THE LOCALS' LATE LAMENT

**This land was your land, this land was my land,  
once cattle grazing, trail riding grassland,  
a land of folklore, copper and go-old ore...  
This land was made for you and me.**

**Then in came mining, the hazards hiding,  
and politicians – winking and smiling,  
replaced the gold ore, with a gaping he-ell hole:  
this pit was made for you and me.**

**This pit's now your pit, this pit is my pit,  
it has some water – but you cannot drink it;  
in common jargon it's full of poi-oi-son:  
this pit was made for you and me.**

**We have been fed lies, were left with the slag piles,  
taken for a fool, wrecked daycare and school,  
a hillside crumbling, house prices falling –  
this “pit” was made for you and me!**

**This pit's now your pit, this pit is my pit,  
the ore was taken – to every last bit.  
Inheritance was sold for a pi-it-tance:  
this “pit” was made for you and me!**

**Gone are the green hills, the cattle, the bike trails,  
a gaping hole needs to be filled with our bills,  
a choking dust blows to fill up every nose:  
this pit was made for you and me.**

**This land was your land, this land was my land,  
once cattle grazing, trail riding grassland,  
a land of folklore, copper and go-old ore...  
This land's now gone for you and me!**

Frank Veszely, April, 2013

NOTE: I have added an APPENDIX to The Bridge on the website containing two articles. One is entitled Twenty-nine Lines to make you smile, the other is a lengthy discourse by Dianne Kerr, former Chair of the Economic Committee at City Hall entitled The other Side of the Economic Argument, first published here. Well worth the read. Ed.

## Appendix

### TWENTY-NINE LINES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

1. I divorced my husband over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't.
2. I don't suffer from insanity; I enjoy every minute of it.
3. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
4. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
5. Don't take life too seriously; No one gets out alive.
6. You're just jealous because the voices only talk to me.
7. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder .
8. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe .
9. I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are just missing.
10. Out of my mind. Back in five minutes .
11. NyQuil, the stuffy, sneezy, why-the-heck-is-the-room-spinning medicine.
12. God must love stupid people; He made so many.
13. The gene pool could use a little chlorine.
14. Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.
15. Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?
16. Being 'over the hill' is much better than being under it!
17. Wrinkled Was Not One of the Things I Wanted to Be When I Grew up .
- 18 . Procrastinate Now!
19. I Have a Degree in Liberal Arts; Do You Want Fries With That?
20. A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
21. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.
22. Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere!
23. They call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken .
- 24 . He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless DEAD.
25. A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.
- 26 .Ham and eggs... A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.
27. The trouble with life is there's no background music.
28. The original point and click interface was a Smith & Wesson.
29. I smile because I don't know what the hell is going on.

Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!  
Life is too short and friends are too few!

### THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ECONOMIC ARGUMENT BY DIANNE KERR

Hi Frank: Thank you so much for your interest in the economic side of things. I have updated the article to reflect a few recent changes in data and also fleshed out a few areas. I am happy to have my name attached to the article. You might be interested in adding a few other aspects of my background to credential me. A former city councilor who was Chairman of the Economic Development Committee, past member of the TNRD board, former member of the B.C. Environmental Appeal Board. Please feel free to print this version in your issue of The Bridge.  
Dianne

Is the Ajax mine really an economic boon to the community if examined through the lens of cost/benefit?

Let's look at the promised benefits first. Depending on which of the mine's printed promises for jobs you read, the numbers are between 380 and 500 jobs, but there are no guarantees. No one will hold the proponent accountable if that number of jobs do not materialize as they so frequently do not with mega projects. How long will those jobs last? Afton operated intermittently with long periods of layoffs. The extremely low grade of the Ajax deposit makes it more vulnerable than others to the fluctuations of metal markets. It is likely that Ajax would operate with significant periods of curtailed activity and employees on layoff.

The promised jobs represent less than 1% of the Kamloops workforce. Not all of those jobs will go to local residents. With the recent federal decisions enabling foreign workers to be hired at reduced wage rates, the number of jobs for local people will be even more questionable. And there are other issues for union members. For example, the United Steelworkers found it necessary to fight the subcontracting practices of Rio Tinto in Eastern Canada. Subcontracting takes jobs from union members and creates a more transient workforce. The substantially lower wages paid to subcontracted employees puts pressure on the current wages paid union members. There is no guarantee that this will not happen at the Ajax mine if approved. In fact, there are no guarantees about anything related to the hiring practices of the Ajax operation (which is likely to be non-union like New Gold).

Additionally, technology is replacing many jobs in the mining sector. The Ajax proponent has even acknowledged that conveyance systems will replace trucks and their drivers in later mine life. Another factor that can negatively affect the job picture for local employment is the corporate practice of transfer pricing. This is a practice that allows services like engineering and research/development to be conducted in other countries (like Poland, home of the parent company) but charged back to the company in Canada – lower taxes for the company and fewer jobs for Canadians. So very few of the numbers of people living in Kamloops may actually benefit from whatever the jobs are that materialize from the Ajax operation.

We will all, however, bear the costs of the proposed mine. Those costs may well include loss of future job opportunities from other potential employers. Without the Ajax mine, we are benefiting from a reported 200 new jobs with the new Telus data centre. The Q9 data storage facility is another employer recently located in our City. If Ajax is approved, employers who no longer see Kamloops as a desirable location will take their employment opportunities elsewhere. This is particularly true of high tech industries that will be looking for a community with the quality of life to attract and retain the skilled workers their businesses requires.

What will the tax benefit be? The provincial and the federal governments (who are the decision makers for the project) will take the lion's share of the tax dollars. According to the mine's information, the senior governments will take \$760 million compared to the

\$110 million over 23 years for the City. The City's portion annually will average \$4.7 million. The total City tax levy in 2011 was \$130 million so the projected tax for Ajax is just 3.6% of that total. If my taxes are \$1500 per year then the addition of Ajax revenue to the tax levy would potentially save me \$54 a year. From this 54 dollars, I can expect to deduct my increased hydro rates as the provincial hydro subsidy to this mine and the others approved in BC will mean rate hikes for residential and small business taxpayers. What remains of the \$54 does not account for any additional costs the City might incur as a result of costs to its infrastructure related to mine operation. For example, the dewatering system presently used in Aberdeen may be unable to handle the water recharge into the soil from the mining operation. This may precipitate the more costly solution of a \$30 million tunnel. If this happens and the City has to pay for the tunnel, I may actually be required to pay more taxes because the mine is here. Additional infrastructure costs triggered by the mine (like road maintenance and rebuilding) will also be added to the City tax bill. As a final comment on taxes, consider the frequent request for tax breaks that are often granted to large industrial companies when market conditions worsen. The projected tax benefit to the City is not a guarantee and in fact, our taxes may go up to accommodate costs associated with the mining operation.

What is the "spin off" benefit of the mine? Wage spending in Kamloops will depend on whether employees are local or contracted, in which case wages could be spent elsewhere. Some mine related suppliers will certainly benefit from spending on materials and services if KGHM purchases locally. However, other small business owners believe their businesses will be hurt. Some fear they will have difficulty attracting and keeping staff. Others fear they will lose customers who no longer want to visit or live in this City. Relocation of retirees from the expensive lower mainland and other locales has begun to inject the economic benefits of their spending into the community. Kamloops with an Ajax mine will not attract new retirees and will undoubtedly lose many of those we do have. Their cash injection will be lost to the City.

What are the costs to Kamloops if the mine goes ahead? The list is long. The visual impact of huge waste piles at the gateway to the City has a cost. It affects the way we are perceived and will affect decisions that are made that will also affect our economic health both short and long term. Will tournaments, and special events with their attendant revenue generation (\$11.7 million in 2010) continue to come to this City? What will be the effect on the \$165 million annually that is generated by tourism related businesses in the community? Will other businesses cross Kamloops off their list of preferred locations? Also, there is a cost to cutting off growth in the area intended for City expansion, both in wasted infrastructure costs and in lost tax revenues from undeveloped residential potential. Additionally, the costs may be great in taxpayer terms if soil stability issues present us with a \$30 million bill or road rebuilding requirements increase. There will likely be costs to property owners as well. The experts in economic issues have attached property devaluation amounts to a number of factors including those related to noise, light, dust, visual impact etc. all things that will be impacted by the mine in some parts of the City. Even homeowners in other parts of the City cannot be certain their properties will not experience lowered property value if the numbers of people

leaving the community and those deciding not to locate here negatively affect the laws of supply and demand that ultimately affect market value.

Any economic analysis needs to consider risk elements. Those risks include health risks which are difficult to assess at present since the proponent has been unwilling to provide to the public any heavy metal assay results. We do know that all mining activities release toxic materials into the environment, materials that can seriously affect human health. There are also safety risks when a company reported as one of the worst polluters globally develops such a huge open pit mine and uses vast amounts of water in an area with soil stability problems. Safety risks are compounded when the location is as close as 1.5 km. from existing housing and 1.25 km from an elementary school. They are further compounded when the City has no control since the mine extraction activities are exempt from any of its bylaws. Monitoring and enforcement by the senior government will be the only control over the mine operation and that has been described by the B.C. Auditor General as inadequate. So if something goes wrong, the question is who pays? A former Mayor of Sudbury has some experience with this and describes his role as that of a “beggar” seeking funds to repair the damage left by mining operations.

The biggest cost to the community will be the loss of what Kamloops hoped it would be as a City and the loss of those things that we value most as our “quality of life” – things as basic as the air we breathe, the quality of the groundwater that makes its way into lakes, creeks, and eventually the river, the amount of fog and haze we are prepared to live with, and for some parts of the City, even the amount of sunlight that can be enjoyed once the shadow from gigantic rock piles is in place. “ Making Kamloops Shine” (our new motto) will be virtually impossible to do if a giant mine is located within the City.

Kamloops does and can continue to encourage and support development, without subscribing to the dangerous principle of development at any cost. Yes, there will be some benefits if the mine goes ahead. The two senior governments gain \$33 million annually in taxes divided between them, but much of the B.C. share will be negated by millions of dollars in hydro subsidies given to the mine. In fact, B.C. taxpayers have already paid a \$3.2 million subsidy to Abacus for exploration costs. KGHM Polska will certainly make millions in profits, the customer in Asia will make millions processing the exported metal. ALL of those benefits will materialize far away from our community. These beneficiaries will bear NONE of the aforementioned costs of the project. ALL of those costs will be born by the City and its residents. What do we get out of it? A very few people of our 87,000 population will get jobs for an unknowable period of time, some suppliers may get boosts to their business, real estate agents may be busy for a time selling the homes of the many who will leave the City (led by the doctors, other professionals and retirees who will find it easiest to relocate) and a taxpayer like me may save less than \$54 or more likely, may pay even more in taxes if infrastructure costs to the City soar. It is not a lot to offset the immeasurable costs of short and long term damage to this community. This is not a good deal for Kamloops. The costs to our City are just too great, both in human and environmental terms. What is truly sad is that those costs will go unquantified because the assessment process does not require a high level socio economic study.