



Great Egret - Photo Credit: Glenn Greger

KTRTA Bulletin

We are your local branch of the BCRTA. We are a non-profit, volunteer-driven association of retired educators enjoying our “awesome years” together! We look forward to experiencing the pleasure of loving, caring, laughing, and sharing as we make meaningful social connections and learn something new at our get-togethers.

Lunch & Learn on Friday, October 27

Join us for our second *Lunch & Learn* event of the 2023-24 season. We will enjoy a Greek buffet including Chicken Souvlaki (marinated chicken breast on skewers) served with all the delicious Greek trimmings: Rice, Potatoes, Greek Salad, Pita Bread, Tzatziki,, dessert, coffee and tea. Pay \$25.00 by cash or cheque at the door. The North Shore Community Centre doors will open at 11:30 AM, lunch will be served at 12:30 PM., followed by our guest speaker, Tom McLean, from Trip Merchant at 1:00 PM.



To register for this month's *Lunch & Learn*, please reply to this email or email us at onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com by Tuesday, October 24th. Within 24 hours of your lunch reservation, you'll receive a confirmation email. We can't wait to see you there!

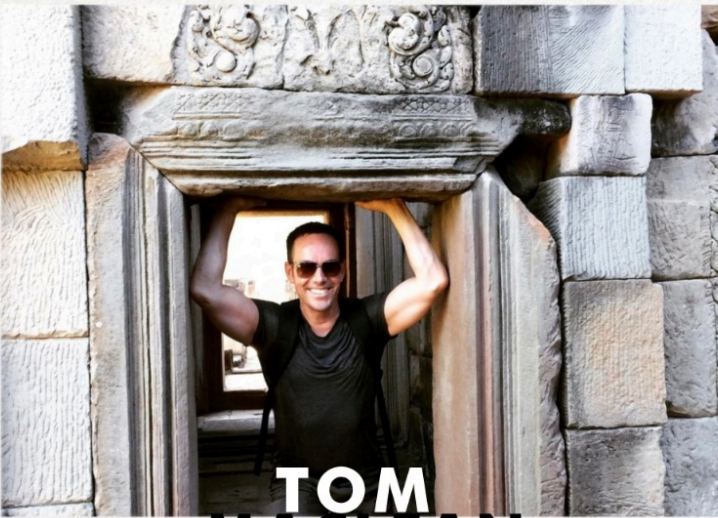
Learn about International Travel

We're excited to announce that our speaker, Tom MacLean, co-founder of Trip Merchant, will be sharing travel explorations to Greece, Africa, and beyond. Tom's love for travel started at a young age, and he's been exploring the world ever since. He was born and raised on Vancouver Island but now resides in Lake Country. Fun

fact: He's travelled to every continent except Antarctica.

Trip Merchant is one of our BCRTA affiliates, and offers a wide range of travel opportunities that cater to different travel styles and interests. Whether you crave ocean cruising, river cruising, solo travel, adventure travel, luxury travel, or anything in between, they've got you covered! Come with your questions for Tom and an open mind to travel the world.

[TRIP MERCHANT - personalized travel advice and offers • BCRTA](#)



**TOM
MACLEAN**

YOU ARE INVITED!

**KTRTA LUNCH & LEARN
FRIDAY OCTOBER 27
NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**TOM MACLEAN, CO-FOUNDER OF TRIP
MERCHANT WILL SPEAK ABOUT TRAVELLING
TO GREECE AND BEYOND
RSVP OCTOBER 24**

Message from

Rosemarie Stoltze: Our theme for this *Lunch & Learn* is 'International Travel' and so, for extra fun, members are invited to wear ethnic attire or fashion accessories from a favourite country. Who knows, there may even be some small prizes for those who dress up.

Photo Credit: Trip Merchant



KTRTA Executive 2023-24

President - Marney Bethell

Past President - Sheila Park

Vice President - Betty Karpuk

Secretary - Noeleen Bunney,
Troylana Manson

Membership and Online Office -
Noeleen Bunney, Troylana
Manson

Treasurer - Sandy Baird

Programs - Rosemarie Stoltze,
Suzanne Legault

Pensions, Benefits & Member
Wellbeing - Sheila Park, Troylana
Manson

Sunshine - Mary Ellen Patterson,
Anne Brogden

THE BRIDGE Newsletter - Donna
Sharpe, Editor

Heritage Committee - Cora
Jones, Mary Ellen Patterson,
Sheila Park, Marney Bethell



Mountain Bluebird - Photo Credit: Glenn Greger

Information about our *Lunch & Learns*

Who? KTRTA members. We all played a role in education, so we all are connected. You're welcome to bring a friend.

What? It's all about getting together for visiting and learning something new - *Lunch & Learn!* After lunch, we have our presentation.

Where? North Shore Community Centre,
730 Cottonwood Avenue, Kamloops.

When? Fridays, seven times per year (September, October, November, January, February, March, April). The doors open at 11:30 a.m. for socializing and lunch is served at about 12:15 p.m. The program begins at 1:00 p.m.

Why? To have some fun and build camaraderie while promoting the interests and welfare of our members.

How? RSVP is required. Email onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com to reserve your spot. Within 24 hours of your lunch reservation, you'll receive a confirmation email. you arrive, please proceed to our KTRTA meeting room, purchase your lunch ticket, put on your name tag, choose a seat at a table, and you are ready to mingle!

Cost? Lunch, including dessert, tea and coffee, is \$25.00. You are welcome to bring your own lunch, too, if you prefer, and in this case, the price is only \$5.00 for the presentation, your spot at a table, coffee and tea. Pay by cash or cheque at the door.

Need to Cancel Your Reservation? Please let us know before the Friday event, if possible.





Brunnera Jack Frost Photo Credit: Noeleen Bunney

Sunshine Committee

Mary Ellen and Anne always welcome hearing about one of our KTRTA members needing a bit of extra sunshine. Please do not hesitate to let them know because they will send a note of good cheer on behalf of all of us in the KTRTA to help brighten their day. Please phone Mary Ellen at 250-372-1762 or email Mary Ellen and Anne at onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com.

The BRIDGE Newsletter, Donna Sharpe, Editor

Our Spring/Summer 2023 issue of *The BRIDGE* newsletter is available at the BCRTA website bcrt.ca - look for it and some of our recently archived newsletters, under the heading *Branches, Kamloops Thompson*. Thanks again to all members who have contributed articles, poetry and photos to our newsletter; it is an enjoyable read!

We look forward to receiving our members' contributions for the Fall/Winter 2023-24 issue, which will come out in January. Ideas for members to consider include local activities, health, gardening, books, travel, hobbies, history, creative writing, adventures, artwork, and photography.

Submit your material and suggestions to Donna Sharpe, Editor, at one of our *Lunch & Learn* get-togethers or email Donna at *The BRIDGE* Newsletter, via onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com.



Message from KTRTA President, Marney Bethell

Kamloops Thompson Retired Teachers Association had a busy year in 2022-23. We have approximately 465 members including a dozen dedicated volunteer members serving on our Executive Committee.

We host seven luncheons a year, at the North Shore Community Centre in

KTRT Club Executive 2023-24

President - Pat Petley
Past President - Bev Maxwell
Vice President - Sheila Park
Secretary - Suzanne Legault
Treasurer - Sandy Baird
Director TRU Bursaries- Glenda Miles
Director CHES - Marlene Olineck
Member-At-Large - Donna Walsh
Member-At-Large - Chiara Anselmo
Member-At-Large - Donna Sharpe
Member-At-Large - Laurie Dahlgren



Mountain Bluebird Photo Credit: Glenn Greger

Kamloops, with approximately 35-50 people in attendance at each event. We have a speaker for five of the get-togethers. The other two, our Christmas luncheon and our KTRT Club Silent Auction Bursary Fundraiser are social events. All KTRTA Members are automatically KTRT Bursary Club members. Kamloops Thompson retired teachers have accumulated \$110,000.00 in our bursary fund at TRU Foundation, the interest on which generates two \$1,600.00 bursaries for Faculty of Education students annually. Our KTRTA R.R. Smith Memorial fund, also in a bursary fund with TRU Foundation, generates an additional \$500.00 bursary annually which is then topped up to \$1,600.00 to match the dollar amount of the other two bursaries. The KTRT Club holds an annual silent auction to add funds to both the TRU Foundation Accounts and to “top-up” the RR Smith Memorial





Smokebush in Fall Photo Credit: Noeleen Bunney

Bursary. This year the KTRT Club also gave to other charities including: The Peace Walk, the Ukrainian support group, the Canadian Harambee Education Society and Hospice.

The recipients of the bursary awards are three Thompson Rivers University Faculty of Education students. We have found that many of our members greatly appreciate and feel proud about these opportunities for charitable giving.

Our communication with our members is working well. We send out bulletins about our *Lunch & Learn* events via email and also post these on the BCRTA website under Kamloops Thompson Branch for each of the seven months that we have lunches.

We also have a bi-annual newsletter called the *BRIDGE*, with articles written by our members, under the direction of editor Donna Sharpe and with the help of a small committee. Issues of the *BRIDGE* newsletter are available at the BCRTA website bcрта.ca - look for our most recent newsletter plus recently archived newsletters, under the heading *Branches, Kamloops Thompson*. About 400 copies of our *BRIDGE* newsletter goes out by email. Only about 25 copies are printed and these are

either hand delivered or mailed to our members who no longer have access to a computer. All KTRTA Members are invited to submit their photos, articles, stories, and poetry to the *BRIDGE* newsletter.

Our retired teacher association, like many others in the province, tries our best to welcome and encourage new retirees to become members and executive members each year. We attend the School District Retirement Dinner in June each year to meet with each new retiree personally, hand out congratulatory letters that include applications to join, and explain some of the benefits of joining our provincial BCRTA, and our local branch, too.

It has been a challenging summer in Kamloops and the area, due to drought conditions which have led to wildfires and poor air quality. For a relatively short amount of time, our family was on evacuation-alert order, which meant if the evacuation order came, we would have just minutes to leave our home. We had our “go bags” ready and a secondary a list of important items taped to the door showing exactly what we needed to collect. Many of the items on the list were straightforward things, such as our devices (computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, chargers), personal care items and prescriptions. Other things that needed to be packed up included important family documents, identification, and insurance papers.





Falcon Photo Credit: Glenn Greger

Of course, for security reasons, none of these important items could be kept in our car. We did keep less valuable items such as blankets and pillows in the car, though, in case we had no bed if evacuated. I made an extra backup of all my computer files to store at my sister's place.

While the smoke from the wildfires made the air quality poor for the entire month of August we are so thankful that Kamloops did not suffer any loss of structures. We are so sorry for any losses members and/or their families, living in active wildfire zones in the region such as Chase, the Shuswap Lake area and Kelowna may have experienced.

We held our Executive meeting in late August to plan the Lunch & Learns for the 2023-24 season, and we are all looking forward to welcoming new members and seeing old friends and colleagues at our seven get-togethers.

September's KTRTA *Lunch & Learn*



Our first *Lunch & Learn* event for the 2023-24 season took place on September 22, 2023. A delightful time was had by all! About 35 members attended. Our traditional *Harvest Sharing Table* overflowed with fall flower bouquets, herbs, vegetables and fruits to share. Our presentation, led by Fiona Clare, was all about the importance of successes and volunteer opportunities available with *The Bright Red Book Bus* and *Literacy Kamloops*.

BCRTA's Annual Conference and AGM

We hope some of our KTRTA members tuned in on September 29, 2023 for BCRTA's Annual Conference. It was broadcast live via a YouTube link and if you are interested in viewing it, a recording is available under the news tab on the BCRTA website or [here](#). Viewing the segment at 2:35, where Tim Anderson interviews the winners of this year's Post Script Awards, is recommended viewing as these are often the highlight of the conference each year. Three executive members attended the conference and voted at the AGM on our behalf as our KTRTA delegates: Marney Bethell, Troylana Manson and Donna Sharpe. They have each prepared a report about one of the keynote speakers, and their reports will be included in the Fall/Winter issue 2023-24 of the BRIDGE newsletter.



Cassin's Finch Photo Credit: Glenn Greger



In Kamloops, we acknowledge that we are located, live, work and play on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc territory, situated within the unceded ancestral lands of Secwépemc Nation.