

# The KRTA Bridge

Editors: Barb Stankiewicz and Donna Sharpe

Spring 2006

## From the Editor

Our association is well into programs, projects and social events for the year. We have had enthusiastic newcomers to the association who volunteered their valuable services to the Bursary Committee, giving an energy boost to the executive. When the matter of a meeting place became an issue, a team of volunteers gave of their expertise willingly. The coming season promises to be better than ever!

The October meeting, with Donna Sharpe's presentation on her trip to Cuba, was very informative and entertaining. She had received information for the venture through the BCRTA. She spent five weeks in Havana where she was given orientation before she participated as a teacher. The friendliness, enthusiasm and achievement of the people in the field of literacy impressed Donna. She has such a wealth of visual aids to explore (picture below shows only a part) that she was kept busy long after the talk answering questions about life in Cuba. Thank you, Donna !

Mark McVittie president of the KTTA, paid us a call to express appreciation for our support of the teachers during the provincial shutdown. Our hearts are still with the teachers of the province!

The Christmas party always heralds in the festivities for the season because it takes place at the end of November making it the first party. Marie Laroche, Irene Smith and Susanne Legault brought the gift of music to the party while Donna Walsh and Bev Maxwell added visual touches to the tables. But Mary Ellen Patterson brought a Teddy Bear from her "Lady Bug Home Crafts" collection as a door prize and I won him! Vic Pashnic was not forgotten again this Christmas by the girls who make Teddy Bears. The Food Bank received generous supplies brought with love by all who attended and Christmas Amalgamated was given \$100.00 ! Snow had fallen all afternoon as we socialized so we felt a lot like Christmas as we made our way home.



*Lady Bug Home Crafts*  
By Mary Ellen  
(250) 372-1762

# PROGRAMS

January 27, 2006.

Kamloops Adult Learners Society - Norm Moss  
Donna Walsh our contact

February 24, 2006,

Emergency Social Services - with Marie Salem  
the local director of E.S.S.

Provincial Emergency Program P.E.P. assists  
evacuees the first 72 hours after a personal or  
community disaster and assists with the plan-  
ning for potential disaster.

Pat Petley our contact

March 27, 2006.

Bursary Recipients- Melody Tompkins and  
Krista Pitman

Mary Ellen Patterson our contact

The picture on page 3 was taken when our stu-  
dents were presented with their bursaries by Kay  
Witt and Mary Ellen.

April 28, 2006.

Ches-daily rural life in Tanzania with Chris and Ca-  
trina Harker

Mary Ellen Patterson our contact

May 26, 2006.

A.G.M. Election of officers  
Fund Raiser for Ches student

Tues. June 20. 2006.

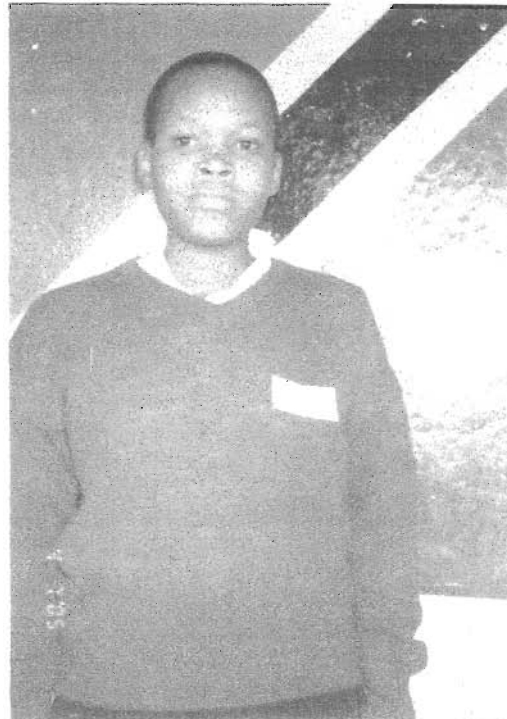
Year End Event- a trip to the Wildlife Park to meet  
some of the animals, discover the new Discovery  
Center and have fun together. Gate fee: \$7:00 or sea-  
son's pass. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee, tea or cold  
drink and dessert provided.

## Fund Raiser for Harambee (Ches)

We are planning to hold a fundraiser in May to raise  
money for our commitments to Ches and our student  
in Harambee. This may take the form of a Silent  
Auction, however, plans are not firm at the time of  
printing.

Please start thinking about things you might like to  
donate to the Auction, if that is in fact the form that  
our fundraiser takes.

Please contact Donna Walsh (374-3087)  
Or Donna Sharpe (376-2806) with your suggestions.



# THE HISTORY OF OUR BURSARY

The founders of the bursary for student teachers in our district were five members of the KRTA, Janet Doubt, John Philip, Alf Law, Warren Damer and Fred Shirley. Janet brought the idea for a bursary back from a BCRTA provincial AGM meeting. At that time the group determined that it would be called "The Retired Teacher's Bursary" and was never to be named after any specific person. The fund was established in 1994 with \$4272.00, all of which was donated by the district retired teachers of that time. In 1995 the fund received matching Provincial Government funds but the teachers continued to make heroic contributions to augment the fund until the total by 2001 was \$18,740. It now totals \$45,872. Over the years \$16,450 has been awarded to students. The choice of students is to be made by the university.

The fund criteria reads as follows: Income (interest) will provide two annual bursaries to students enrolled in BEd 1 who show commitment and demonstrate financial need.

Karen Gamracy, Development Officer who helped to research these facts writes: This history is quite impressive-congratulations to you and your group for the terrific job you have done in building up this endowment fund. On behalf of the students who benefit from the awards, a big THANK YOU!

We have, over the years, added an incentive to encourage donations known as the 'Presidents Club.' The lucky member, chosen by lot to be the President, was rewarded with a gift. Things like: a picture painted by Fred Doubt, wine donated by Art Hooper, a bookcase made by John Kolody, coffee table book collection assembled by Alf Law, a water color painted by John Philip, a set of dishes made by Enid Damer, a doll made by Mary Ellen Patterson and Wendy Madson, a cozy quilt made by Liz Brown, and a bedspread knitted by KRTA ladies, have been among the gifts. For each year the club would be known by the gifts to be presented such as The Art Club, The Wine Club, The Book Club etc. The winner would become the president of said club for the year i.e. The President of The Bedspread Club. The dedication of members was so great that some like Janet Doubt contributed, over the years, two paintings from her husband's collection. Art Hooper gave cases of homemade wine twice.

This January will see the kick off to another year when an Aren Throw, made by KRTA knitters, and Chest, made by students from South Kamloops Senior Secondary School, will be unveiled as "The Box and Throw Club."



# Our Christmas Party at the Cottonwood Centre



Merry Christmas

## OUR EXECUTIVE

For the past year and a half Doug Nicol has been our president but for health reasons he must give up that office. We have watched Doug forge on trying to ignore the reality of his situation and we thank him for his dedication to the group and the office. We wish him every healing wish and say a hearty thank you for a job well done.

### Ode to Unshopping

*Twas the day after Christmas  
And all through the stores,  
Many creatures were stirring  
On all of the floors.*

*And Ma in her mini  
And I in my mac  
Were sallying forth  
To take many things back.*

*This was too big  
And that was too small,  
This the wrong colour  
So exchange them all!*

*The rush and the crush  
Of unshoppers so numerous  
Quickly led us to think  
Thoughts other than humorous.*

*So when we had made  
The last of our calls,  
Adjusted the colours  
And sizes and all,*

*We said to the clerks  
As we left them in tears,  
"Isn't this fun?"  
We'll see you next year!"*

**Everett Haner, Truro, N.S.**

President-	Darrel Johnson	372-3194
Past President-	Doug Nicol	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Marie Laroche	376-2597
Treasurer-	Eva Harvey	1(250) 375-2426
Secretary-	Maureen Nucklaus	573-5664
Sunshine-	Charlotte Reid	372-1288
Membership-	Janet Doubt	376-0801

Please call Janet Doubt if you wish to make a change in your reservation for the luncheon as we must pay for the food whether you are in attendance or not, once our number has been given to the restaurant. When you join the BCRTA and Kamloops branch, your name and number is sent to our membership contact and you are phoned or sent an E-mail to give you opportunity to come to the monthly meetings. If you wish to attend your order is counted.

### HELP WANTED

**Mature Driver's Training:** Warren Damer is looking for someone to partner with him in a program offered by the BCAA. After a suitable training session, the two hour workshop for mature drivers will be set up this spring. It will include a handbook, a video and other training material. While this is primarily for retired teachers, no one will be turned down.

**Hospital Thrift Store** is looking for volunteers to price and shelf books for sale and look after the store for one half day weekly. Phone Betty Strom 372-8982 or the store at 374-0487.



## You really started something, this time!

Remember a few years back in 1991 when I first began coming to the KRTA meetings? I was fairly quiet and felt too intimidated to say anything to the group. Then Janet Doubt persuaded me to become recording secretary and I was forced to write the minutes and read them aloud at each meeting. I became more confident within the group and after three years in that job I agreed to become the president and nearly perished when I had to speak at the retirement banquet that year. And the next year, too.

Then a fellow named Wai appealed to the KRTA for help preparing his speeches for a speaking laptop. I have worked with him for three years now and besides the speeches he has written a book called "Breaking Limitations."

Somewhere about that time I offered my help to the group that was publishing our memoirs "A Passion for Sharing" mainly to get the inside scoop on publishing for Wai's book.

When his book was completed, the thought of writing my own book emerged. I wrote the text for primary children and it soon became apparent that illustrations would be necessary. I knew how the pictures should look so I painted my visions with the idea that I would show them to a professional illustrator who would do the actual pictures. When I took my pictures into the professional he thought they were just fine!

So off I went to Partners in Publishing with my little book which I read to the publisher over a coffee in the Executive Inn coffee shop. He loved the whole thing! "Blanch Finds a Family" is available from me for \$18.00. It will be coming out At Second Glance, the book store on Victoria Street early in February.

I feel like I have a new baby!

### **THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A GOOD MEAL**

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gift they were able to give their elderly mother. The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You remember how Mom loved reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well anymore. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church twelve years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot recites it.

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out her letters of thanks: "Stan," she wrote, "the house you built is so huge. I only live in one room but I have to clean the whole house." "Ken," she wrote to another, "I'm too old to travel anymore so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!"

"Dearest Harry," she wrote to the third son, "You have good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious!"

