

RIVERSIDE

REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of the New Westminster
Retired Teachers
July 2021



1925 Chevrolet being towed by a Cadillac wrecker

The Executive's Comments

by Kerry Babiuk Communications Officer

Summer is here. Covid restrictions, for the most part, are lifted and hopefully everyone has received their second vaccination.

This past year has been without any "in person" meetings and has instead been the year of Zoom. We had a pre-Christmas Zoom party, a February Zoom Wine Tasting, an April Zoom "Best Local Trails" meeting, and ended the year with a June Zoom meeting, featuring Janice Bannister who brought a us a message on using 'Laughter as a Wellness Tool'.

Unfortunately, as Dr, Henry was lifting many of the Covid restrictions and the effects of the pandemic are abating, new disasters are materializing. There has been a terrible 'heat wave' that has caused numerous deaths, has resulted in wild fires springing up throughout the province, the burning of the town of Lytton and placing several other towns on stand-by alert. There is also the uncovering of hundreds of unmarked graves of missing indigenous children.

Canada Day has just passed. It is one thing to be a proud Canadian, but it is difficult to do so when we see what our government (elected by the people) has done in the past. Now it is our time to listen and be supportive. It is the time to ask, "What do you want us to do" and "How can we help?" We can't ignore what has happened and we must acknowledge the fact that silence and inaction, on our part, is acceptance.

ODIN AND MAYERS

(Opening photo)

The wrecker belonged to Odin and Mayers. Their company was located, in 1925, at 401 Columbia Street and in 1926, the B.C. Directory, has the company located at 816 Carnarvon Street. George Frank "Gotch" Odin drove the first automobile in New Westminster and the first wrecking truck in the Lower Mainland. Odin also drove the first May Day car in 1919. For further information about G.F. Odin, check the following link from the New Westminster Heritage Page: Ctrl and click:
<https://tinyurl.com/e4mtzsw>

2020 - 2021 NWRTA Meetings

September, Tuesday 7th

The "No Bells" Luncheon

Our usual location, at the Greka Taverna, is unavailable this year due to scheduling changes as a result of the pandemic. However, our proficient Secretary, David Scott, has procured a reservation at Angelina's Dutch Corner, at the New Westminster Quay, for our luncheon. The owner is offering us the full menu, with a 10% discount on all items, except alcohol. To give the restaurant a fighting chance to deal with our group, this is will be an **RSVP** event. Email me at kqbabiuk@gmail.com if you are planning on attending. Remember to let all new retirees know that this is a "free" lunch for them.

October

This meeting with either be with Daphne Bramham, Jerry Tiede, Sylvia Olsen, or Roxsane Tiernan. This will be a speaker led meeting, followed by a Q & A, and then lunch.

November/ December

"Baskets for Bursaries" will be back. I know it seems like a long way off, but I would suggest thinking of what you would like your basket to look like. Will it be a wine lover's delight? How about one for the chocolate lovers? Maybe it could be one for the readers in our group or even one for the gourmand. You may even want to create one where you provide a service for the winner of your basket. Let your imaginations run wild and have fun creating your basket.

My sincere apologies for no dates or specific venues, but with most of the pandemic restrictions just being lifted, the Executive has not yet ascertained the venues, which then determines the actual dates meetings can be held. We are hoping that by the next publication of the "Riverside Reflections" that the venues and dates will be confirmed.

A Basket for Bursaries - Thank you

Ever wondered how our bursaries are perceived and used. The NWRTA received the following note from our recipients.

Hello! My name is Ananya, and I am the recipient of the New West Retired Teachers' Association Bursary. I am writing to you today to express my gratitude for being awarded this bursary. This money is going towards my education, and as someone who wants to pursue a career in teaching, I will not take this opportunity for granted.

I have known that I want to be a teacher since the start of grade 11. However, my positive experiences with the teachers around me started long before then. For

example, in English 10H, my teacher allowed us to perform the play Eurydice instead of simply reading it. I remember thinking "Wow! How fun!"

Basically, many teachers in my life made me want to learn, which is what I want to do for the high school students of the future. I thank you and the association again for awarding me this bursary, and helping me create change in my community.

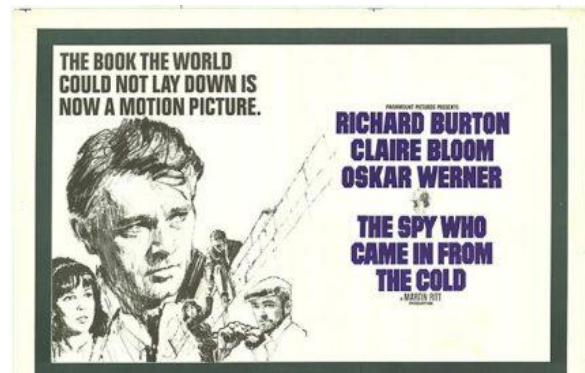
Sincerely, Ananya (:

THE BEST SPY NOVEL OF ALL TIME: by Kerry Babiuk

Undoubtedly you have noticed that I am acting as your literary critic for this edition. Our esteemed critic and retired librarian is still under the weather, so I have taken it upon myself to hopefully create some controversy and some heated emails, stating how wrong my opinion is.

The best espionage book ever written is, The Spy Who Came in from the Cold. It was written in 1963, during the Cold War, and follows secret agent, Alec Leamas, who is sent undercover as a defector to East Germany in order to bring down the German Intelligence Unit. This story is as complicated and convoluted as the life of a double agent should be.

To further my assertion that, this is the best spy novel, I would point out that it became an international best seller, was selected as one of the top 100 books of all time, and was eventually made into a movie starring Richard Burton.



DINING WITH PATRICIA

by Patricia Tanaka

The Bruncheria is Open!

Well, the renovations are complete at the new Bruncheria, at the corner of Braid and East Columbia, and it is now open. This location was a Korean restaurant before Covid. Now there is a lovely new patio and there are plans for a beer garden in the near future. The menu is quite extensive and features many breakfast and lunch dishes. Henry ordered the standard breakfast while I tried the breakfast wrap. We both enjoyed our meal. The coffee is also very good. It was very pleasant to sit under the umbrella in the bright summer sun. Although it is a busy corner, it was quiet on this Sunday morning.

Bruncheria opens at 8 am for early birds.



Happy Eating!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

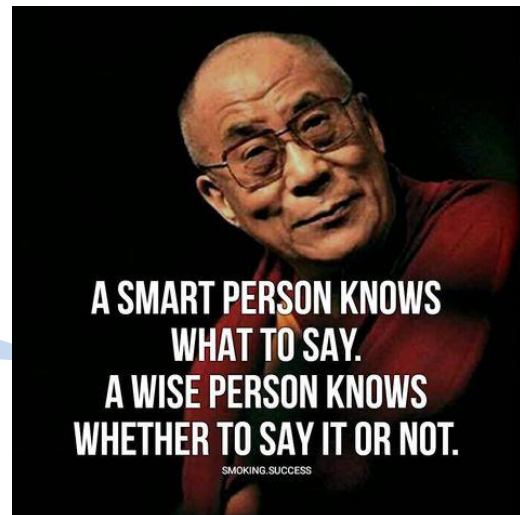
Encouragement

As a group of frogs was traveling through the woods, two of them fell into a deep pit. When the other frogs crowded around the pit and saw how deep it was, they told the two frogs that there was no hope left for them. However, the two frogs decided to ignore what the others were saying and they proceeded to try and jump out of the pit. Despite their efforts, the group of frogs at the top of the pit were still saying that they should just give up, that they would never

make it out. Eventually, one of the frogs took heed to what the others were saying and he gave up, falling down to his death. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out. When he got out, the other frogs said, "Did you not hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf and thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

Moral of the story:

People's words can have a big effect on other's lives. Think about what you say before it comes out of your mouth. It might just be the difference between life and death.



WORKSHOP

Century House Zoom Book Club

Three groups meet online once a month for about an hour, each to discuss a book they chose. Group members have recommended three books for next month, and the books are available at the New West Public Library.

Members are welcome to register for one or more groups each month at 10:30 on the second Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. New members are welcome. **To join, send an email** to facilitator Jane Hicks at zbc@centuryhouseassociation.com. No

previous book club experience is needed. The size of the group may be limited by the availability of the books at the library.

And You Thought You Knew Music

...Edition#4

Contributed by: Seedy

The purpose of these articles is two-fold: to show you those other types of music, other than those which 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.

Now, this edition will itself be a slight variation on the theme: since during this month both Canada and the USA have birthdays, your editor and I thought it might be interesting to consider, how to explain, how we differ from “our American cousins”. AND, to make it even more difficult, to be honest and accurate without being downright rude! As usual, music can help us.

Consider the following question: “How y’all different from us amarcans?” If you are well educated and sophisticated (like a typical reader of this column) you might answer as follows:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37nGeXn2K9c> Great tune, eh?

Now, please reconsider that question. Imagine you were raised in East Burnaby, and had part-time jobs that made it impossible to clean your hands. (You know, like, the writer of this column.) Then, you might answer like this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2E064kb3UnU> Even better than the previous tune, imho!!

Our regular reader is thinking by now, “Seedy, you’re losing it. Where is the toe-tapper you usually starts with? Where is the “get up and boogie” tune?” Patience, please! What if somebody says to you: “Our presidents are larger than life. Luvum or

hatem, guys like Kennedy and Trump and get songs written about ‘em. I recall some PM guy with a bowtie and a guy with chainsaw jokes, but no songs.” SURELY, gentle reader, you know what’s coming: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNGr01ien1M> No partisanship implied positive or negative; but I think most of us can agree he was colourful (which is NOT the adjective that LBJ used!).

So, there you have it – the NWRTA’s answer to “how to talk to an American”

Haven’t made a final decision on our next column, but “Country music is bad Bad BAD, because it is sad Sad SAD, is one option I think you might enjoy. (Teaser – Shania Twain might be included!)

Love to hear your comments and suggestions, Seedy.

Ps – If it’s on YouTube, then it’s FREE!

PPS – Love ya Canada – you may not be perfect, but you are second to no one!! Thanks for letting me in all those many years ago!

Canada, Weird and Wonderful

1. Canada got its own flag 100 years after it became a country - on February 15, 1965.
2. The famous Canadian interjection "eh" is actually listed in the Canadian Oxford Dictionary as a valid word.
3. The Royal Canadian Mint made, in 2007, a gigantic loonie made of 99.9% gold that was worth \$1 million.



4. You can write a letter in any language and send it to the North Pole, H0H 0H0, Canada

and you will receive a letter back from Santa.

5. Some of the world's most popular superheroes were conceived by Canadian minds, including Superman and Wolverine.

6. Only in Canada could it go from minus 23.2C to 2.2C in one hour, thanks to a Chinook in Pincher Creek, Alberta in 1962.

7. Hawaiian pizza was actually invented by Sam Panopoulos, at his restaurant, in Chatham, Ontario and not by the Hawaiians.

8. Canada has been invaded twice by Americans - once in 1775 and then again in 1812.

9. Canada consumes more Mac and Cheese than any other country in the world.

10. The official phone number for Canada is 1-800-O-Canada.

IS IT SAFE TO TRAVEL?

Travelling has always been somewhat of a complicated decision. You have to consider airfare, ground transportation, side trips, hotels, and length of stay. Lots of places for things to go wrong. But now, you also have to consider your health and the possible health of those around you. Many businesses are committed to taking the time to train their staff on safety and health protocols and are conducting a number of trials to see if the protocols that they are initiating are effective.

Many places have not announced a vaccine requirement, however, it's just a matter of time before they do. Being vaccinated will play an important role if people want to feel safe when they travel. You may also require a negative Covid test 3 days before travelling to certain countries and you will most likely have to have another test when you come home.

People will also want to consider what kind of health insurance they can get and what will it actually cover? Will it cover items like an evacuation as well as medical expenses? Lastly, you have to consider where can you go? Which countries are "safe" and which

ones are not allowing any visitors? What makes the "safe" countries okay to travel to? What makes them special?

It's no longer a question of sticking a pin in a map and saying, "Let's go here".

Now that I have poured cold water over your desire to travel, I would ask any of our readers to submit a short article (300 - 400 words), with photos, about the first place you plan to visit once it is "safe" to do so. Please send your story to me at:

kgbabiuk@gmail.com.

KERRY'S TOONIES WORTH

or

One Step Away from Relevance

Saving Money

To help save what's left of the economy, the Government will announce next week that the Immigration Department will start deporting seniors (instead of illegals) in order to lower OAS, CPP, and medical costs. Old people are easy to catch, put on buses, and they won't remember how to get back home. Be sure to leave a note to your relatives and friends, so they'll know what has happened to you. I started to feel sad when I began thinking of the fate of many of our members in the NWRTA. But then it dawned on me, I'll see you on the darn bus.



Why Teachers Drink

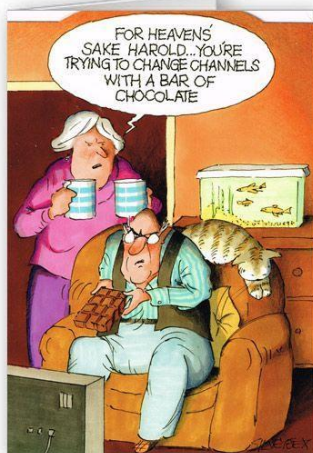
These are genuine answers from some of our more 'astute' 16 year olds.

1. Name the four seasons. Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar

2. How is dew formed? The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.
3. What happens to your body as you age? When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.
4. Name a major disease associated with cigarettes. Premature death.
5. What is the fibula? A small lie.
6. What does 'varicose' mean? Nearby.
7. What is the most common form of birth control? Most people prevent contraception by wearing a condom.
8. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.
9. What is a terminal illness? When you are sick at the airport.
10. What does the word 'benign' mean? Benign is what you will be after you be eight.

Remember when...

- You had to get off the couch and walk over to the TV to change the channel to one of only five channels available.



- You often could not use the telephone as you were part of neighbourhood party line, and often our calls were listened in on by one of the snoopier neighbours.
- Mom did washing with a wringer washer and hung the clothes outside on a clothesline.
- Children were to be seen and not heard.

- Ironing with flat irons heated on a wood stove.
- I remember listening to "The Red Skeleton Show" and police calls on the radio at night in bed.
- Only the School Secretary was allowed to use the Gestetner machine.

Always Ask, Never Assume

His request approved, the CNN News photographer quickly used a cell phone to call the local airport to charter a flight. He was told a twin-engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport. Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go". The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the photographer instructed the pilot, "Fly over the valley and make low passes so I can take pictures of the fires on the hillsides". "Why?", asked the pilot. "Because I'm a photographer for CNN", he responded, "and I need to get some close up shots". The pilot was strangely silent for a moment. Finally he stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is . . . You're NOT my flight instructor"?

Life is short. Drink the good wine first.

The Power of Punctuation

An English professor wrote the words: "A woman without her man is nothing" on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All the MALES in the class wrote: "A woman, without her man, is nothing".

All the FEMALES in class wrote: "A woman: without her, man is nothing".

English Language

When you are stressed, you eat ice-cream, chocolate, and sweets. Do you want to

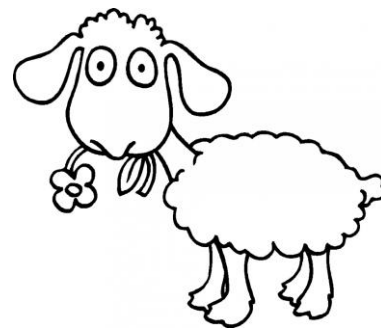
know why? Because "stressed" spelled backwards is "desserts".



How Important is Voting?

A cowboy, named Bud, was overseeing his herd on a ranch outside of Red Deer, Alberta when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced toward him out of a cloud of dust. The driver, a young man in a Brioni suit, Gucci shoes, RayBan sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and asked the cowboy, "If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?" Bud looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, "Sure, why not?" The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the Internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra-high-resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany. Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses an MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a

full-color, 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP LaserJet printer, turns to the cowboy and says, "You have exactly 1,586 cows and calves." "That's right. Well, I guess you can take one of my calves," says Bud. He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on with amusement as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car. Then Bud says to the young man, "Hey, if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?" The young man thinks about it for a second and then says, "Okay, why not?" "You're a MP for the Canadian Government", says Bud. "Wow! That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?" No guessing required." answered the cowboy. "You showed up here even though nobody called you; you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used millions of dollars worth of equipment trying to show me how much smarter than me you are; and you don't know a thing about how working people make a living - or about cows, for that matter. This is a herd of sheep... Now give me back my dog."



Living Will

Last night my wife and I were sitting in the den and I said to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle to keep me alive. That would be no quality of life at all. If that ever happens, just pull the plug." So she got up, unplugged the computer, and threw out my wine. She's such a witch.

The Fight was On

My wife asked me to take her to one of those restaurants where they make the food right in front of you. So, I took her to Subway and that's how the fight started.

Volunteers needed -



The advertisement features a photograph of a smiling man with glasses driving a car, with a woman visible in the passenger seat. The text is as follows:

We are
**A COMMUNITY
OF VOLUNTEERS**
providing complimentary rides for
cancer patients to treatment centres
throughout the Lower Mainland.
We invite you to join us.

We urgently need more drivers in your area. Please visit
WWW.VOLUNTEERCANCERDRIVERS.CA

**VOLUNTEER
CANCER DRIVERS
SOCIETY** 

A Reminder, Just in Case You Missed it -

R.S.V.P. The Hell with the Bells

Brunch - September 7th, 2021
Angelino's Dutch Corner
New Westminster Quay

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

kgbabiuk@gmail.com