

The K.T.R.T.A. Bridge

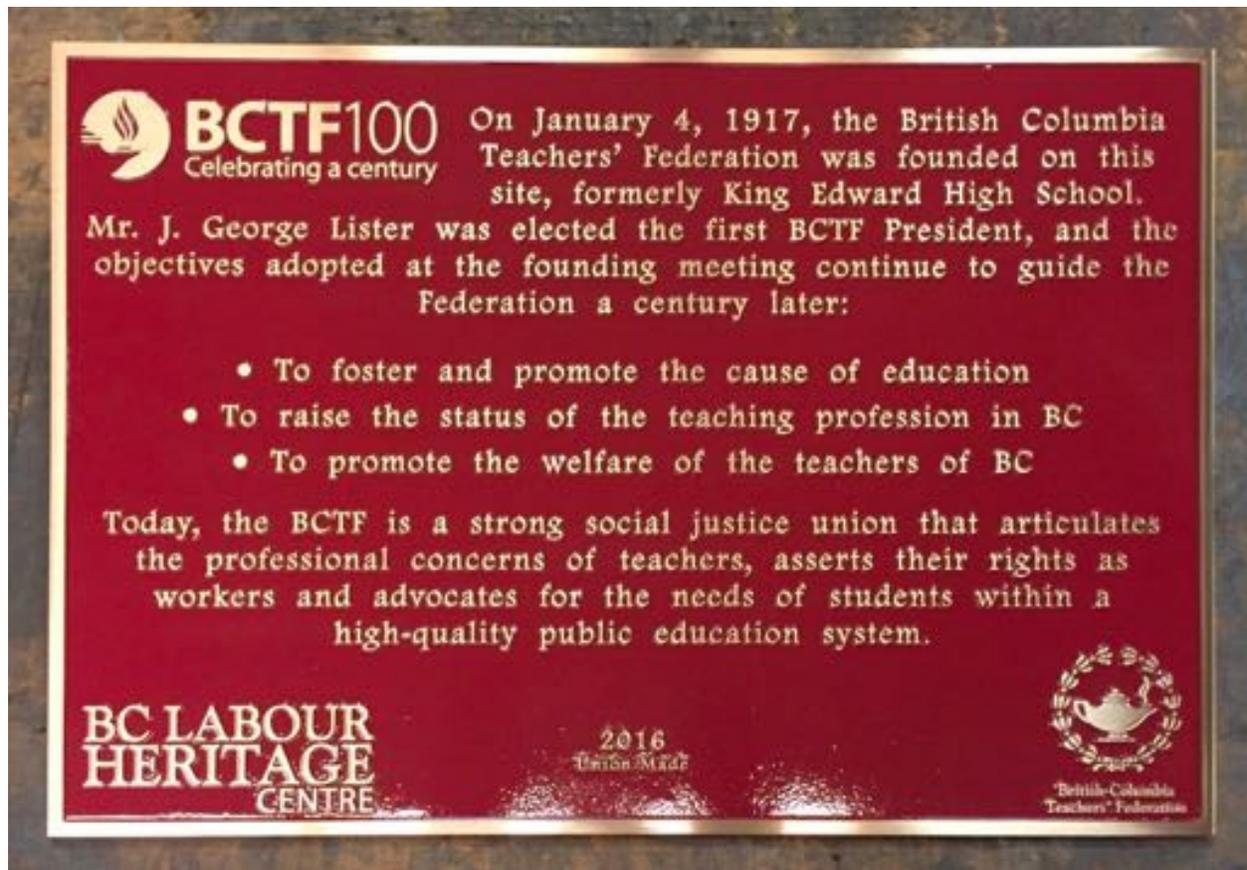
Spring 2017

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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.ktrta.ca

THE B. C. T. F. IS 100 YEARS OLD!



On January 4, 1917, the founding meeting of the BCTF took place at King Edward High School at 12th Ave and Oak Street in Vancouver. Membership in the union was voluntary (50 cents) and was open to all teachers, irrespective of their sex, religion or race. It was a radically new type of teacher organization to Canada. It was also the start of the Federation's century of fighting for public education in BC. (More about the BCTF on p. 19 on the internet edition @www.KTRTA.ca)

Kamloops Retired Teachers' Executive for 2015-2016

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2017 General Meetings

Jan. 27 -- Feb. 24 -- Mar. 31 -- Apr. 28, – September 29 – October 27, 2017

2017 Executive Meetings

Monday, Jan. 16, 10:00 – 12:00 at Glenda's #28 1950 Braeview

Monday, Feb. 13, 10:00 – 12:00 at Frank's 2290 Linfield Drive

Monday, Mar. 20, 10:00 – 12:00 at Donna Walsh's 1517 Assiniboine

Monday, Apr. 17, 10:00 – 12:00 at Rosemarie's 1998 Monteith Drive

KRTTA Life by Suzanne Legault

The fall programs for the 2016 luncheons were as follows: September was set aside to socializing and Garden harvest sharing.

In October Gordon Lloyd gave us a brief history of Stuart Wood Elementary School, plus an overview of schools in the district. Each table was given a questionnaire to test their skills prior to his presentation.

Did you know

- that the first school in the interior was in Cash Creek?
- the first school located in what is known as Kamloops was in Rayleigh taught by Stuart Wood?
- principal in a Kamloops public school was Margaret Dallas [grades 1 to 11]?
- before 1901 teachers qualified by mailing in written exams?
- the principal who served the longest in Kamloops was Ralph Bell?
- the longest serving School Trustee who was related to Stuart Wood was Meryl Matthew?

Gordon invited teachers to share their experience at Stuart Wood. A good number present gave us more insights. These could have gone on all afternoon as more and more teachers had stories to tell. The booklet "Stuart Wood School 1907 -2016' was shared. If you are a history buff, this is an interesting look at the past.

Our annual social Christmas dinner was held the last Friday of November. Once again the ukulele group entertained. Their repertoire and skill level continue to grow. This was also a chance to donate to the Food bank and Christmas amalgamated.



Larry Dixon

Larry Dixon was the guest speaker in January. His power point presentation of his trips to Africa - namely Kenya and Tanzania - was fascinating and insightful. In all he visited four conservatories. It was amazing to see what candid shots taken with a phone can do! Every animal you would

expect to see was there and then some. His knowledge of animal behaviour, hunting habits, adaptations certainly kept everyone's attention. If he were to frame the best photos, I'm sure they would cover lots of wall space. This presentation gave everyone an appetite to go on an African safari.

Upcoming programs include Rosemarie Stoltze sharing the benefits of Reiki in February, silent auction and bursary students in March, Eleanor Hancock's book talk in April and the mystery tour with Marianne Trestain in May.

Suzanne Legault

KTRTA & R.R. Smith / KTRTA Bursary Awards for 2016 by Bev Maxwell



On November 25, 2016, Darrel Johnson, Donna Walsh and Bev Maxwell attended the TRU Foundation Awards Ceremony. The \$1500 KTRTA Bursaries and the \$1000 R.R. Smith / KTRTA Bursary were awarded. The recipients for the KTRTA Bursaries were: Paul Heron & Karin Solde. The recipient for the R.R. Smith / KTRTA Bursary was Taylor Robillard. The recipients were very appreciative of being selected for the Bursaries. All three students are in their first year of the Education Programme. They look forward to attending the March 31st luncheon to meet our

members and to share some of their experiences in the Education Programme.

Through the generosity of the KTRTA members, \$1643.42 was raised for the 2016 Teachers' Bursary Fund. The Bursary Committee would like to thank members for their continued support in assisting students in Education.

Bev Maxwell & Bursary Committee



The happy Bursary recipients.

Interview with Glenda Miles



Glenda, at our last executive meeting you shared with us your joy over having given someone money to further her education and help realize her dream of becoming a lawyer. Is this a one-time gift? A private Bursary of your own? When and where did you give it?

The bursary is a TRU bursary and it is awarded at the same event as the bursaries for the retired teachers.

What inspired you to do this and for how long has this been in the making? Was your family involved in this? How?

The bursary is Ron's wish (with my support) and the donation was ours alone. Ron was original faculty at TRU and he worked there for his whole career - leaving his position of Dean of Arts, Education and Social Work when he took extended medical leave due to Parkinson's Disease. The university has been an important part of our lives for a very long time.

Your long time work with fundraising on behalf of our Bursaries and McQueen Lake are well known. Was there a fundraising effort involved in this?

No.

Tell us about the selection process! How did you decide whom to give it to? What were the most important criteria of the selection?

In the interview/information session when you establish a bursary at TRU they guide you through the possible things you can do with a donation. We chose a bursary rather than a scholarship. Ron chose the disciplines - It's an Arts scholarship - English, History, Philosophy, and Geography majors. He agreed with my wish that it not include anyone who has very high marks because, in my opinion there is too much money going to students with the highest grades. Everyone benefits from education and should be honored and supported equally for their studies.

The selection of the student that receives the bursary is done by the staff at TRU within the guidelines that we have given.

Tell us about the recipient and how was it received. Did it come as a surprise? How will the money be used? Are there any strings attached?

Our recipient this year is a single mom who is the youngest of eleven children and the first in her family to go to university. She is completing her fourth year and is making plans to go on to law school. She is so brave.

At the bursary event students and donors gather in the gymnasium. The university president and other people of position and interest speak to the gathering. Then the donors pass the envelopes containing the cheques to the recipients. Students do not know the value of their bursary until they open the envelope. There is usually a period of silence as the student studies the cheque. Then there is always smiles, sometimes tears, and always hugs and expressions of gratefulness. It is a very special moment for the donor and the recipient.

We understand their need for financial support - we were university students with bills to pay as were our two children. Bursary day is always a very happy one for us. There is a feeling that the recipient could be our own child at that moment. It is special. It is truly wonderful to be able to support future generations.

Interest from our donation is available for a bursary each year. The TRU Foundation manages the investment of the funds and they allow five percent of the interest from donations to be used for bursaries each year. Income beyond that goes toward other TRU needs so it does not increase the value of the original donation.

Assuming that this is the first time you have done this, what did you learn from it? Would you recommend someone else to take this on?

I think this is our fourth or fifth year since we made the original donation. Our whole experience of giving has been positive. The original donation will always be there so it feels great to think about the bursary still being presented far into the future.

We would certainly recommend donating to TRU. The students are full of hope and dreams and it is wonderful to feel you are helping them on their way. Hopefully, some day, they will do the same.

Anything else you would like to say?

The people at TRU who administer the donations are excellent. They are caring, supportive, knowledgeable, patient and their expressions of appreciation are ongoing. You feel valued.

Thank you for sharing this, Glenda. A gift, large or small, is a gift, a thing. Giving is an act of kindness, much more, than a thing. I think we at the meeting shared feeling good with you, and felt as proud of you as we were glad you are our colleague.

FV

Food for Thought

A) Why we must respect the Meaning of the Words we use

Where to begin? Herbert **Marshall McLuhan**, CC (July 21, 1911 – December 31, 1980) was a Canadian philosopher of communication theory and a public intellectual. His work is viewed as one of the cornerstones of the study of media theory, as well as having practical applications in the advertising and television industries. [Wikipedia] Perhaps his most often quoted statement, “The medium is the message,” has been interpreted to death to mean everything from saying “the news media controls and espouses public opinion” to “who owns the media owns/creates public opinion.”

Orwell was less ambiguous. He correctly predicted the coming of “newspeak,” designed to confuse, confound, and control the people: the *demos* in democracy. Orwell was also clear on what kind of control he was speaking about: mind control. When you confuse and confound well enough, you have effectively rendered independent thought powerless, and with it due appraisal, criticism or – heaven forbid – opposition. However, when you mess with the meaning of words you mess with language -- mankind’s chief means of communication and understanding the world. In our complex societies and even more complex world, the most frequently heard word nowadays is “whatever.” It covers everything. Alas, it explains nothing. It’s as dumb as dumb gets. Yet it is more important than ever that we learn to speak plainly again.

The good news is that we can. We do have plenty of words that accurately describe what they mean – we just have to use them to mean what they say. When the media does not do that, it pulls the rug out from under the possibility of a functioning democracy: a well-informed public capable of making informed choices and decisions. Perhaps the most significant comment on the current state of affairs is that we need a Dictionary of Spin to decipher the truth from the mainstream media’s newspeak. There are words the media uses whose meaning, when the media uses them is very different from their dictionary meanings. Like two of the most often heard, most important –

and most abused words: *democracy* and *freedom*.

Don't get me wrong. What the newspeak media wants you to believe is clear, very clear. "We live in a land of freedom and democracy, big government is the big enemy, private enterprise will take care of everything. Capitalism is good, socialism is bad, very bad. We must do everything in our power to attract investment, give tax break to corporations, subsidize investors to make sure they come here to invest and supply us with the life-blood of our economy: investment money. Free trade is good for everyone, globalization is inevitable, we live in a global village, we must be competitive globally. We must keep up or be left behind, therefore we must cut social spending regardless of our aging populations requiring more services, or perhaps because of that. (!) We must deregulate, downsize all government except security, let companies self-regulate, because we need jobs, jobs, jobs, because we must earn money to shop, shop, shop. Take on as much credit as we can but we must be careful because we must pay it back with interest." Etc., etc., etc. Sounds like a wish list of international finance, of Big Money? It is. The medium is the message. Those who own the media own the message. They paid for it, more ways than one.

But is all this so or is this mind control propaganda? Do the words mean what they say? *Democracy* means what the founding fathers of the U. S. Confederation have still meant: the rule of the people. As they put it: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." To cover anything else with that word is falsehood, no matter how many times we say it or how many adjectives we use to modify the meaning when we speak of it. Thus *Western democracy* should still mean "rule of the people" as should *representative democracy*, -- *if we remain true to the meaning of the word*. Grammatically *western* and *representative* are modifiers. A modifier refines, more closely describes the noun, in this case *democracy*. Properly used, it explains the noun it describes. It does not modify the noun it modifies out of existence. It is an abuse of the language to do so.

How different a world we would live in if members of the media respected the meanings of words, if they sought not to twist their meaning but aim for clarity of communication – the proper use of words, that is! If they considered respecting words a responsibility, not an option! For words deserve no less. They represent mankind's greatest achievement: its accumulated knowledge of everything in this world. But only if we mean what we say.

Corollary to defining what democracy is defining what it is not. *Democracy is not what happens during elections, it is what happens between elections*. For that is when the people are supposed to rule. To equate elections with democracy, to point to elections as proof of democracy is false. Politicians who promise one thing and deliver something else are not practicing democracy.

Democracy is not the rule of money. Democracy is not the back rooms rule by an influential unelected elite, who make puppets of elected officials to do their dirty work, known as making "necessary tough decisions"-- newspeak for tough to swallow as truly being made "for the people" or "by the people." Democracy is not communism. The various "people's democracies" were and are dictatorships. Democracy is not a dictatorship. Nor is it a government that fosters the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer.

Democracy is not what the Western media has been calling democracy. If a group of citizens of Ancient Athens were to gather in one of our shopping malls to discuss most any of the governments of Western Democracy they would soon recognize it as an *oligarchy*, a rule by a handful of rich and powerful. They would know. They had their share of it. That's why they said enough is enough and took power into their own hands. They took measures to keep it that way. They ostracized those who betrayed them, and drove them out of town. They created democracy

as a *response* to oligarchy. Not unlike what is happening today.

What the “mainstream media” has been calling “democracy” is far from the truth embedded in the meaning of the word. How far from the truth? Well, so far that when they see it in action it is beyond the main stream media’s recognition. So far, that the real thing is incompatible with their idea of the meaning of the word. So far, that they find it inconceivable that elections may not be just an expensive show any more, they may suddenly matter again to the status quo. So far, that a new term had to be coined when and where a democratically elected government takes power and does what it was elected for, that may actually be a government of the people by the people for the people. The new stigmatizing word they created for it is *populist*. You might think that that, which is popular is popular because it is good for the people. Banish the thought! Make no mistake, it is a bad, bad word. The worst. The most undesirable. At best, it is to be equated with “those bad people’s choice.” You know, those bigots, racists, tribalists, fascist, nationalist, anti-Semitic, islamophobic, anti-abortion, anti-gay, anti-trans, anti-liberal, anti-progress extremists, get it? In fact Trump supporters came in numbers from all stripes across the land. They desperately believed the man that America could be made great again, believed that there was a swamp to be drained in Washington; they wanted their country back.

It is hard not to feel for the newspeak pundits these days. How to explain that the core of The West, Britain and the United States, the bastions of modern democracy and the Champions of the New World Order have gone democratically against the pundit’s “democracy” and their new world order with Brexit and Trump? *OMG!* What is happening to our most influential word: democracy! The world’s most shining example of “democracy” has just elected a “populist president!” Not some banana republic electing a Chavez here, but the Rock of Money for all Ages losing its grip on the unpopular populace! That the whole New World Order of lobbyists and international corporations, on whom all the economy and the world’s finance depends should be overturned by a democratic election in *our* democracy? Where the medium *is* the message? It cannot be! And Washington, The Shining City of Democracy with its most democratic of all democratic politicians being described by this populist as a swamp to be drained of corruption! Really? And that he should be widely believed and be elected? How to explain that?

And how to explain that that dreaded form of government, socialism, is actually more democratic than capitalism is? That there are countries in Europe from Italy to Norway, where the workers’ unions have not been systematically busted, where they still yield power, where accommodations have been made between managers and the managed, to the benefit of both? Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Finland: democracies all, all with strong middle classes and high taxes the people don’t mind paying, because they know that their taxes are spent on them. Long holidays, decent wages, free education, universal health care, stabile societies -- is socialism as bad as is propagandized? Year after year, the people of these countries occupy the top positions on surveys that probe into well-being. In response to a question by filmmaker Michael Moore the female President of Iceland said: “I would not live in America if they paid me. Here, we are trying to help each other. There, you look to take advantage of one another.” Does that sound like democracy? Or is it greed, posing as individualism, run amok?

If the status quo was all about democracy and freedom, as the media propagandized it was, how could Americans vote against it? How do you explain voting against freedom and democracy by a people who live in freedom and democracy? Isn’t it our God-given unalienable right to be free? Well, maybe not everywhere, but certainly in America, THE land of the free! What has made the bastion of free trade, the driving force behind globalization and the new world order turn its back

on itself? Could it be that the people in growing numbers have realized that none of those things may be in *their* best interest? That *freedom*, New World Order style means only the freedom of money and the moneyed to do whatever, whenever to whomever they choose, the whole country perhaps? Not freedom of the people as a whole, as advertised, whose individual freedoms have been encroached upon by security beyond recognition?

In a televised interview with Peter Mansbridge soon after the Trump election on *The National* Tony Blair, one of the architects of the New World Order predicted a spreading and growing dissent against immigration in Europe, and called the grievances legitimate, because “the people have not been asked about it.” That’s right. In one of the oldest western democracies in the world, where the people are supposed to rule, the people have not been asked about the very thing that has the most direct, most significant impact on their culture, their country, their very lives. Some democracy! Some freedom, where the people at large offered no other choice than tolerance in the extreme: to accept anything and everything whilst giving up everything: their country, their culture, and their way of life. And to what end? To foster free trade? Equality of men the world over? Brought to us by those who have engineered our growing inequality? Or is the purpose of globalization and the mixing of cultures beyond recognition the means to an end: the destruction of all our countries as we know them? To remove the last remaining control on corporations and corporate money, erase all regulatory control over their operations and practices, the last step in a decades-long drive for “deregulation?” Whereas disaster after disaster the world over tells the story: self-regulation by corporations does not work. In fact, corporate executives themselves will tell you: corporations need to be regulated. As the last financial meltdown clearly has shown: the banks have to be regulated also. We allow the total freedom of money to take hold of the control of our lives at our collective peril. Blair said he expected the resistance to the status quo to spread further. No one can say the status quo is “populist!”

Free trade agreements behind closed doors that sell out their country’s sovereignty, that set up “courts” that enable corporations to sue their countries and syphon away their taxpayers’ dollars are not in the best interest of the people anywhere, nor is globalization, nor the New World Order, that looks more and more like disorder and growing conflict. The people the world over have seen enough to realize where the world is heading when Big Money rules. War after war, destabilized country after destabilized country, even a destabilized Europe is being threatened. People in the United States may have come to realize that not Socialist Government, but self-serving Big Money is the real threat to their existence and desperately want to put a stop to it controlling their country. They want to “drain the cesspool of corruption in Washington.” They want the lobbyists and the lobbied out. They want their democracy back and they will want their freedom back, too. How desperately? Already so desperately after George Bush, that they elected Barack Obama. And now so desperately after Barack Obama, that they have elected Donald Trump.

And Canada? We may have elected a leader most of us are comfortable with, there is no question of the influence of the same Big Money here as well. Justin Trudeau is sucked into the world of business, making trade deals, seeking investments, alternatively being lobbied and lobbying himself. Is he a business lobbyist or the head of a country? As for freedom, the surveillance is as overwhelming here as in the States. Homeland Security people in the U.S have all the power Stalin’s KGB had. The same interrogation techniques are used against suspected terrorists obtaining confessions as Stalin’s henchmen have used against those accused of being “spies.” People can be arrested and held without a trial indefinitely. Others are tortured, held in secret camps. Per capita, there are more people incarcerated in “the land of the free” than anywhere in the Western world. We are not far behind. Stephen Harper has built more jails than anybody

before him, and filled them, too, just being “tough on crime.” Our prisons, once models of progressive correction centers have become punitive institutions. Our Charter of Rights and Freedoms have been compromised by Harper’s Bill C-51. On November 23, 2016 *the Globe* reported that a twenty-four-year old youth was held in solitary confinement for four years, “awaiting trial.” Utterly inhumane. Are our courts that backlogged? And yes, he was a native. The *Globe* discovered abuse of isolation was common in the penal system. So who are we to brag?

Frank Veszely

B) Logical Questions!

If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes? * If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled? * Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person who drives a race car is not called a racist? * Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one? * If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP? * Do Lipton Tea employees take coffee breaks? * What hair color do they put on the driver's licenses of bald men? * I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me ... they're cramming for their final exam. * I thought about how mothers feed their babies with tiny little spoons and forks, so I wondered what do Chinese mothers use? toothpicks? * Why do they put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? What are we supposed to do, write to them? Why don't they just put their pictures on the postage stamps so the mailmen can look for them while they deliver the mail? * If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for? * You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive. * Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn't zigzag? * If a cow laughed, would she spew milk out of her nose? * Whatever happened to Preparations A through G? * At income tax time, did you ever notice: When you put the two words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells... THEIRS?

C) Ageing – for better or for worse?

To start with the obvious truism: “For better or for worse – to age we must.” So the wise among us must accept the inevitable and carry on living as best we can, accepting the good and the bad along the way that the process of aging brings with it. Alas, very few of us are wise, even at our advanced age. I, for one, rather choose to be optimistic, than wise.

The simple reason is that feel better that way. It keeps me hopeful.

I am determined to work on self-improvement until the day I die. I now am working on becoming a better person as I once worked to become a better teacher, making it my goal to be the best teacher I ever was on the day I retired. I believe I accomplished that goal, even knowing that if I were to retire ten years later I would have had something to work on still. No matter how good one may be, one can always get better. I believe that aiming high and having a goal are both good for how I feel about myself.

Seek and you shall find: there are many good things about aging. Not *having to work* is one. Don't get me wrong. I believe that work is the engine that keeps us going, and I seek it out wherever I can find it. But I really enjoy having a choice of what I am working at. Having to work is confining, having to work at a certain job is even more so. I love the freedom that not having to work for a living brings with it.

I also work on having the right attitude towards everything. To look at what I can do and do it, rather than looking at what I cannot do and not do it. I need the feel of having accomplished

something – whatever that may be.

I work at being loving because I need love myself.

In other words, I work on creating the necessities for happiness, rather than seeking happiness as a goal. I believe seeking happiness is like chasing a mirage, simply because happiness is only a byproduct of a good life. It's a bit like scratching your front from the back but I like it.

We all have our own individual conditions for a good life. The task is to find what your needs are and provide the conditions that they are met.

As for the worse – if you can't change it -- learn to live with it! There is always something funny about being incapacitated. Learn to laugh at yourself! I can still laugh at my first “senior moment” every time I relate it.

I was driving Mary home from a doctor's appointment. The car was parked on the left side of Lansdowne, a one-way street and, observing a number of cars driving rather close and rather fast to the passenger door that Mary had to get into, and becoming concerned of her safety, I decided that I should do the gentlemanly thing and get in that door myself, rather than endangering her. So I nimbly slipped in the door, buckled my seat belt and looked for what seemed like too long a time at the driver's side door, expecting Mary to get in the safe side. She did not. OMG! What has happened? Had she fallen? At this juncture there is a rap on my window and there stands Mary. I lower the window in surprise and she asks: “Aren't you going to drive?”

But there is worse. I always prided myself of having a good memory. Among other things it had served me as the most handy filing system and kept me organized in my head. One could never see my desk from the stacks of paper piled on it, but I always knew where to reach for what. Now I spend inordinate amounts of time looking for things I no longer remember where I put when. Worse, there is that evil eye above me, peering down on this old fool, going from room to room in the house, searching for something he just had in his hands a few minutes ago!

The stacks of paper I leave everywhere traumatize me. I have to search each pile for the piece of paper I no longer know in what pile to find. I recall the lesson my first principal taught me.

“You should keep a tidier desk,” he said, “it's not that hard. Come with me, I will show you how to deal with paperwork!”

He led me to his office and, taking the garbage bin in his left hand he swept his desk clean of paper right into it. Looking at my shocked face he said:

“They will always write back if it was important.”

And so it is that now I am getting billed twice on a regular basis.

More embarrassingly, I am finding myself skipping appointments inadvertently. My memory fails me indiscriminately. Teachers' luncheons or poker games, executive meetings or doctors' appointments are all the same to it. At other times I forget what day it is or the calendar fails me. I either forgot to put things on the calendar or I can't find the damn thing. Friends suggest I should get better organized but it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks. When I can't see the humor in it, I cry.

The professional advice is to employ “compensational strategies.” Make lists, keep simple files, use a writing pad on the fridge, sing a song. (Bobby McFerrin comes to mind.) The latter will do nothing for what ails you, but it is supposed to keep you from becoming too depressed. Bright lights in the kitchen also help and, proverbially, you need all the help you can get. So get on with it! (FV)

D) And They ask why I like Retirement !

Question: How many days in a week? Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday
Question: When is a retiree's bedtime? Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.
Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb? Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.
Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees? Answer: ; There is not enough time to get everything done.
Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors? Answer: The term comes with a 10% percent discount.
Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire? Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies? Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.
Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire? Answer: NUTS!
Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage? Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.
Question: What do retirees call a long lunch? Answer: Normal.
Question: What is the best way to describe retirement? Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.
Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree? Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.
Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with? Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth. And, my very favorite!
QUESTION: What do you do all week? Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING!
Saturday & Sunday, I rest.

Unexpected Visitor at our January Luncheon: Nancy Bepple.



Nancy is the BC NDP candidate for Kamloops South Thompson for the May 9 provincial election. Her information will be presented along with the other candidates in a non-partisan Special Edition.

Motto: "There are no old jokes, only old people. To a newborn babe every joke is new."

Atheism is a non-prophet organization. * Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here, I'll go on a head.' * I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me. * A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.' * A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.' * A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion. * It's not that the man did not know how to juggle, he just didn't have the balls to do it. * The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was

a small medium at large. * The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran. * A backward poet writes inverse. * In democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes. * When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion. * Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

Oh Canada!

Newfoundlanders are

~ the most giving people in Canada (Stats Canada). ~ the most sexually active people in all of Canada. (What else are we gonna do!!)

A Newfoundlander ~ built the world's first artificial ice arena. ~ invented the gas mask.

Newfoundland is the only province to have its own ~ encyclopedia & dictionary ~ cultural publication

Upcoming Kamloops Track and Field Dates

B.C. Masters Indoor Championship- March 31- April 2

Battle of the Borders- April 30 Track Teams from Alberta, Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Interior of B.C. will be competing

North-West Zone- May 9 Qualifying to go to the Okanagan Championship

Dylan Armstrong Track Classic- May 12-13

Okanagan Zone High School Championships- May 18 qualifying to go to the B.C. High School Championships in Langley- June 1-3

If anyone would like to help with any of these track meets, please let Alwilda van Ryswyk know at [250-372-9640](tel:250-372-9640) or e-mail- alvan50@shaw.ca

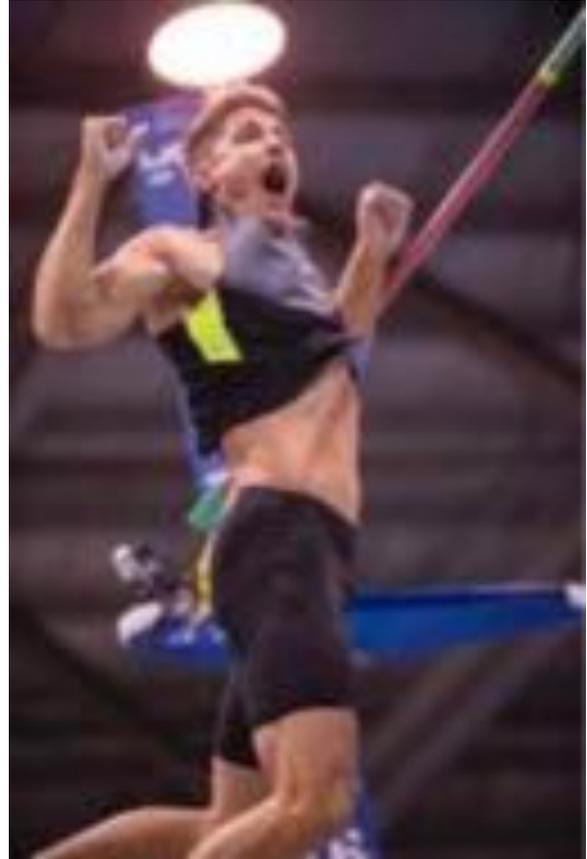
Some results of the recently held pole vault competition

National Pole Vault Summit Livestock Events Center - January 14, 2017 Field Event Scoresheet
Officials: R.ATTIG, S.HOOPER **Open Men** 1 Competition # 501 Pit Number 1 Opening Height = 4.70 Time: 5:30 pm Saturday January 14th BEST HEIGHT PLACE

1177 JEFFREY RODRIGUEZ TEXAS PV 5.30 1 582 PAU TONNESEN 5.20 2 584 DERYK THEODORE EDMONDTON INTERNATIONAL 5.20 3 1660 KASEY BURLINGHAM AZPVA 5.10 4 1657 KYLE BROWN POWAY PVC 4.90 5 866 JUSTIN PETZ 4.9 6 RYAN PUST 4.70 7 1037 REED SCALE 4.70 8 388 JACOB FLORES NH 1028 JADEN DEMENT NH CHRIS HIETT NH 386 NATHAN HIETT DNS 783 VICTOR CASTILLERO TIGRES UANL DNS

National Pole Vault Summit Livestock Events Center - January 14, 2017 Field Event Scoresheet
Officials: **Open Women** 1 Competition # 502 Pit Number 2 Opening Height = 3.85 Time: 5:30 pm Saturday January 14th BEST HEIGHT PLACE

2180 CARMELITTA CORRELL 4.05 1 1347 JILL MAROIS 4.05 2 97 JESSIE JOHNSON 4.05 3 1039 NATASHA KOLBO RISEN PERFORMANCE 3.85 4 2104 EUNGI LIM KOREA NH ALLISON STOKKE NH BRY SUN STATELY NH 1086 JANCEN POWER DNS 522 ALYSHA NEWMAN TEAM CANADA DNS 1325 ANICKA NEWELL BAYOU VC DNS



Speech by Marie Laroche on the Celebration of the KRTA'S 40TH Birthday on October 26, 2012.

Marie is the chairperson of the KRTA Heritage committee and is transcribing the history from the minutes of 1971 to today. This is her speech at the celebration.

Note: the first part of the speech is in "The Bridge" Spring 2013 and called "Birth". I will continue with Part 2 "Growth."



I will do a review from Part 1. The first gathering was called by Karl Knapp in the form of a luncheon at Harold's Restaurant in Valleyview on March 30, 1971. Karl Knapp saw a need for the equalization of pensions for retirees and the wives and husbands of deceased teachers who retired before 1970. He realized the need to change this discrepancy. He set a date and wrote letters and made phone calls to retired teachers to express his concern. There were fifteen people at the gathering. Miss Kay Bingham moved and Mrs. Kenny seconded that an association be formed. It carried and an executive was formed. They were:

President: Mr. Karl Knapp

Vice-President: Mr. J.Jock Morse

Secretary: Mr. J.K.(Des) Howard

Treasurer: mrs. R.S. (Marion) Schilling(pr-Tem).

You can find the list of first attenders on the KRTA website. Refer to Note above.

GROWTH

March 30, 1971 was the only General meeting held in 1971, although it was said that a number of executive meetings were held at the home of Karl Knapp. The KDRTA , May 1, 1972 AGM was held at the Sandman Hotel with seventeen members present. A new executive was elected.

President-Mr. Karl Knapp

Vice-President-Mr. Jock Morse

Treasurer-Mrs. Vivian Duncan

Secretary-Mrs Leoma McGillivray.

It was moved by Mr. Morse, seconded by Miss Bingham, that the association be called the Kamloops District Retired Teachers Association (KDRTA). Carried.

In Karl Knapp's president report he mentioned:

- clauses in the constitution of the BCRTA pertaining to the Kamloops Branch
- the likelihood that the geographical boundaries of the Kamloops Branch would be those of the Central Mainland District Association.
- the inequities of the present pension plan, and his effort to draw this to the attention of the BCRTA and the KDTA.

There are no records of monthly executive meetings until 1977. The general meetings were held five times a year: October, November, February, April and May. This lasted until 1989 when September, November and January and June were added on during Mr. Alf Law's presidency. Executive meetings were in place for every general meeting.

We grew in committees as well. Even though the members didn't meet every month they formed a Social Committee and a Visiting Committee. Miss Bingham and Mrs. Lambert reported on these committees at the very beginning. Other committees were added on much later.

(More on the development of committees will be forthcoming)

Next instalment will be on Significant Facts.

Marie Laroche, January 30, 2017.

Picture Essay



HEALTH QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life; is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it... don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap!

In Memoriam: Alf Law

A founding member of our organization, multiple times its President, Teacher, Vice-Principal, Sports organizer, historian and poet.



Alf passed away in his sleep Wednesday, Jan 25, 2017. His passing was unexpected for his family; perhaps not so much for him. His children all talked to him in

person a few hours before he went to bed Tuesday evening. The last thing he said was "I have lived as long as I wanted". He went to sleep that night and passed away peacefully.

Alf was born in 1926 in New Westminster, BC. He was active in sports from a very young age and was an avid reader, historian, mathematician, square dancer, ballroom dancer, seamstress, and sports officiator. First and foremost though, he was a teacher - in every situation. He loved all sports, played and officiated every sport he could. He especially loved volleyball, playing his last game at the age of 85. In 2008, he was inducted into the Kamloops Sports Hall of Fame. For many years he was an active volunteer for many organizations including the Catholic church, the Lion's Club, Tranquille Hospital Complex, Cub Scouts, and the Kamloops Elementary Sports Council. He taught a generation of children to dance. For many years, he raised money for the Cancer Society participating in the Longest Day of Golf, playing as many as 8 ½ rounds of golf on the longest day of the year. Alf loved poetry. He wrote poems at every occasion, from dinners to birthdays, weddings to funerals. He recited countless poems from memory, even into his old age. One of his favourites was "The Cremation of Sam McGee", which he could still recite at the age of 89. Alf, like his older brother Cecil (his hero), was a remarkable man, with a broad range of interests, skills and expertise, a true polymath. He was an inspirational teacher and mentor to many. He wasn't perfect but we loved him. He will be missed by all those whose lives he touched. Alf is survived by his brother Richard, sister Queenie, and the last love of his life, Ronnie Pepllar. He is also survived by 6 children, 12 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Alf was predeceased by his first wife Leonie and second wife Frances.

Has anyone lived a life more fulfilled? Marie Larouche remembers Alf:

Alf and I had a few things in common. We both had a connection with St. Peter's Elementary School in New Westminster. He did his Grade Seven, there in 1939 and in 1956 I was teaching Grade One, there. There was much to talk about the joys and challenges of going to a catholic school.

He was also an altar boy at that time. We talked about whom we knew from that time. In the public school system in Kamloops, I met Alf during the dancing instruction classes Alf gave on in-service days.

In Kamloops he spent six years at Stuart Wood School. He was Vice-Principal at John Tod for twenty years. Most of these years he was Chairperson of the Kamloops Elementary School Athletic Association. He spent one year at Parkcrest, then two years as assistant P.E. and Dance co-ordinator with an office at the School Board location. He retired in June of 1981.

Then when I retired in 1n 1995, I saw Alf in action with the Kamloops Retired Teachers' Association. By that time, he had been President for six years, Vice-President three. When his term ran out, he made a position for himself, one called Special Services. What was that? It was mainly making tickets for raffles, brochures for newly retired people to know the dates of our meetings and anything else that needed to be done!

He was also on the Heritage committee when Warren Damer and Ron Hatch were planning to write a book on the schools in the district. The end results were two books: A Passion for Sharing, Anecdotes of S.D. 73 Retired Elementary Teachers and A Passion for Learning, Anecdotes of S.D. 73 Retired Secondary Teachers. This is where I got to know Alf.

During his years at the Renaissance Residence, I would visit Alf at Christmas and Easter. At those times he would share his private files with me. Such as his poetry and his History of the BCRTA and his autobiography. Alf loved history and books and as most of know had a vast library. HE SHALL BE MISSED!

Marie Larouche

More on BCTF



Fourteen past Presidents of the BCTF attended the plaque dedication. Among them, front row right, Larry Kuehn, former President of the KDTA.

President's Comments

I was going to write comments about why the KTRTA and its' members need to be political at times. Then I got the email about the BCTF being 100 years old this year. (I remember when we celebrated the BCTF's 75 year anniversary!) That fit right in to some of the things I wanted to say. I am not a BCTF historian but I can recall back through 46 to when I first joined the BCTF as a young, beginning teacher. I attended a few meetings my first year and did not really pay much attention. My second year a young teacher (I, after all had taught a whole year) needed help and so I jumped into the issue and yep, I guess I became political. I made my first phone call to the BCTF lawyer, Des Grady, and he helped us. I became aware of the BCTF and what it could do and yes it gets political! I also became aware that I was the BCTF – me and every other teacher that is a member. I am proud to say that I am now an Honourary Life Time Member.

When the BCTF was first created a female teacher could be fired for being seen walking down the street with a man. Things have changed since then, thanks to all of us in the BCTF who worked

and fought and yes got political. You have to totally appreciate the things we gained because of BCTF politics:

- Salaries that are equal for men and women and that allowed you and your family to enjoy a better life style.
- Benefits for you and your family – sick leave, leave to care for a sick child or spouse, bereavement and compassionate leave, short and long term disability, dental care and extended health.
- Maternity and parenting leave benefits that have improved through the years – so that women did not have to quit teaching because they were expecting a child.
- Seniority rights, class size and now class composition (thanks to the BCTF court battle).
- Oh yes and a little thing called a pension – with indexing that the BCTF (we) fought for and won, because back in the late sixties some of our retired members were living in poverty.

These are just some of the things that we have to thank the BCTF for. As we head into the May 2017 provincial election, join the BCTF again, get political – stand up and fight for better health care, seniors care and better funding for education for your younger family members. In a democracy life is political.

Happy 100th BCTF!!

Sheila Park