

The K.R.T.A. Bridge

Spring 2015

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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



Pawel Kuczynski

Polish artist Pawel Kuczynski's creative work is always about a message. In one of his signature work a small crowd surrounds a large can of spilled paint while turning its back to the spilled blood of an apparent suicide victim fallen out of the window of a skyscraper, highlighting man's lack of attention to other man's fate. In the one above beggars representing poverty represent a time bomb with the clock running out. Indeed, poverty the world over is on the rise and, along with rising seas and temperatures – the former inundating agricultural lands the latter causing droughts – the world's food supply is threatened. Perhaps a more immediate concern is yet another financial crisis, this time of the US Dollar. It is fiat currency being printed on an unprecedented scale, while the need for it is increasingly being questioned. Recently Canada has joined those countries that choose to trade in their own currencies by signing a major trade deal with China, bypassing the U.S. Dollar that Kuczynski portrays on a clothes line, dripping guns. Hardly an instrument for spreading democracy or saving the poor of this world!

Kamloops Retired Teachers' Executive for 2014-2015

| | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| President – Darrel Johnson | 250-372-3194 | dm.johnson@shaw.ca |
| Past President - Donna Walsh | 250-374-3087 | donnaw00@telus.net |
| First Vice President – Sheila Park | 250-372-2806 | spark1@telus.net |
| Second Vice President - Vacant | | |
| Secretary - VACANT - Any Volunteers?- last shared by 2 people | | |
| Treasurer - Eva Harvey | 1-250-375-2426 | evaharveywallbanger@gmail.com |
| Heritage - Marie Laroche | 250-376-2597 | mpalaroche@outlook.com |
| Bursary - Bev Maxwell | 250-374-2205 | bjmax@shaw.ca |
| Sunshine –Mary Ellen Patterson | 250-372-1762 | pattplace@gmail.com |
| -Marianne Trestain | 250-374-2524 | trestainmd@shaw.ca |
| Social Concerns/Advocacy /COSCO- | | |
| - Darrel Johnson | 250-372-3194 | dm.johnson@shaw.ca |
| “Seniors Connector” - Evelyn Baziuk | 250-554-3409 | |
| Membership – Darrel Johnson | 250-372-3194 | dm.johnson@shaw.ca |
| -Rita Chauhan | 250-376-9254 | |
| Programme – VACANT – has been shared by 2 in past | | |
| Pensions - Sheila Park | 250-372-2806 | spark1@telus.net |
| “The Bridge” - Frank Veszely | 250-377-7517 | fveszely@gmail.com |

Kamloops Retired Teachers' Association Cottonwood Centre

2014-2015 General Meetings

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Sept. 3, 2014 “NO MORE BELL” -Social | |
| Sept. 26, 2014 | Feb. 27, 2015 |
| Oct. 31, 2014 | Mar.27, 2015 |
| Nov. 28, 2014 | Apr. 24, 2015 |
| Jan. 30, 2015 | May 29, 2015 |

Summer Planning Meeting August 26

2014/2015 Executive Meetings ABC Family Restaurant

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Feb. 17, 2015 |
| Oct. 21, 2014 | Mar. 17, 2015 |
| Nov. 19, 2014 | Apr. 14, 2015 |
| Jan. 20, 2015 | May 29, 2015 |

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

KRTA LIFE

October

The October luncheon was well attended, but the luncheon turned out to be a bit of a fiasco. Moon Wok One and Moon Wok Two may have crossed their wires, at least that was the sense Donna Sharpe had after having had to make repeated calls after repeated calls before the food arrived – an hour late. We whiled away the time among ourselves as the Ukulele troupe appeared and was turned back to reappear just in time to help fill the gap between the end of the business meeting and the belated Luncheon. We joined in singing with the performers who did several encore songs, until the lunch finally arrived. All turned out well in the end as not only were we not charged for the meal, *but when the owner heard that we had donated the luncheon money to the R.R. Smith Fund, she decided to match our donation!*



Wendy Patrick, Mary Ellen Patterson, Marlene Olineck, Donna Sharpe, Sharon Olsen, –, Carolyn Ramsey, Eva Harvey, Sheila Park's ghosts!

Popular songs from the second half of the last century, performed by the group were known to us all as we joined in the singing. What fun!

November

KRTA Christmas Luncheon by Donna Sharpe

We enjoyed a very good time at our annual Christmas luncheon this year. Lunch was a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings and we were thoroughly entertained by **The Bells of Note**. Eleven players played several pieces of music, some of it Christmas. Each player had two bells to keep track of, to make the music come alive. Sometimes they rung the bells and sometimes they hit the bell with a mallet. Then at the end of the concert there were only four players, holding two bells in each hand and were able to play the full range of notes in the final two pieces. The players were: Nancy

Bishop, Sharon Rhodes, Darlene Phelps, Carolyn Secret, Rita Carlson, Carolyn Ramsay, Barb Hicks, Barb Hollingshead, Roberta Barlow, Kelvin Barlow, Susan Bell and June Routledge who directed the group and played a couple of pieces.



Pre-luncheon conference of Donnas Walsh and Sharpe (left) and the Bells performing of notes.

January 2015



Pastor Jane Gingrich as herself before the show and as Ms. Dressup Madagascar during it as Programs facilitator Susanne Legault and President Darrel Johnson look on. Susanne has brought us many an interesting speaker over the years, not to mention a concert pianist! It's about time we recognized her with A BIG THANK YOU! She, as well as the speaker belong to the Unitarian Church that has done a lot of work in Madagascar, of which Pastor Gingrich's year-long mission there was a part. She gave a most entertaining and richly visual presentation that took us to the scene. Tribal divisions and political instability exacerbate the economic-environmental problems as the island is 80% deforested and is fast running out of wood because charcoal is used extensively for cooking with no alternative in sight. Locusts devastate rice fields in a country that relies on rice like few other. The locals make the most out of a bad situation by feeding on the locusts. However, Madagascar and locusts were on the world news network on the day of the presentation, showing planes spraying pesticides on the locusts... Culturally, ancestor worship has held sway until various forms of Christianity superseded as the majority religion with an Islamic minority. As our presenter astutely observed, these modern religions are strongly coloured and interpreted through ancestor worship. All in all a very interesting presentation, thank you!

Darrel Johnson: KRTA Report to the BCRTA 2014

The Kamloops Retired Teachers' Association had another very busy year. The year started with Sheila Park stepping up to fill in as President for Darrel Johnson while he was going through treatment for cancer. Treatment was very successful and he returned as President in January. We continue to meet during the months of September through November and January to May. The Executive meets 10 days before each general luncheon to finalize the agenda. Our Luncheon Meetings are the last Friday of the month and are held at the Cottonwood Centre. We have a variety of guest speakers or activities planned.

The Executive met in late August to review the list of speakers or activities that had been suggested by members. Executive members volunteer to contact and make arrangements for our guests to come and present. On September 3rd we hosted a "No More Bells" social and new retirees were invited. Eight new retirees joined us to enjoy brunch and learn more about the KRTA and the BCRTA. The September meeting is always a social event as we are returning from a variety of summer excursions and look forward to the bounty of the gardeners in the group. Fresh vegetables, fruit, flowers and usually some canning are brought in to share. The October meeting always brings out the 'kid' in most as there was a great variety of ghosts, witches and creatures that were entertained by Colleen Stainton's presentation "Bridges of Kamloops". For our November meeting we had a traditional Christmas dinner, gathered goods for the Food Bank and Christmas Amalgamated, and were entertained by the Silver Bells of Note.

At the January luncheon we went Riverboat Cruising with Sheila Park and Carolynne Miller. They took us down the Danube, sharing their pictures and experiences. In February we had a presentation on our pension plan by Patricia Clough. She also shared a variety of other materials with members. March is always our silent auction month. The two KRTA bursary recipients (\$1300.00 each and the RR Smith recipient (\$425) were guests. We raised over \$1200.00 plus a total of \$130.00 in direct donations CHES for the sponsorship of our student (\$600.00 a year).

The April meeting was canceled as it conflicted with the only date available at the site of our Mystery Tour. KRTA member, Marianne Trestain is the organizer of this event. The event is a fundraiser for putting money into our endowment fund for the Bursaries at Thompson Rivers University. Forty –eight members set off in an air conditioned coach not knowing where she is taking us. This year, the destination was the Tranquille farm which is under restoration. In the morning the group was split in half for a walking tour of the former dairy site that has been completely restored and the site of the former Tranquille sanatorium for TB which housed those with a variety of disabilities. After lunch we were loaded on to a hay wagon and taken to view the original family graveyard and other areas of interest. We had the only sunny day during a week of rain.

The May luncheon was a time to elect our Executive for the coming year. No new members came forward so we have no secretary and no programme coordinator. Perhaps in the fall?? The guest speaker also canceled on short notice to participate in a marathon. [So we just sat in silence and looked at each other. Right!]

Special Note: Marianne Trestain and Mary Ellen Patterson reported to the January meeting that **Alf Law** is doing well and is recovering his ability to read that was lost due to a stroke. Way to go, Alf!

CHES (Canadian Harambee Education Society) Feedback

Elisa Shubanga, 16, is the recipient this year of our \$ 600 scholarship. In her letter to us, she writes that she is good person, has a twelve year old friend Asha, and they study Geography, Civics, Physics, Chemistry, Basic Mathematics, Kisulahili, English Language, History and Agriculture. She likes the last best, "because it is simple."

"Every year approximately 150-180 CHES girls graduate from Form IV in Kenya and Tanzania. Many go on to higher education and train to become teachers, nurses, pharmacists, secretaries, accountants, office administrators, community development officers, and other professionals. Others go on to University and obtain advanced degrees. Others go back to their villages, marry, and raise a family; many of these graduates become small business entrepreneurs, and have productive farms.

When CHES agents or sponsors visit the girls after they have left school, they find that the CHES girls and their families have a better life compared to their peers who did not have secondary education. Their children are cleaner and healthier. * Their homes are better cared for. * They regularly use mosquito nets. * heir children go to school. * They have smaller families. * They will not accept being in polygamous relationships. * They will not let their daughters be circumcised. * they have the confidence to participate in local government decision-making. * They have the desire to keep learning, and when they can afford it they go back to school or college for upgrading courses. * they pay for their younger siblings to go to school. * They support their elderly family members.

CHES scholarships are life changing, not only for the girls but also their families, their communities and their children." *Credit: Catriona Harker*

KRTA Bursary Committee Report for 2014 by Bev Maxwell

Once again, the KRTA Bursary Committee has had a successful year for raising funds for the KRTGA and RR Smith Foundation Bursaries. As of April, 2014, the confirmed balance in the Kamloops Retired Teachers Bursary Fund was \$ 83,446.87. This allowed for a presentaion of two \$ 1,500 bursaries to TRU Education students at the annual TRU Awards Ceremony. The recipients for 2014 were Samantha West and Courtney Fauteux. The confirmed balance in the RR Smith Bursary Account was \$ 10,102.00, which offered and amount of \$ 404.08 to be presented to Farran Lyons, a student in Education. This award was topped up with an additional \$ 100.

The KRTA Bursary Committee, consisting of 10 members, contributed greatly to organizing fund-raising events. In March, the Committee organized a successful dinner night at Fox and Hounds, raising \$ 1,500. Also, in March, the committee assisted with the organizing of the Silent Auction for Harambee (CHES).The Bursary recipients attended this luncheon and had a chance to thank the membership for their bursaries and to join in the fun of the Silent auction. In April, Marianne Trestain organized a super "Mystery Tour" to Tranquille Farm on the Lake. The very informative tour was a step back in time. It was also interesting to view the plans for transforming the site into the future.

Throughout the year, at the monthly luncheon meetings, funds are raised through such activities as 50-50 draws, loose change collections, mystery bag draws, Bring a book Take a book activities, as well as, opportunities to donate individually to the collection envelopes. The success of our Bursary funding is due to the dedication and caring of our KRTA membership, beginning with the funding members (Janet Doubt, John Filip, Alf Law, Warren Damer), who had the the foresight to establish a KRTA Bursary to benefit student teachers in our district. Our Bursary Committee continues to be an active and dedicated group. (Bev Maxwell, KRTA Bursary Committee Chairperson.)



Courtney Fateaux, Darrel Johnson, Donna Walsh, Samantha West, C. F. again, Farran Lyons, and D. J.

Sheila Park on KARESS

Kamloops Administrators, Retirees, Educators and Support Staff

I started the KARESS Walk for Memories Team in 2009. My mother's vascular dementia was progressing and she was living in an Intermediate Care Home in Chase. My sister Susan and I had taken a Care Giver 2 day course at the Kamloops Alzheimer's Society to help us understand what our mom was going through and to be better able to help her. (Susan, a retired social worker, also volunteered for the Kamloops Alzheimer's Society leading a support group in Chase and the Celista area). When Dave Eburne's family became the Sponsor Family for the walk in 2009 I decided to form a team for Walk for Memories. Wanting to find a name for a "teacher team," KARESS was created.



The KARESS Team has walked in all the Walk for Memories since then. We have walked to support all people, families and friends who have or are affected by Alzheimer/Dementia. The Walk is perhaps more meaningful to our team because of the members of the Kamloops education community who have been and continue to be affected by Alzheimers/Dementia. The Sponsor Families during the past seven

years were Dave Eburne 2009, Diane Buckham, 2011, Dick McMasters 2012, Violet Smeaton 2015.

Retired teachers, support staff, administrators and parents and other friends have joined our team for the walk during the past 7 seven years. Many other people have given donations to the team. I thank them all.

I hope you can join us for the 2016 Walk (date to be decided) at Kamloops Tournament Capital Centre. The walk starts at 10:00 but you need to get there earlier to get a parking spot! If you can't make it you can donate on line. To walk or donate at the beginning of January next year just google Walk for Memories Kamloops 2016 and follow the links to Team KARESS.

High-powered Speaker at KFHS Conference May 1-2

The Kamloops Family History Society is hosting a conference featuring **Cyndi Ingle**, taking place at the **Calvary Community Church on 1205 Rogers Way, Kamloops**. No fewer than 12 presentations will be offered. To register, first download your registration form at www.kfhs.org, then mail it to **Kamloops Family History Society, PO Box 1162, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H3**. Register early to ensure the best chance of reserving your seat in the presentations of your choice. **Registration fee is \$ 85 or \$ 100 after March 31**. The fee includes coffee/tea, light snacks, and a bag lunch (turkey, chicken, ham or veggie). All cancellations must be e-mailed to kfhs2015conference@gmail.com no later than April 17. There will be a \$15 processing charge *per person*. Cyndi is the creator, owner and "webmaster" of the qward-winning website *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet* that may be reached at www.CyndisList.com. Interested in Genealogy? Don't miss this one! For further inquiries, including the time for the Meet the Speakers evening on Friday at the Ramada Inn (\$ 30) not available on the brochure e-mail kfhs2015conference@gmail.com

Heritage Report 2014 to Present by Marie Laroche, Chairperson

The on-going project has been the history of the Kamloops Retired Teachers association. The main effort for this year has been research. I have read through the minutes, focusing on one committee at a time. It took me a while to come up with an outline to follow. I have come up with the following, although some categories do not apply.

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Beginnings of each committee* Purpose and intent* Fund raisers* Growth | <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Recipients and photos* Committee chairperson and members* Bursaries (How, where, when given)* Future plans |
|---|---|

Other things that need to be considered are: *The Archives and its storage place * The disposal of old financial statements save the last seven years * Keeping all minutes in a consistent way. Binders for minutes and displays on same size of foam board for easy and safe storage.

While researching I noticed a lot of the minutes and reports were not signed with full name and position and dated with month date and year. When our term as chairperson and secretary is up, please hand in all your records to the archivist. It helps if it is already in a binder.

As regards to the Passion for Sharing and Learning books, they are selling slowly, and giving them to our guest speakers is an outlet. I plan to put them on Kijiji. I will contact the District Librarian to see if they have been distributed to the schools since the strike is over.

Anyone who would like to help with the above and maintaining the albums for the obituaries and Senior Connector articles can contact me at 250-376-2597 or mplaroch@outlook.com I will also have sign-up sheets on each table at the February luncheon.

Marie Laroche,
Chairperson of Heritage and Archives,
January 30, 2015



**Who laid this Table in his Home for a Bus Load of Teachers? Photo by B. Maxwell
In Praise of Darrel (and Marg) Johnson**

Darrel Johnson's second and last term is ending this year and this is the last Bridge before then, which is reason enough to look back at his presidencies and to give thanks in appreciation for his work in and for the KRTA, which has been simply second to none. Karl Knapp and Alf Law deserve honourable mention for serving longer than Darrel, but I am not apologizing for my statement. Vision, drive, energy, attention to detail, unassuming service, an incredible range of skills and know-how, unobtrusive guidance, positiveness, organizational skills and sheer dedication for a cause all rolled into one: this is the Darrel we all got to know and appreciate. Did I mention he is generous to a fault? Darrel has lent a hand to just about every committee without being obtrusive in any. Heritage (book publishing),

Advocacy (COSCO), Bursary (baker, canned goods provider, donor, big time buyer), Young Authors' Conference (truck driver, server), Teachers Retirement banquets (speech and flowers) Membership chair (knows everyone by name, makes house calls), AGM representative forever – the list goes on. When we have Darrel, we have two for one! For wife Marg assists in everything in every way. So we must thank them both. I e-mailed the executive, asking them to sum up in a sentence the man and his most important achievement on the job. Who was I kidding? Here are their unabridged testimonials:

“It is a challenge to describe Darrel in a sentence as I see him. It may be a complex sentence. Darrel is very dedicated to the sustainability and growth of the KRTA. As a President he has the qualities of efficiency, timeliness, dependability, conciseness, generosity with his time and skills and I could go on. He is a very responsible leader.”

“Darrel is the most generous person with his time and talents. He embodies the essence of the KRTA. He keeps a balanced agenda for our meetings.”

“Darrel is a powerhouse. His energy and enthusiasm are astounding. Even with his severe health problems the past several years, he has provided excellent leadership. C.H.E.S. has supported an African student, the TRU bursary fund has proudly flourished through hard work by Darrel and his dedicated team, McQueen Lake has been supported better every year thanks to Glenda [Miles] and Darrel, and Darrel goes to the AGM every September. He looks after KRTA membership and thinks up incentives to increase new members, such as a free luncheon for their first attendance at our monthly meetings. Bursary auction? Bev [Maxwell] sets it up, but Darrel makes the fabulous bread and buns from scratch, which raise a great deal of money. He donates homemade jelly, jam, salsa, canned fruit (much of which he grows) and beautiful plants from his gardens. Darrel deals with the caterers who provide our luncheons, keeps in touch with older members who can no longer attend meetings, knows so many people and cares for them all. I know the KRTA has grown and flourished under Darrel 's leadership. I dread not having Darrel at helm. Who else would put up with all my stupid questions?”

“I would like to thank Darrel for being such a dedicated member of our association and most importantly being PRESIDENT for a number of terms. He is a wonderful leader and organizer. He has always been very enthusiastic about all our projects and no job is ever too big or too small for him to look after. I especially want to thank him for all the support he gave me during my term as President. I would never have been able to do it without his help and encouragement. Darrel is a man of many talents. He bakes the most delicious bread and buns which we all bid on at Silent Auction in March. He is an avid gardener and then finds time to preserve most of the vegetables and fruits he grows. Also provides many of the flowers we use for centre pieces at the Teachers' Retirement Banquet. I could mention a number of other ways Darrel supports our Association but I will end with this. Darrel, we really APPRECIATE all the work you do for the Kamloops Retired Teachers' and hope you will continue to do so well into the future.”

“Darrell has a gift for Listening to people....Dealing with details....Disciplined....Efficient.... Knowledgeable....Involved at all levels....BakerCourageous...Greatest contributions to KRTA: interpersonal skills; no favourites; lets Executive do their jobs without interfering; Patience of Job.”

“Darrel is the president who will see an issue, propose a motion to support the issue, propose motions for actions on the issue and be first in line to carry out the actions whether the issue be “What’s for lunch? or “How do we save the Health Accord !!! “

“I think it is very appropriate that Darrel be recognized for his contributions to KRTA. I admire him for his compassionate nature to the members and his many talents he shares with the various fund raisers. His gardening and baking talents are extraordinaire! He has remained very positive as he battled his journey with cancer. It has been a privilege to work with him. “

Oh Canada!

Canada is trading away its environmental rights

The free trade agreement between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico was never designed to raise labour and environmental standards to the highest level. In fact, NAFTA and other trade agreements Canada has signed — including the recent Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement with China — often take labour standards to the lowest denominator while increasing environmental risk. **The agreements are more about facilitating corporate flexibility and profit than creating good working conditions and protecting the air, water, land and diverse ecosystems that keep us alive and healthy.**

Canada's environment appears to be taking the brunt of NAFTA-enabled corporate attacks. And when NAFTA environmental-protection provisions do kick in, the government often rejects them.

According to a study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, **more than 70 per cent of NAFTA claims since 2005 have been against Canada, with nine active cases totalling \$6 billion outstanding.** These challenge “a wide range of government measures that allegedly interfere with the expected profitability of foreign investments,” including the Quebec government’s moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

According to the CCPA, **Canada has been sued more often than any other developed nation through investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms in trade agreements. Under NAFTA, “Canada has already lost or settled six claims, paid out damages totaling over \$170 million and incurred tens of millions more in legal costs. Mexico has lost five cases and paid damages of US\$204 million. The U.S. has never lost a NAFTA investor-state case.”**

NAFTA does, however, have a watchdog arm that’s supposed to address environmental disputes and public concerns, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. But Canada is blocking the commission from investigating the impacts of tailings ponds at the Alberta oilsands.

It’s the third time in the past year that Canada has prevented the commission from examining environmental issues. Canada earlier blocked an investigation into the protection of polar bears from threats including climate change and one concerning the dangers posed to wild salmon from B.C. fish farms.

Trade agreements are negotiated in the best interests of corporations instead of citizens. On top of that, federal and provincial governments keep pinning our economic hopes on volatile oil and gas markets, with little thought about how those resources could provide long-term prosperity. Recent plummeting oil prices show where that leads.

These priorities are screwed up. We end up with a boom-and-bust economy and the erosion of social programs as budgets are slashed when oil prices drop. Skewed trade deals allow corporations to override environmental protections that haven’t already been gutted, and create a labour climate in which wages, benefits and working standards fall.

It’s time for Canada to recognize that a diversified economy and citizens’ right to live in a healthy environment are more important than facilitating short-term profits for foreign and multinational corporations.

By David Suzuki with contributions from David Suzuki Foundations Senior Editor Ian Hanington. **[Abridged here.]**

A new addition to Chemistry's Periodic Table

Research has led to the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons. Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert; however, it can be detected, because it impedes every action with which it comes into contact. (Cont. on p. 20)

David Suzuki Quotes

“It’s absurd that a lower price on a single commodity could have such a profound economic impact, but that’s what happens when you put all your eggs in one basket and fail to plan for such contingencies .”

“With 2014 confirmed as the hottest year on record, and 13 of the hottest 15 years having occurred since 2000, we can’t afford to ignore the consequences. According to researchers, the odds that natural variability is causing today’s climate change are less than one in 27 million! It’s astounding that, in the face of such overwhelming evidence from scientists worldwide, people continue to deny the problem exists or that humans are responsible and can or should do anything about it. “

“It sometimes seems people in the mining and fossil fuel industries — along with their government promoters — don’t believe in the future. What else could explain the mad rush to extract and use up the Earth’s resources as quickly and wastefully as possible? “

“Canada has no national energy plan, other than governmental desire to be a fossil-fuelled energy-export superpower. Given the consequences of human-induced climate change already hitting home, you’d think the highest priority of governments at all levels would be to decide on the lowest-emission energy path. But politicians focused on election intervals have difficulty dealing with generational issues”.

“Real, important conversations and decisions are instead delayed by diversionary and often irrational arguments and tactics: accusing critics of being hypocrites, claiming foreign money drives environmental agendas and labeling activists as eco-terrorists or enemies of Canada among them. In place of true progress, we get consolidated political power and greater corporate profit and control. Enough already!”

“Outdoor winter play can strengthen the immune system, sharpen the mind and decrease stress. And you’ll be nurturing a nature connection that will last all year”

David Fleharty Quotes – uncensored

Feherty is a CBS and Golf Channel announcer, who finds unique, colorful and uninhibited ways of explaining or describing whatever is on his mind...(probably always on time delay these days).

He said one day, "It would be easier to pick a broken nose, than a winner in that group." * "Fortunately, Rory is 22 years old so his right wrist should be the strongest muscle in his body." * "That ball is so far left, Lassie couldn't find it if it was wrapped in bacon." * " I am sorry Nick Faldo couldn't be here this week. He is attending the birth of his next wife." * "Jim Furyk's swing looks like an octopus falling out of a tree." * Describing VJ Singh's prodigious practice regime - "VJ hits more balls than Elton John's chin." * "That's a great shot with that swing." * "It's OK - the bunker stopped it." * At Augusta 2011 - "It's just a glorious day. The only way to ruin a day like this would be to play golf on it." * "That was a great shot - if they'd have put the pin there today." * "Watching Phil Mickelson play golf is like watching a drunk chasing a balloon near the edge of a cliff." * "That green appears smaller than a Pygmie's nipple."

Food for Thought

A) Feeling poor? A recent news item showed that Norway’s massive pot of petroleum money, now totaling CA\$909.364 billion, has made every citizen a millionaire in Norwegian kroner.

That works out to about \$178,000 for every man, woman and child in the country. By contrast, every Canadian lingers under an individual debt of \$17,000 as Ottawa is in hock to the tune of \$600 billion.

Not only is Norway ahead of Canada by \$1.5 trillion, it has fully funded social programs that

Canadians can only dream of. Norwegians enjoy universal day care, free university tuition, per capita spending on health care 30 per cent higher than Canada and 25 days of paid vacation every year. By owning 70 per cent of their own oil production and taxing oil revenues at close to 80 per cent, Norway is now saving about \$1 billion per week.

The so-called “Calgary School” of economic thought would say this stunning socialist success story is impossible in the same way that scientists used to believe that bumblebees cannot fly. Out in the real world, Canada is being trounced on the field of comparative fiscal management. [Or is it that Canada is still a colony in practice and a country in name only?]

Last year, the Fort McMurray School District voted on a proposal to shorten the school week to four days. Why? Because the communities that include some of the largest petroleum reserves on the planet couldn’t afford school bus drivers five days a week. The motion was voted down not because this situation is insanely stupid, but because trustees worried that tar sands workers couldn’t access daycare during a shortened school week.

Misguided true believers

Alberta has run consecutive budget deficits since 2008 and since then has burned through \$15 billion of its sustainability fund. In spite of Alberta’s vast petroleum wealth, the province has not contributed a penny to the now moribund Alberta Heritage Fund since 1987. The belief that all tax is bad has led Canada’s three western provinces to the bizarre position where they proudly collect less resource revenues on behalf of their citizens than any other jurisdiction in North America.

In spite of this remarkable fiscal failure, Alberta true believers are having another round of ideological Kool-Aid. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation has just launched a provincial debt clock while at the same time campaigning against tax increases. They calculate Alberta’s debt at more than \$7 billion and increasing by \$11 million every day. In socialist Norway, national wealth is heading in the opposite direction at more than 10 times that rate, with savings of \$142 million per day.

The anti-tax worldview has migrated from Calgary to Ottawa, where it is being imposed on the rest of the country. In 2009, Prime Minister Harper stated flatly, “I don’t believe any taxes are good taxes.” Not merely a remarkably ignorant statement from someone who holds a Masters degree in economics, this position indicates Canada’s elected leader is opposed to the very project of government – not unlike hiring a hijacker as an airline pilot.

True to his ideology, Harper’s collective cuts to the GST, corporate taxes and personal income taxes now total about \$45 billion per year in forgone government revenue. Canada is eliminating up to 30,000 public sector jobs in a supposed effort to balance the budget and currently collects less public revenue as a proportion of GDP than even the U.S.

This austerity program seems to extend to virtually every government program except those promoting resource extraction and hectoring environmental groups. Ottawa is spending \$22 million to hire a high-priced ad firm to promote the Alberta oil sands. Last year, the Harper government somehow found an extra \$8 million in a belt-tightening budget to have the Canada Revenue Agency investigate non-profits for inappropriate political lobbying (they found nothing). Meanwhile, Canadians are told we can no longer afford mail delivery.

I had the privilege of traveling to Norway in 2012 to research a series for The Tyee on the country’s remarkable petroleum success story. Many of the experts I interviewed expressed surprise and sadness that Canada had not done more with our vast resource wealth. One veteran oil engineer said, “We had oil, but you have oil and everything else.”

Our national niceness seems to have infused our dealings with resource interests, whereas Norway’s

Viking chutzpah allowed them to negotiate much tougher terms with the world's most powerful industrial sector.

This prophetic cultural divide has left our remarkably lucky country – blessed with everything from potash to diamonds – slashing services and public sector jobs in an effort to balance the books. Meanwhile in Norway, every citizen just became a millionaire. (Credit: Mitchell Anderson. Source: The Tyee.

B) “Angst” – for stand up comics everywhere

I haven't been feeling well, so I went to the doctor. He listened to my complaints, which just kept coming out of me even after he coughed and looked at his watch a couple of times. Finally he said,

“I think you may have a serious case of angst.”

“Angst?” I said anxiously, because I have never heard of that as a disease before. Was it contagious?

“Not to worry about it, “ he said, “everybody has it, more or less. Usually it comes and goes, and does not last long. It tends to turn into depression or an unwarranted high, kind of a bipolar disease, you know... Like how you feel watching hockey in the third period, time running out, and your team is down a goal or two. If they come back and win, you get the high, if they lose, you get depressed... But I think we should run you through some tests, just to be on the safe side... I am not a specialist, so I'll give you a couple of referrals. The sooner you are diagnosed, the better. You'll be called about making your appointments. This could take a couple of months... The specialists are all very busy.” He proceeded to tick out quite a few boxes in one form and scribble something on the other, before handing them both to me.

“You will have to fast before you take this to the lab. Meanwhile, take one of these three times a day, and that once a day. Don't forget to take it, and don't stop taking it unless you talked to me. Your pharmacist will explain the side effects. Don't worry about them, they are rare.”

Well, I fasted, had my blood taken, gave an urine sample and had my chest x-ray. One specialist ordered a cat scan and an ultra sound, the other a stress test. Everything came back negative. The pills made me kinda blah. I noticed that I was getting dizzy and fell a couple of times. One of the falls was nasty and I had to go back to x-ray, even to see a bone specialist, but my ribs healed all right. Yet nothing helped.

I had this persistent feeling of helplessness, of inadequacy. I tried to be a good provider for my family. I was holding down two jobs. They paid minimal wage but hey, that was not my fault. I had a university degree in social work, but there were no jobs available. So I took what was, two of them. I would have taken a third, but ran out of time of day. So yeah, I was worried about not making enough money, but really, that was only a small part of it. At least I worked as hard as I could.

Another thing I felt helpless about was terrorism. Firstly, I had no idea what it was about. I mean, here we are, trying to bring freedom and democracy to the world, well, at least help the cause, and what do we get in return? Terrorism. What are these guys, nuts or something? Blowing themselves up. What kind of a sense does that make? They must be crazy. Crazy people are capable of doing anything, but guess what? I am not so much worried about myself getting blown up, after all, Kamloops is not Tel Aviv, you know, and I am not sure exactly how far the Middle East is, but it is pretty far from here. And did you watch the news? Terrorists kidnapping school girls from a school in Africa. How crazy is that? But Kamloops is not Africa, either. What are the odds of it happening here, hey? Still, I am worried about my kids. I want to take *no* amount of risk for them. None! So I am worried about terrorism for my kids, and I do feel inadequate to protect them, but even that does not explain it.

The more I think about it the more I think that what I am really worried about is the economy. That affects *everyone*, you know! I am doing everything in my power to help that, I mean *everything*, and still, I feel helpless and inadequate. I pay lots of taxes and help my government to give business tax

breaks and foreign investors incentives to invest here. That is quite a competitive field, you know, every government all over the world has to compete to give the most incentives, so there are no guarantees!

Money is the life-blood of the economy, and I understand it is my duty to buy things and to spend it. Hoarding money is not helping the economy, I know, unless the banks do it. Not that I would have to worry about that, anyways! So the wife and I spend every penny we earn and more. I have two maxed-out credit cards to prove it, and I am using three more. My credit is really good; I've been making my minimum payments regularly for years now. My wife is working, too, so we pay rent, have two new cars, buy new appliances every other year. (They are not making them like they used to.) And we are not alone. Lots of people I know spend, spend, spend, buy, buy, buy and still the Canadian dollar is going down.

You would think the American dollar should be going down. The Chinese have stopped buying American debt, (God knows why anyone would be buying someone else's debt, but finances are like that, nobody understands them.) The Federal Reserve has been printing money like crazy, and nobody knows if Fort Knox has any gold in it or not, they have stopped doing inventories; at any rate the dollar is no longer tied to gold as I understand it. It is a fiat currency some say not worth the paper it is printed on and that it is bound to collapse, but tell it to the world, eh? The world does not seem to be listening or caring. Maybe it is because money nowadays is in the computers, anyway. I mean people hardly use cash any more. It's all plastic cards and debit machines. So who knows where the money is?

Don't know about you, but I figure the money also went to China. There is not much of it around here any more. So I got thinking about China, and them buying American debt. That's when I had my eureka moment. I mean, I used to think debt was debt. Not a good thing, you know. But that is not so. Canadian debt, bad. American debt, good. It has to be, or the Chinese would not have been buying it. Okay, they stopped buying it now, but I figure that is only because they maxed out on it or the price is not right. So that's when I had this great idea of converting my debt to American dollars. Whuff! What a great load went off my back, just like that! I turned a load of bad into a load of good.

The clerk at the bank did not think converting my debt to American dollars was a good idea, but hey, what do clerks know?

"You'll have to max out your credit cards to do that," she said. I just smiled.

"Are you sure?" She asked. Obviously, she did not know what I did, and it almost gave me pause, because I am honest, you see, and this was beginning to feel like cheating.

"I am positive," I said aloud.

Now all I have to do is get the Chinese to buy it. I'll give them such a good deal they cannot refuse. I've already written a letter to President Ding Ling. I don't think that is his exact name, but I figure it's close. I don't know the Chinese president's name, do you? But hey, I bet the mailman would know! So I found a large yellow envelope (I figured being a yellow race they must like yellow), and I wrote on it as clear as can be:

"The Right Honorable Ding Ling, Presidential Palace, Tienanmen Square, Communist China." There are two Chinas, you know. Besides, they are communists, so they must like that, too. Okay, I wanted to suck up a little bit, but I wanted them to buy.

Just as I expected, Ding Dong did not reply. They are not like us, you know, they never accept the first offer, they like to haggle a bit, trying to cut the best deal. These guys may be communists, but they are not stupid. Just look at their economy!

So I wrote him a second letter as yellow as yellow gets with my final offer, take it or leave it! (I was bluffing, of course.) I am now writing a third letter, in an envelope as red as red gets. Maybe yellow was the wrong color. They *are* called the *Red* Chinese, what was I thinking? And I made an offer so low they would be nuts not to buy.

I don't expect a reply any time soon. The deal probably is not big enough for the President to be involved personally, so he probably referred it lower down the bureaucracy. So it may take ten years or so to get a reply, but for sure I will. My last offer was so low, I hardly broke even.

But the economy is down, man. I feel it. Things are getting worse, not better. The rich may be getting richer, but the poor are getting poorer, for sure. I remember a time when there were no food banks, when the wife did not have to work, when kids did not come to your door fund raising, when they did not go to school hungry, when a family could put a down payment on a house and pay off the mortgage. Everything is getting worse and worse, and I can't do anything about it.

The government is of no help. Politicians say one thing to be elected, but once in office they all do what they want. They are getting elected to improve the economy, but they, too, seem helpless to do anything about it. Everything is global now, Canada can't help itself. General poverty is coming next, I can see it.

I remember a time when all political parties got together as one and vowed to eliminate poverty by the year 2000. Hell, there are more poor people in this country more than a decade later than I can remember, ever. So what can I do that they could not? I do feel helpless, inadequate, worried. The doctor was right. I have an acute case of angst. The good thing is that I won't need to see him any more. I can get good and depressed all on my own. (A Frank Veszely original, first published here)

C) Amazing language, more to do with history than with logic or sense? Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France . Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on. English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. PS. - Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick' ?

D) And the Darwin Award for 2014 goes to...

John Pernicky and his friend, Sal Hawkins, of the great state of Washington , who decided to attend a local Metallica concert at the George Washington amphitheater. Having no tickets (but having had 18 beers between them), they thought it would be easy to "hop" over the nine foot fence and sneak into the show. They pulled their pickup truck over to the fence and the plan was for Mr. Pernicky, who was 100 pounds heavier than Mr. Hawkins, to hop the fence and then assist his friend over. Unfortunately for (the late) Mr. Pernicky, there was a 30-foot drop on the other side of the fence.

Having heaved himself over, he found himself crashing through a tree. His fall was abruptly halted (and broken, along with his arm) by a large branch that snagged him by his shorts. Dangling from the tree with a broken arm, he looked down and saw some bushes below him. Possibly figuring the bushes

would break his fall, he removed his pocket knife and proceeded to cut away his shorts to free himself from the tree.

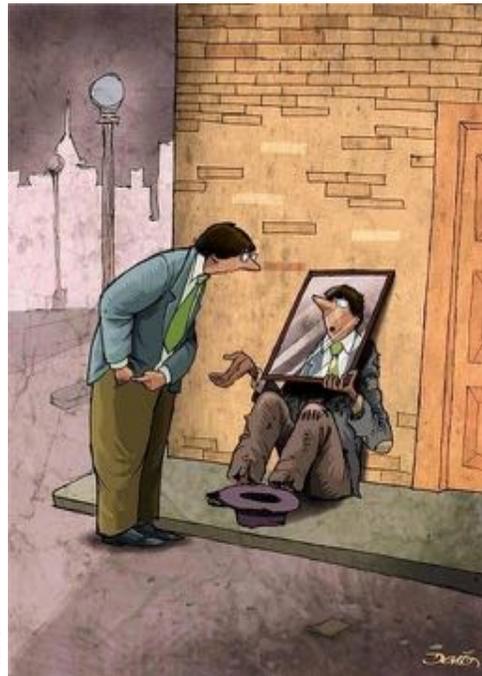
Finally free, Mr. Pernicky crashed into holly bushes. The sharp leaves scratched his ENTIRE body and now, without the protection of his shorts, a holly branch penetrated his rectum. To make matters worse, upon landing his pocket knife penetrated his thigh.

Hawkins, seeing his friend in considerable pain and agony, threw him a rope and tried to pull him to safety by tying the rope to the pickup truck and slowly driving away. However, in his drunken haste, he put the truck into reverse and crashed through the fence, landing on his friend and killing him.

Police arrived to find the crashed pickup with its driver thrown 100 feet from the truck and dead at the scene from massive internal injuries. Upon moving the truck, they found John deceased under it half-naked, scratches on his body, a holly stick in his rectum, a knife in his thigh, and his shorts dangling from a tree branch 25 feet in the air.

Congratulations gentlemen. You win. Two more idiots have been removed from the gene pool and we are richer because of your supreme sacrifice.

Picture Essays in Cartoons



In memoriam: Rudy Born and Peter Botham

Rudolf Henry Born (May 10, 1934 – January 22, 2015) Rudy was born into a large immigrant family and raised in the small community of Glenbush, Sask. He married the love of his life in 1960, and raised three children, teaching for thirty years, living and teaching mostly in Kamloops. Rudy had a very big impact on his community, his family, and his church. His skills went well beyond teaching. He could frame a house by himself. He leaves behind Helena, his wife of over 54 years, his two daughters

and sons in law, his son and daughter-in-law, as well as 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He will be sorely missed by all. In lieu of flowers, donations to World Vision will be gratefully accepted.

Peter Botham (October 5, 1936 – January 28, 2015) Peter was born in Smithers, graduated from high school in Prince Rupert, earned a BA in History and Geography at UBC in Vancouver, where he married. He and Miriam lived in Vancouver before they settled in Kamloops in 1961. He was a teacher-librarian in this district for 30 years. Peter had many interests and hobbies, including music, photography, genealogy, writing, painting, history, languages, astronomy, geography, woodworking and gardening. Throughout his life, Peter was very active in community groups, including many choirs, coaching, Toastmasters, the Kamloops Family History Society and the NDP. Peter is survived by his wife Miriam, three children and seven grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to Mount Paul United Church or to a charity of your choice.

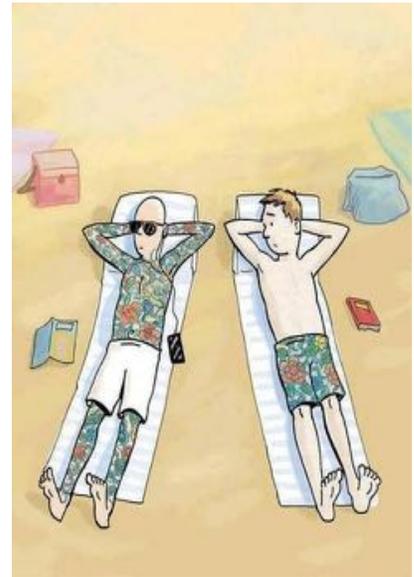
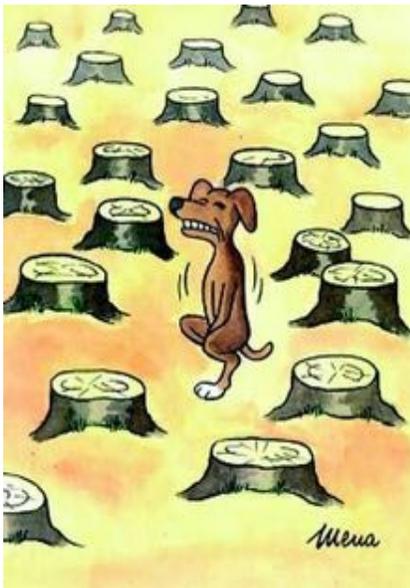
Poetry Corner

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| <p>IF YOU MISS ME</p> <p>If you miss me - think of the rain, and from the mists I'll rise; a wisp of breath, a memory- I shall come by your side, and cool your cheeks, and clear the air: with ease I'll let you breathe, and wash away your sorrows, for there is no need to grieve.</p> <p>For I gave all that I could give, and I am with you still – the love passed on you still count on can be summoned at will, and be passed on to someone else, or something dear to heart - while all the time it fills your soul, until the clouds will part.</p> | <p>If you need me - think of the sun, and let it warm your skin, You'll feel the warmth: it has begun to warm as well within. And I'll reenter then, your soul: the place I used to be, and keep you well and keep you whole, just like you used to be.</p> <p>For I gave all that I could give and I am with you still, not just a fading memory - a part of you at will. For memories are what we are: we all live in the brain, and I shall come alive each time you think of me again.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">FV</p> |
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| <p>WELCOME to 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Phones – Wireless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking – Fireless • Cars – Keyless • Food – Fatless • Tires – Tubeless • Dress – Sleeveless • Youth – Jobless • Leaders – Shameless • Relationships – Meaningless | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attitudes – Careless • Babies – Fatherless • Feelings – Heartless • Education – Valueless • Children – Mannerless <p>We are SPEECHLESS, Parliament is CLUELESS,</p> <p>It all seems hopeless and I'm scared shit - less.</p> |
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The Funny Page featuring award-winning Cartoons



Governmentium Continued from p. 11

A minute amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second to take from four days to four years to complete. Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2-6 years; it does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes. This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical morass.

When catalyzed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

And the rest of the Darwin Awards...

FIFTH PLACE: Goes to Robert Puelo, 32, was apparently being disorderly in a St. Louis market. When the clerk threatened to call the police, Puelo grabbed a hot dog, shoved it into his mouth and walked out without paying. Police found him unconscious in front of the store. Paramedics removed the six-inch wiener from his throat where it had choked him to death.

FOURTH PLACE: Goes to poacher Marino Malerba of Spain , who shot a stag standing above him on an overhanging rock and was killed instantly when it fell on him.

THIRD PLACE: "Man loses face at party" A man at a West Virginia party (probably related to the winner last year, a man in Arkansas who used the .22 bullet to replace the fuse in his pickup truck) popped a blasting cap into his mouth and bit down, triggering an explosion that blew off his lips, teeth, and tongue. Jerry Stromyer, 24, of Kincaid, bit the blasting cap as a prank during the party late Tuesday night, said Cpl. M.D. Payne. "Another man had a blasting cap in an aquarium hooked to a battery and was trying to explode it. It wouldn't go off and this guy said, "I'll show you how to set it off!" He put it into his mouth, bit down and it blew all his teeth out and his lips and tongue off, Payne said. Stromyer was listed in guarded condition Wednesday with extensive facial injuries, according to a spokesperson at Charleston Area Medical Division "I just can't imagine anyone doing something like that," Payne said. (Note: Maybe that's why they call these the Darwin Awards)

SECOND PLACE: Doctors at Portland University Hospital said an Oregon man shot through the skull by a hunting arrow is lucky to be alive and will be released soon from the hospital. Tony Roberts, 25, lost his right eye last weekend during an initiation into a men's rafting club, Mountain Men Anonymous (probably known now as Stupid Mountain Men Anonymous) in Grants Pass, Oregon. A friend tried to shoot a beer can off his head, but the arrow entered Robert's right eye. Doctors said that had the arrow gone 1 millimeter to the left, a major blood vessel would have been cut and Roberts would have died instantly. Neurosurgeon, Doctor Johnny Delashaw, at the University Hospital in Portland said the arrow went through 8 to 10 inches of brain with the tip protruding at the rear of his skull, yet somehow managed to miss all major blood vessels. Delashaw also said that had Roberts tried to pull the arrow out on his own he surely would have killed himself. Roberts admitted afterward that he and his friend had been drinking that afternoon. Said Roberts, "I feel so dumb about this."