

RIVERSIDE

REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of the New Westminster
Retired Teachers
January 2018



Snow on Columbia St., New Westminster

President's Comments

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

May this year bring our NWRTA members and families good health, happiness, and prosperity. Many of us will travel this year and we wish you safe travel and wonderful adventures. It's important we live life to its fullest, that we enjoy laughter and love, that we offer kindness and consideration to others. I feel our NWRTA exemplifies these attributes. As an association, we may be small, but we are incredible. Our Basket for Bursaries meeting was one of the smallest, but when the final tally was done we had \$1040.00 for the bursary fund. A special thank you to all the mail-in donations. You rock!!!

The NWRTA has three meetings planned for our upcoming 2018 year (see the meeting schedule). Please come out to socialize and support our programs, presenters and one another. The June meeting will conclude with an executive meeting to finalize next year's programs. It is not executive exclusive! If you wish to

attend, just notify an executive member; if you have ideas for next year's programs, activities, and/or presenters, please submit them to an executive member.

Take time to check out our BCRTA website: www.bcrt.ca. There are many new items for your perusal. I'd like to draw your attention to this one in particular:

WHO'S THE TARGET?
YOU ARE. [LEARN MORE](#)

TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT PROPOSES "TARGET" SCHEME THAT REMOVES PENSION GUARANTEES.

If you click on this page, you will open other pages offering you further explanation on Bill C27, BCRTA's Action Plan, a sample letter you can write to your MP (and other officials), a sample phone conversation with your MP, and a list of all MP's contact information sorted by BCRTA branches.

When you do make contact, you are asked to report your interaction to Laurie in the BCRTA office: laurie@bcrt.ca

I do hope to see all of you in this new year and I want you, our members and our friends to know that I care about you and respect your ideas, your choices, and, well...you.

Warm wishes,
Your PAST and acting president, Sharon Yeadon



Sharon Yeadon

2017 - 2018 NWRTA meetings

February 21, Wednesday:

Where: Centennial Community Centre
Room 1

Lunch: 12:00p.m. Potluck Lunch

Focus: "Clear the Clutter" by Elinor
Warkentin

April 25, Wednesday (might be changed):

Focus: Deni Loubert will lead us on a mid-
morning "Jane's Walk" in historic Sapperton.

Lunch: Chan's Garden Restaurant

June 7, 2018

Focus: Lawn Bowling, BBQ and Fun

WHAT IS CLEAR THE CLUTTER?

"Some people call the de-cluttering process organizing. For others, it's a renovation. And every once in awhile, excavation is most accurate! Whatever we choose to call it, I love helping and guiding you to your desired goal with your home, office or life. You will be amazed at how good it feels to walk into your space when it's done!

Whether you are letting go of the unwanted, unused, unloved items from your life, unpacking after a move, rearranging furniture to create more space in your home, or making your work space more functional, the process can leave you feeling lighter and happier. I will be there to help and guide you every step of the way, and believe it or not, it can be fun! It's not for everyone, but for me, organizing clutter is my calling, my bliss." Elinor Warkentin.

See you at the February workshop.

Thought for the Day

"If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough." - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (first elected female head of state in Africa) This reminds me to stop playing small. We weren't put on this earth to be

average or good. We were put here to be great. Set your intentions and goals really high, to stretch yourself to growth. Every monumental success was seemingly impossible at one point.



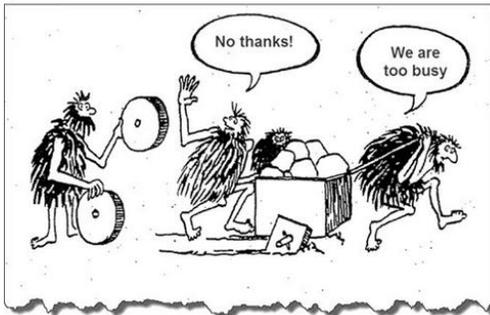
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf

REPORT CARDS

Remember the good old days and the hours spent doing report cards, especially for the challenged students. We were constantly reminded to be politically correct when addressing the difficulties of dealing with these "students". Wouldn't it have been great to use some of these evaluations used the Australian Government.

1. Since my last report, this employee has reached rock-bottom and has started to dig.
2. Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
3. He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.
4. This employee is depriving a village, somewhere, of an idiot.
5. He brings a lot of joy whenever he leaves the room.
6. When his IQ reaches 50, he should sell.
7. A photographic memory, but with the lens cover glued on.
8. Donated his brain to science before he was through using it.
9. He's got two brains, one is lost and other is out looking for it.
10. If you give him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change.

11. If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the ocean.
12. It's hard to believe he beat off 1,000,000 other sperm.
13. Some drink from the fountain of knowledge; he only gargled.
14. It takes him 2 hours to watch "60 minutes".



THINGS TO DO IN NEW WESTMINSTER

International Guitar Night

January 18

Faces of the Fraser - Archie Miller

January 27

Vagabond Players - Drinking Habits

February 1 - 25

Luisa Marshall as Tina Turner

February 3

Crazy for You - New Gershwin Musical

Starting February 21

Clear the Clutter Workshop

February 21 Centennial Community Centre



New Year Resolution Trivia

The making of resolutions is not new. The Babylonians made promises to their gods, at the start of each year, that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. In the Medieval era, knights took a vow at the end of the Christmas season to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. During Judaism's New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and ending in Yom Kippur, one is to reflect upon one's wrongdoings over the year and both seek and offer forgiveness. The Methodist practice of New Year's resolutions came, in part, from the Lenten sacrifices. The resolution concept, regardless of creed, is to reflect upon self-improvement. Some popular resolutions include goals to:

- improve physical well-being; eat healthy food, lose weight, exercise more, eat better, drink less alcohol, quit smoking, etc., in other words have no fun.
- improve mental well-being; think positive, laugh more often, enjoy life more.
- improve self; become more organized, reduce stress, be less grumpy, learn a new language, learn a musical instrument, read more often.
- take a trip
- volunteer more, help others.
- get along better with people, improve one's social skills (what's the point of getting older?)
- spend quality time with family members.
- be more spiritual, pray more.
- spend more time on social media (such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr, etc.) possible chance of being the next premier or prime minister.

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.



Kerry's Dollar's Worth

or

One Step Away from Relevance

To Technology or Not

When I bought my Blackberry, I thought about my 32-year teaching career; I taught between 120 and 210 students a day, all without a cell phone that plays music, takes videos, pictures and communicates with Facebook and Twitter. I signed up under duress for Twitter and Facebook, so my seven kids, their spouses, my 13 grand kids and 2 great grand kids could communicate with me in the modern way. I figured I could handle something as simple as Twitter with only 140 characters of space.

That was before one of my grandkids hooked me up for Tweetree, Twhirl, Twitterfon, Tweetbot and Twitterific, Tweetdeck, Twitpix and something that sends every message to my cell phone plus every other program within the texting world. My phone was beeping every three minutes with the details of everything, including the bowel movements of the entire Millennial generation. I am not ready to live like this. I now keep my cell phone in the garage in my golf bag.

Then the kids bought me a GPS for my last birthday because they say I get lost every now and then going over to the grocery store or library. I keep that in a box under my tool bench with the Blue tooth(it's red) phone I am supposed to use when I drive. I wore it once and was standing in line at Costco, talking to my wife, and everyone within 50 yards was glaring at me. (I had to take my hearing aid out to use it, and I guess I got a little loud.) I mean the GPS looked pretty smart on my dash board, but the lady inside that gadget was the most annoying and rudest person I had run into in a long time. Every 10 minutes she would sarcastically say, "Re-calc-u-lating." You would think that she could be nicer. It was like she could barely tolerate me. She would let go with a deep sigh and then tell me to make a U-turn at the next light. Then

if I made a right turn instead well, let's just say, it was not a good relationship. When I get really lost now, I call my wife and tell her the name of the cross streets and she gives the directions to get home. However, she is starting to develop the same tone as Gypsy, the GPS lady, but at least she loves me.



To be perfectly frank, I am still trying to learn how to use the cordless phones in our house. We have had them for 8 years, but I still haven't figured out how I lose three phones all at once and have to run around digging under chair cushions, checking bathrooms, and the dirty laundry baskets when the phone rings.

The world is just getting too complex for me. They even mess me up every time I go to the grocery store. You would think they could settle on something themselves but this sudden "Paper or Plastic?" every time I check out just knocks me for a loop. I bought some of those cloth reusable bags to avoid looking confused, but I never remember to take them with me. Now I toss it back to them. When they ask me, "Paper or plastic?" I just say, "It doesn't matter to me. I am bi-sacksual." Then it's their turn to stare at me with a blank look. I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, "No, but I do fart a lot."

We senior citizens don't need any more gadgets. The TV remote and the garage door remote are about all we can handle.

Eco-friendly Windows

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I got a call from Home Depot who installed them. The caller complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't paid for them. Helloooo,..... just because I'm a Senior Citizen doesn't mean that I am automatically mentally challenged. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year --that these windows would pay for themselves in a year--- Hellooooo? It's been a year, so they're paid for, I told him. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot.



Mathematics: Politicians explained

What Makes 100%? What does it mean to give MORE than 100%? Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%? We have all been to those meetings where someone wants you to give over 100%. How about achieving 103%? What makes up 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions: If the English alphabet of 26 letters A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$$

And

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$$

But ,

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E

$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$$

And,

B-U-L-L-S-H-I-T

$$2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20 = 103\%$$

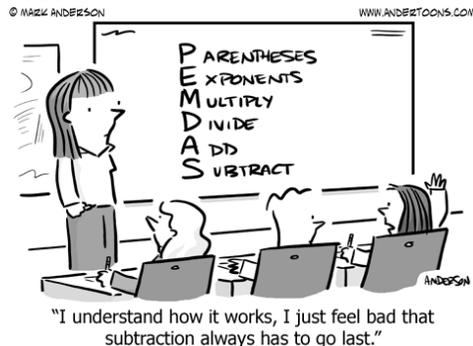
AND, look how far ass kissing will take you.

A-S-S-K-I-S-S-I-N-G

$$1+19+19+11+9+19+19+9+14+7 = 118\%$$

So, one can conclude with mathematical certainty, that while Hardwork and Knowledge will get you close, and Attitude will get you there. It's the Bullshit and Ass Kissing that will put you over the top.

Now you know why Politicians are where they are!



Creative Thinking

Students in an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam. The last question was, 'Name seven advantages of Mother's Milk.' The question was worth 70 points or none at all. One student was hard put to think of seven advantages. He wrote:

- 1) It is a perfect formula for the child.
- 2) It provides immunity against several diseases.
- 3) It is always the right temperature.
- 4) It is inexpensive.
- 5) It bonds the child to mother and vice versa.
- 6) It is always available as needed.

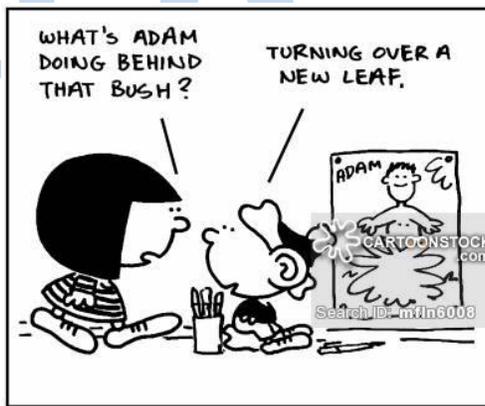
And then the student was stuck. Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang indicating the end of the test, he wrote:

7) It comes in two attractive containers and it's high enough off the ground where the cat can't get it.
He got an A.

Just A Reminder

Three years ago I wrote that I hoped this column wouldn't offend anyone, but I also stated that I hoped to offend everyone at one point or another. To that end, I've done my best to discuss the things my mother said you shouldn't discuss in polite company; religion, politics, and a third that seems to have slipped into the ether, found between brain cells, that is a factor of aging. I think the third one might have been money, but others have suggested that it most likely sex or a woman's age.

Today I covered politics and sex, and apologize for not getting around to religion. Hopefully this cartoon will suffice until I find something really worth casting aspersions upon.



SOMETHING NEW

Show and Tell

We haven't given up on the idea of giving members the opportunity to share the unique and wonderful things that you do.

We would like to start with a member, or several members offering a **5 minute to a maximum of 8 minutes, PASSION**

PRESENTATION, of something that they have done or are doing that may spark any interest in other members. Many of us are doing exciting things in our lives that many others are not aware of, whether it is a hobby, a volunteer activity, or an unusual travel adventure, etc.. If you feel that you would like to share your uniqueness with the NWRTA, please contact myself at kqbabiuk@gmail.com or

Sharon Yeadon at sharon.yeadon@gmail.com



"That's a portrait photographer. He takes youies."



painting



making music