

# RIVERSIDE

## REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of the New Westminster  
Retired Teachers  
January 2021



NW School Teachers - 1908  
Photo from Historical Data Base NW Library

### The Executive's Comments

We survived 2020 and are looking, with bated breath, to 2021. The Covid vaccine is coming, visiting friends and family will become apropos, shopping for frivolous items will become copacetic, and travelling will be met with optimism and gaiety. But what lessons have we learned from 2020? What will be the repercussions of businesses lost, the employment and economic disparities, the poverty, the drug crisis, the systemic racism, the environmental degradation, the misinformation that is being propagated through various multimedia sites, and the blatant denials and utter lack of responsibility by those who we expect from, and rely upon, for our social mores. We cannot, by ourselves, solve all these problems, but we can look within ourselves and ask, "What can I do?"

The new year is our opportunity for change. As Alexander Pope, in 1732, so eloquently stated, " Hope springs eternal in the human breast. The soul, uneasy, and confin'd from home, rests and expatiates in a life to come." In the hope that we can be the impetus for change we can start by looking at our personal health, our jobs, our relationships, or our community. If I were a truly enlightened person, my hope would be for world peace, love, and happiness, but over the years I have discovered that if my resolutions or hopes are to be successful they have to be prudent and pragmatic. I also need to do things in small increments with plenty of rewards along the way. So this year I think I will work towards becoming a better person with the eventual goal of being a "good" person. Whether one reads the Bible, the Talmud, the Quran, the Hadith, or any of the other books on religion, they all suggest that in order to become a better person we need to stress love, compassion, understanding, and follow the 'Golden Rule'. One thing that should be relatively easy to work on is following the "Golden Rule".\*



Bill Watterson

Whether it is a long lineup at the store, odious traffic, a beggar in the street, a petulant spouse or co-worker, or someone with opposing political or religious views, this is the opportunity to compose oneself, give the benefit of doubt, and smile with the knowledge that you didn't react in anger, but rather with empathy. Not only is there no need for anger or rudeness, there is no virtue in it. Being compassionate and

understanding, according to the Buddhist philosophy on becoming a good person, begins with having good thoughts.

\*The Golden Rule according to:

Bible - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Confucius - Do not impose on others what you do not wish for yourself.

Talmud - You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Hadith - As you would have people do to you, do to them; and what you dislike to be done to you, don't do to them.

### Teaching in New Westminster

(Opening photo)

Schools were in existence in New Westminster prior to the 1900's. The Royal City High School was listed in the B.C. directory in 1892. This school was on the corner of Royal and 6th and a teacher's salary was around \$50.00 per month at that time. Archie Miller, a New Westminster historian, has kindly located a number of photos of these older schools. Please open the attached document or check the New Westminster Branch site at the BCRTA web page for some photos of these old schools.

### 2020 - 2021 NWRTA Meetings

#### December 8, NWRTA Christmas Party

##### **Zoom**

Approximately 20 people participated in this first ever NWRTA Zoom party. There were Christmas hats and sweaters visible and people chatted about their favourite books, trips, or how people were planning on 'celebrating' Christmas this year. Door prize winners were Ellen Edwards and Eugene Sammon.

#### January/February

##### **Show Me that Bottle of Wine**

This event will be another Zoom meeting. This can only happen by sending me an

RSVP stating your interest in participating. Each person attending will have 3 or 4 minutes to describe the wine they have chosen for tasting. State the name of your wine, the varietal, the year and cost. Does it have a nose like old tennis balls or hints of tobacco and chocolate. Is it a good wine to sit and enjoy or does it benefit by dining on some food. Be as serious or comedic as you the mood strikes you. R.S.V.P. kgbabiuk@gmail.com

#### **March/ April/ May/ June**

These will also be possible Zoom meetings with events like: what is your favourite book and why should everyone read it, a cooking class with Chef Sydney, or where is your first trip going to be when all restrictions are lifted.

As always the Executive is looking for suggestions, from our members, on what would you like to see featured at our meetings. Please email me with any recommendations that you might have. A suggestion from you does not mean that you have to organize or run the meeting, we just need your ideas, we'll take it from there.

### Memories of a New Westminster Teacher

by Dawn Quast

I've been gone from New Westminster for 30 years but still fondly remember my years there, especially the schools I taught in (Howay, Spencer and Tweedsmuir) and being on the Exec of the NWRTA for 17 of my nineteen years, four years as president. That abruptly came to an end in 1988 when administrators were taken out of the bargaining unit, and soon after I left New Westminster for a principal ship in Prince Rupert, and I'm still here, retired for 20 years this year.

Yesterday I had a very interesting experience that brought all of it back to me. In the late 70s Bill Caughlan was also teaching in New Westminster, before he

returned to his roots in the Cariboo. He was, in addition to being a great teacher, a very fine artist. He had done some very detailed sketches of scenes in the Cariboo and he was selling framed sets of six, for as I recall about \$30. I bought a set and they hung on the walls of my homes where I lived over the next 40+ years.

This year during the time of COVID-19 I have rekindled my passion for mosaic art, a skill honed in University and not touched since 1970. I've been making mosaic portraits. The first one I did was of Dr. Bonnie Henry. I impressed even myself with the likeness and consequently sent it to Dr. Bonnie Henry in thanks for her leadership during COVID-19. It is currently part of an art show on display at the Ministry of Health offices in Victoria, on the walls of the hallway going towards Dr. Henry's office. Videos of the display have been viewed over 500k times!

I have now done seven mosaic portraits and each one I have given to the subject or the subjects' family, but before given them away I have had a canvas-wrap copy made for me to keep. I needed a place to hang them so after all these years, Bill's Cariboo prints had to go. I listed them on Prince Rupert Facebook Garage Sale and yesterday a man named Shane came and bought them for \$25. I told him the history of the pictures and showed him the signature and the detailed descriptions included on the back of each picture. Shane said his parents-in-law had been living in Quesnel for years and likely knew Bill Caughlan. The pictures were bought for them to be a Christmas gift. He and his wife have the proverbial dilemma of what to buy the in-laws for Christmas and these prints were perfect!

As Shane was leaving, I don't know what made me ask, but I did ask him the name of his in-laws, and he said Hilborn. I was floored. That was my last name when I was in New Westminster!

It felt like full circle. I was extremely happy the pictures I had cherished for so long were going back home. I wonder where Bill Caughlan is now? Does anyone know? I'd love for him to know this story. Please open the attachment, "Caughlin prints 6" to see the pictures that he created.



Mosaic of Dr. Bonny Henry by Dawn Quast

### NWSS Farewell

The NWSS Farewell Committee is planning a celebration of the history of the school and would like contributions from those people who gave life to the building. Please open the link for all the information. Thanks

Sarah Wethered

*Secretary, British Columbia Teacher-Librarians' Association (BCTLA)*

*President, New Westminster Teachers' Union (NWTU)*

<https://nwss.ca/about-us/nwss-project-updates/>

### DINING WITH PATRICIA

by Patricia Tanaka

#### **Happy New Year Everyone!**

If you are craving dine-in meals, I have felt very safe eating breakfast at the IHOP in Lougheed Mall. Their safety protocols are very good with spacing between tables and dividers between booths. My spouse enjoyed the pancakes stuffed with blueberries while I opted for the waffle and poached eggs.

The White Spot in the Royal City Centre has been reliable, also with good spacing and service. Donna has twice been our very personable and efficient server. The new

healthy wrap with faro, chicken and other good stuff is even better with fries.

Both of the restaurants take your name and number for contact tracing.

If you like eggplant here is a simple recipe with an Asian flavour.

### **Eggplant with Soya Sauce and Sesame**

1/4 lb. eggplant (Asian eggplant is easier to slice)

Slice the eggplant to your preferred thickness. Soak in cold water for 10 minutes. Cook until tender in boiling salted water. Drain and cool.

#### **Dressing**

5 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds

3 tbsp. soya sauce

2 tbsp. sugar

Grind the sesame seeds in a blender or mortar and pestle. Add the soya sauce and sugar. Blend well and mix into the eggplant. Restaurants make this dish spicier with some chile and they also add more oil.

Enjoy!

### **TRIVIA - New Year's Eve/Day**

1. When was the first New Year's Ball Drop in Time Square?
2. Who is credited with writing the poem, "Auld Lang Syne"?
3. In what year was January 1st officially declared as the first day of the new year?
4. What do the Dutch believe you should eat on New Year's Day for good luck?
5. Who was the first broadcast host for the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration?
6. On January 1st, 1971, what type of commercials were banned from television?
7. What celebrity died, on New Year's Eve 1985, in a controversial plane crash?
8. Who failed their audition with Decca Records on January 1st, 1962?
9. Technically speaking, how many times can you celebrate New Year's Eve?

10. What is the last piece of dry land to celebrate New Year's Eve?

### **Travel Editor**

I am still looking for a travel editor or a number of different people with stories of some of the amazing adventures that they have had over the years. Maybe it was a trip to the colorful neighborhood of Cape Town's Bo Kaap, or the Paro Valley in Bhutan, or Virunga National Park in the Congo, or the markets in Marrakesh in Morocco, or the ruins of Petra or Machu Picchu. What made your trip special? Was it the people, the food, the mystique, or simply the beauty and tranquility of the moment? Tell us why we should add your adventure to our bucket list of places to go, when we are able. This is your chance to free the writer that is hidden in your soul. Please email me your story, our members would love to hear it.



Bali, Indonesia

### **FAVOURITE BOOK**

by Linda King

I waved goodbye to 2020 with champagne and cheers. What a horrible, dreadful year! People I know used their time, while sheltering in place, decluttering, reorganizing, and renovating their homes. I read.

Escaping into the pages of a book took me away from the realities of the world, away from the pandemic, health problems and family tragedy. I read hundreds of books, mysteries, historical fiction, romantic

suspense, fantasy, and mysteries, mysteries, mysteries. I reread old favourites, including books that I had enjoyed as a child: “The Secret World of Og” by Pierre Burton; “Jane of Lantern Hill” by L.M. Montgomery; “Susannah of the Mounties” by Muriel Denison. I remembered the favourite aunt who sent me the books. I laughed while rereading books I had shared with children as a teacher-librarian: “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” by Barbara Robinson; “Bunnicula” by James Howe; and “Hank the Cow Dog” by John R. Erickson. Our newsletter editor asked me to choose a favourite book and discuss what made it so special and why I would recommend it to others. I thought back to those hundreds of books and this is what I can tell you. They were all special and they all did what I needed them to do. They allowed me hours of escape. I met new friends, and I went to different times and places. They provided comfort, laughter, and warm memories.

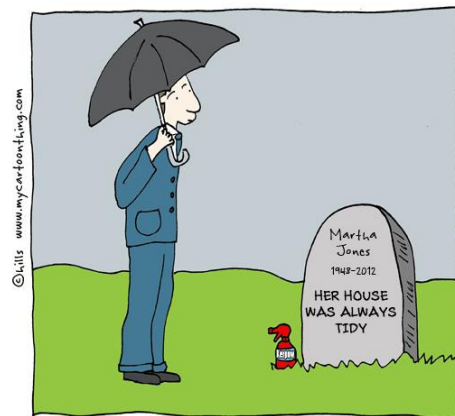
I am looking forward to a better 2021. There will be lots of thought provoking, mind expanding books to read and share with others. Check with me again this time next year, perhaps I will have discovered that one book with special meaning. If that is not possible, I still have copies of the books that started my love of mysteries: “The Secret of the Old Clock” by Carolyn Keene and “The Tower Treasure” by Franklin W. Dixon.



“Facebook is a website, but Charlotte’s Web is a book. I’m really confused!”

## THINGS TO DO IN NEW WESTMINSTER

There a number of outdoor activities, you can choose, that easily allow for appropriate physical distancing. There is the Brunette-Fraser Trail, Glenbrook Ravine, Port Royal Park, and Thompson’s Landing Park. If you are more interested in history check out Begbie Place or Hyack Park. For some of you this may seem a bit quirky, but do a walking tour of the Fraser Cemetery, keeping an eye out for notables like Gassy Jack and Raymond Burr, and the oldest grave stone which belongs to James Digby.



## And You Thought You Knew Music

...Edition#2

Contributed by: Seedy

The purpose of these articles is two-fold: to show you that other types of music (other than what you normally listen to) may be worth a second chance; and that the composer is only the *start* of the production – the arranger has a lot to do with the final experience.

**I don’t like classical music, it’s boring.** How often have we heard that? Perhaps it was piano lessons as a child. Perhaps your parent’s enjoyed it, so naturally you didn’t. Please consider the following:

1. Boogie Blends With Beethoven. Most of you will know this one, so it struck me as a great introduction: [a fifth of beethoven walter murphy - Bing](#) Wow, wore me out! If we were trying to show that not ALL

classical music needs sound like Swan Lake, then QED, right?

2. I don't know how to introduce this tune, except that it was a great favourite at the Surf Club towards the end of the evening (surely you remember that Richmond bottle club on the way to the airport?). Just in case you have never heard this before, it is stolen from Rossini's William Tell Overture: [THE PILTDOWN MEN Piltdown Rides Again - YouTube](#). Again, Wow! Take THAT, Lone Ranger!!

3. Rimsky-Korsakov wrote the opera *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*. But, nobody remembers that, they remember *Bumble Boogie*! This arrangement is a great live show, especially for those who like big bands and/or boogie piano. Warning - it gets a bit long, at just over five minutes. [Bumble Boogie - Extract from 'A Blackpool Big Band Boogie - Jools Holland' - YouTube](#) Not bad for a group of old guys, eh?

4. And now for something completely different. I believe I've just over-run my word count (d---ed teachers {I mean editors!}) so I'll just say I hope this brings back some great memories. [Woodstock Whistles O Mio Babbino Caro \(Snoopy - Ice Skating\) - YouTube](#).

TOLD you it was different!

I hope you learned something and enjoyed yourself when perusing this article. Again, and to re-iterate: with music, the *only limitation is your imagination*.

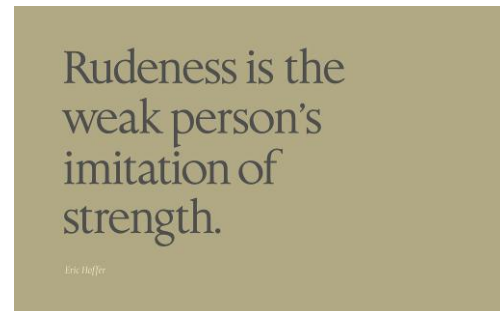
Next article: *Our Parent's Music Had NO Innuendos or Silly Lyrics*. (Am I being sarcastic? Be sure to read the next column and find out).

Love to hear your comments and suggestions, Seedy. (Send these to [kgbabiuk@gmail.com](mailto:kgbabiuk@gmail.com) and he will forward them to me.)

Ps – remember all this music is on YouTube, so it's FREE!

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Show respect even to people who don't deserve it; not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours."  
Dave Willis



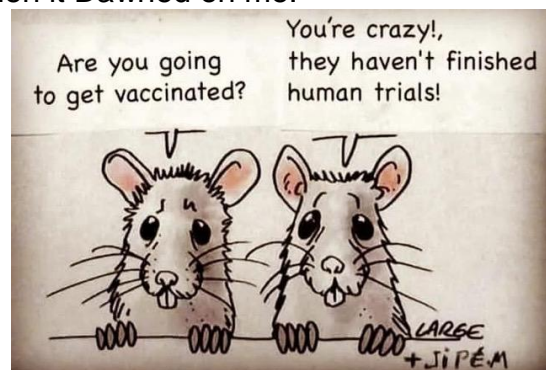
## KERRY'S TOONIES WORTH

or

### One Step Away from Relevance

#### Laughing at Covid's Expense

1. Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow remains to be seen.
2. After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.
3. If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.
4. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
5. Yesterday I ran out of soap and body wash and all I could find was dish detergent. Then it Dawned on me.



6. I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!

7. The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract COVID-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. To be clear, WHO let the dogs out.

8 This morning I saw a neighbor talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog - we laughed a lot.

9. Nothing like relaxing on the couch after a long day of being tense on the couch.

### Getting older

1. I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

2. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

3. The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

4. I don't have gray hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

5. Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

6. Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

7. At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

Actually I'm not complaining because I am a Senager. (Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant. And I don't have acne.

Life is great.

I DON'T DO DRUGS...



I GET THE SAME EFFECT  
BY STANDING UP FAST!

### Ray and Bob

Ray and Bob, two government maintenance guys, were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing. "We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole", said Bob, "but we don't have a ladder." The woman said, "Hand me that wrench out of your toolbox." She loosened a few bolts, and then laid the pole down. She then took a tape measure from their toolbox, took a measurement and announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches" and walked away. Ray shook his head and laughed. "Well, ain't that just like a 'Miss-know-it-all' woman?" "We need the height and she gives us the length!" Ray and Bob are still working for the government, but they are now Senators.

### Fun with the English Language

1. Venison for dinner again? Oh deer.

2. I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

3. Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.

4. England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

5. I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

6. This young lady said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

7. When chemists die, they barium.

8. I didn't like my beard at first, but then it grew on me.

9. When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

10. I got a part-time job at the bakery because I kneaded the dough.

### A Lady after my own Heart

A 105 year old woman's explanations for her health, "For better digestion, I drink beer. In the case of appetite loss, I drink white wine. In the case of low blood pressure, I drink red wine. In the case of high blood pressure, I drink scotch. And when I have a cold, I drink Schnapps." When asked, "When do

you drink water?" She replied, " I've never been that sick."



### Wheel Chairs

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital. After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know," he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

### Christmas Dinner 2020



### New Year's Eve/Day Trivia Answers

1. 1907
2. Robert Burns
3. 46 B.C.
4. Donuts
5. Guy Lombardo
6. Cigarette ads
7. Ricky Nelson
8. The Beatles
9. 38, one for each time zone
10. Baker Island

### R.S.V.P. Wine Tasting Event

Just a reminder, if you are interested you need to email at:

kgbabiuk@gmail.com

### Words of Encouragement

In closing, I would like to remind all of you who are working on a resolution to lose weight, give up drinking, or exercise more that CHOCOLATE is God's way of saying he likes us a little bit chubby.