

RIVERSIDE

REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of the New Westminster
Retired Teachers
January 2025



Philip Jackson - original member of the Royal Engineers

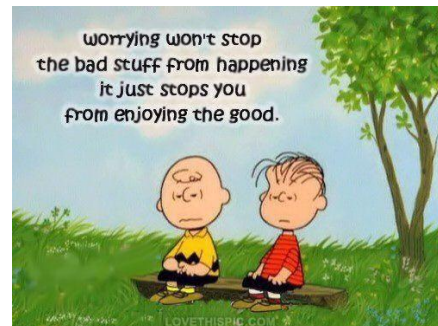
The President's Comments

by Kerry Babiuk

We have just started a new year and as always this is the opportunity for change, whether at the personal level or a more global level. As retired teachers I believe we all strived to inspire our students with hope, awaken their imaginations, develop a love of learning, and become a responsible member of our society. It was this belief that brought us joy and a sense of positive well-being. However, I feel as time passes we tend to find it harder to find things that bring us those moments of joyfulness. As I look to the future and where our world is headed I sometimes find it difficult to approach each day with a sense of hope. I see a world where there are more than 100 armed conflicts, such as the war between Russia and Ukraine, the conflict in the Middle East, the revolutions in Myanmar, and countless others. I see a world that approximately one billion people are affected by severe food insecurity and also another 200 million people who live in extreme poverty (less than \$2.15 per day). This is only the tip of the global iceberg. There are human rights

violations, health and education issues, climate change disasters, and for good measure, where are we headed with A.I.? Then there are all our personal problems: loneliness, rising cost of food and rent, maintaining a good level of physical and mental health, and loss of family members and/or friends. Despite all of this negativity I am reminded of a quote from Thich Nhat Hanh, "Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear the hardships of today." As most people like to say, one person can make a difference and one act of kindness can be inspiring.

Therefore my resolution for 2025 is to have a more positive outlook and do activities that make me happy and encourage me to more laughter. I would encourage each one of us to surround ourselves with people who have a positive outlook and who eagerly encourage us. Be cautious of negative thoughts, learn to accept ourselves for who we are and not worry about what others think. As Norman Vincent Peale said, "Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! "



Philip Jackson 1835 - 1927

(Opening photo)

Philip Jackson came to British Columbia in 1859 and volunteered to be part of the Columbia detachment of the Royal Engineers, or Sappers. This group was to be responsible for searching suitable areas to establish towns, roads, roads, and a seat for a new government. He worked on the

Harrison-Lillioet Road, Port Douglas to Lillioet Road, Dewdney Trail, road from Fort Langley to New Westminster, and the Caribou Road. He left the Columbia detachment in 1863 when it was disbanded. Along with 129 other Sappers he chose to stay in Sapperton. In 1864 he tried his hand as a gold panner, but was unsuccessful and returned to New Westminster and then worked on the Yale Road. The family moved to Victoria 1872 where Phillip worked as an attendant at the Victoria Insane Asylum. Unfortunately the job only lasted for four months and he returned to New Westminster in 1874. He worked on several road projects and in 1876 worked as a night watchman. In 1880 he became the owner of the Beehive Saloon at the corner of Mackenzie and Columbia streets. He owned the saloon for one year and then sold it and went back to work as a night watchman. He did that for three more years and then the family moved to Alder Grove. For more information of this ex-Sapper check out the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/z3uwu299>

THINGS TO DO AROUND TOWN

Massey Theatre

Sunday, January 26th

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Tabla, Tea, and Dance

Pay-what-you-can series

Saturday, February 1st

7:30pm - 9:30pm

International Guitar Night

\$45.00

Visit Irving House

302 Royal Avenue

12:00pm - 5:00pm

Visit the Anvil Centre

777 Columbia Street

10:00am - 5:00pm closed Wednesdays

Visit the Westminster Quay and Boardwalk

810 Quayside Drive

10:00am - 5:00pm

THE BOOK CORNER:

The Violets of March

By: Sarah Jio

Puzzles – the jigsaw kind - are often a fun pastime on a rainy day. You dump out all the pieces, begin to sift through them, find ‘like’ pieces, and usually sort out all the edge pieces. Once you’ve built the puzzle ‘frame’, you’re ready to connect all the pieces together to create the final image. What does puzzle making have to do with this novel? Well, this intriguing dual story line is like a puzzle and as you read it, you are basically trying to discover and make the connections so all the pieces ‘fit’...which they do right to the very end of the story.



Sarah Jio is an excellent author who lives in Seattle. A couple of her novels are based in the Seattle area, more specifically in a place called Bainbridge Island - a 30 minute ferry ride from Seattle. Perhaps some of you may have been to this island in the past. There are many amazing characters in this book, all with connections to the main character Emily. Emily is an author and is working on researching her new book. After getting a divorce, she decides to go and visit her great-aunt Bee on Bainbridge Island in hopes of rejuvenating herself and researching ideas for her book. While she is there, she discovers a red velvet diary dated

1943. As she starts to read it, she begins to make some startling connections to her own life. And so the unravelling of mysterious events begins, and the puzzle pieces start to click together, though not without many a twist and turn. You might also be wondering....what do violets and the month of March have in common? The author, Ms. Jio had noticed that violets - wood violets- can often pop up where and when you least expect them. They are often thought of as symbols of healing and the cycle of renewal, not to mention transformation and growth. Our main character Emily needs to heal and renew after her divorce and years of writers' block. So 'The Violets in March' is an apt title for this captivating, enigmatic story.

N.B. Sarah Jio has written eight books. In two of them, Emily and great-aunt Bee are featured characters. They also appear in the novel 'Blackberry Winter', which is a very good story, but spoiler alert...read it **after** The Violets of March.

by Devon Codesmith

AND YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW MUSIC

...Edition#18

Contributed by: Seedy

I just found this old tape, so I gave it a play. I don't recommend it at all. Head Cleaner - worst band ever...



Well, you are probably wondering what we can do for an encore after that GREAT column in the last issue. Frankly, I'm not sure that it IS possible to match, let alone improve on, all those tune(s) in such a short time. If you missed it, I suggest you make an effort to find it, it will be worth your while.

Fortunately, we are in a new year, so this column will be the best of the year (so far). Since the deadline for this issue is close to Robert Burns Day (25 January), I thought we should pay homage to this great poet who passed away in Dumfries, Scotland, back in 1796. Now, what better tune to remind us of Scotland than *Loch Lomond*? For those of you who don't know it, we offer a sing-along version in English. Enjoy: [Sing along with The King's Singers: Loch Lomond \(arr. David Overton\)](#)

Now, I did have a rendition in Gaelic: Guys in kilts wailing away on bagpipes. But, since it sounded a lot like tune #3 (actually, not NEAR as raucous) we decided to go with the "folk tune becomes big band tune". Here's Goodman with Krupa and even more all-stars – fans of the big band era should love this one!

[Benny Goodman "Loch Lomond" 10/16/37 Madhattan Room-Gene Krupa, Harry James](#)

By now you must be wondering what could be worse than bagpipes? Well, firstly, the singer(s) sounds to me, like Poland's answer to Janis Joplin. I spoke to a great musician friend whose opinion I respect, and he says "no, this singer is too refined and her voice to silky". I think we'll let you decide. As for the band.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf7HyQf7Bqs>

Did I mention this is one of Poland's premiere heavy metal bands? How 'bout that accordion? Funky, eh?

Hope you enjoyed this column, and saw how a person or a group can take a tune and make it their own (perhaps not always an improvement). Got a tune you don't believe can be "funkified"? Please try me! Maybe it will become a column?

(If you have a song that you would like Seedy to discuss in a future article, please let the editor know.)

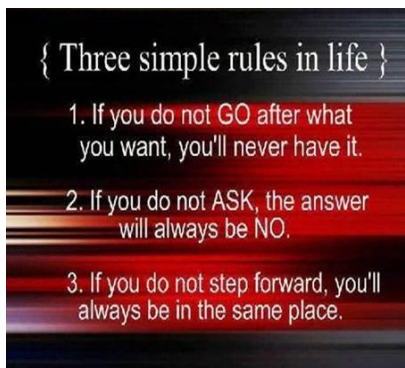
Next issue of this great publication is close to International Women's Day. I have a few ideas. Hope you check in and find out what they are.

Cheers, Seedy

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

What are you worth?

A popular speaker started off a seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. A crowd of 200 had gathered to hear him speak. He asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" 200 hands went up. He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He crumpled the bill up. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" All 200 hands were still raised. "Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" Then he dropped the bill on the ground and stomped on it with his shoes. He picked it up, and showed it to the crowd. The bill was all crumpled and dirty. "Now who still wants it?" All the hands still went up. "My friends, I have just showed you a very important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, life crumples us and grinds us into the dirt. We make bad decisions or deal with poor circumstances. We feel worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. You are special – Don't ever forget it!"



BCRTA CONNECTIONS

I have included this article from BCRTA Connections just in case some of you missed it.

Third Age Learning at Kwantlen (TALK) has something for everyone.

For retirees keen to keep your brain active and meet new people, TALK is a great resource. Third Age Learning at Kwantlen (TALK) is celebrating 25 years of providing people over 50 with creative and stimulating educational experiences and activities. Affiliated with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), TALK provides both in-person and online non-credit courses on a wide variety of topics, plus Philosophers' Corners (open to the public with no registration necessary), field trips and special lectures, all in KPU's catchment areas of Richmond, Surrey and Langley. TALK is run by volunteers with administrative support from KPU. Course presenters are also volunteers, drawn from current and retired KPU faculty and other community members. Membership is only \$10 per year and the cost of courses is kept very low. There are also volunteer opportunities on the TALK Board and Program and Marketing Committees.

A few examples of TALK courses this spring include:

- Social Media Manipulation
- Impacts of AI on Photography
- Armchair Travel: Scotland
- Religions and the Human Race
- The James Webb Space Telescope

...and field trips to:

- The BC Golf Museum
- Surrey Traffic Management Centre
- Birdwatching in Terra Nova
- Steveston Village

...and a few of the 12 Philosophers' Corner topics:

- Should voting be mandatory?
- Aging and invisibility
- Do we need a new justice system?

Find out more at www.kpu.ca/talk.

HISTORY EXAM FOR SENIORS

1. In the 1940s, where were automobile headlight dimmer switches located?
 - a. On the floor shift knob.
 - b. On the floor board, to the left of the clutch
 - c. Next to the horn.
2. The bottle top of a Royal Crown Cola bottle had holes in it.. For what was it used?
 - a. Capture lightning bugs.
 - b. To sprinkle clothes before ironing.
 - c. Large salt shaker.
3. What postwar car turned automotive design on its ear when you couldn't tell whether it was coming or going?
 - a. Studebaker
 - b. Nash Metro
 - c. Tucker torpedo
4. Before inline skates, how did you keep your roller skates attached to your shoes?
 - a. With clamps, tightened by a skate key.
 - b. Woven straps that crossed the foot.
 - c. Long pieces of twine.
5. What was the most dreaded disease in the 1940s and 1950s?
 - a. Smallpox
 - b. AIDS
 - c. Polio
6. What was a Duck-and-Cover Drill?
 - a. Part of the game of hide and seek.
 - b. What you did when your Mom called you in to do chores.
 - c. Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
7. What was the name of the Indian Princess in the Howdy Doody Show?
 - a. Princess Summerfallwinterspring
 - b. Princess Sacajawea
 - c. Princess Moonshadow

8. What was the name of the singing group that made the song 'Cabdriver' a hit?

- a. The Ink Spots
- b. The Supremes
- c. The Esquires

KERRY'S TOONIES WORTH

or

One Step Away from Relevance

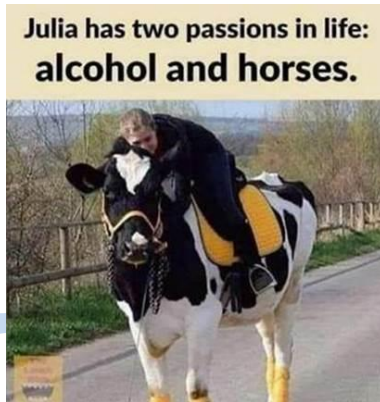
If only, I could be a Newfie

One morning, three Newfoundlanders and three Albertans were in a ticket counter line at a train station. The three Albertans each bought a ticket and watched as the three Newfies bought just one ticket. "How are the three of you going to travel on only one ticket?" asked one of the Albertans. "Be watchin and learnin" answered one of the Newfies. All six boarded the train and the three Albertans sat down, but the three Newfies crammed into a toilet together and closed the door. Shortly after the train departed, the conductor came around to collect tickets. He knocked on the toilet door and said, "Ticket, please." The door opened just a crack and a single arm emerged with a ticket in hand. The conductor took it and moved on. The Albertans saw this happen and agreed it was quite a clever idea. Indeed, so clever that they decided to do the same thing on the return trip and save some money. That afternoon when they got back to the station, they bought a single ticket for the return trip and watched, while to their astonishment, the three Newfies didn't buy even one ticket! "How are you going to travel without a ticket?" asked a perplexed Albertan. "Be watchin and learnin," answered the three Newfie boys in unison. When they boarded the train, the three Albertans crammed themselves into a toilet and the three Newfies crammed into another toilet down the way. Shortly after the train began to move, one of the Newfies left the toilet and walked over to the toilet where the Albertans were hiding.

The Newfie knocked on the door and said, "Ticket, please."

No Good Deed....

A man and his wife were awakened at 3:00 am by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push. "Not a chance," says the husband, "it is 3:00 in the morning!"



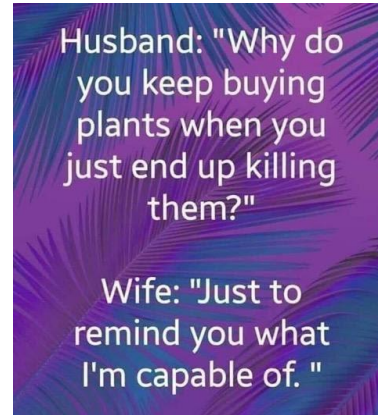
He slams the door and returns to bed. "Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk guy asking for a push," he answers. "Did you help him?" she asks. "No, I did not. It is 3:00 in the morning and it is pouring rain out there!" "Well, you have a short memory," says his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down, and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!" The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?" "Yes," comes back the answer. "Do you still need a push?" calls out the husband (soaking wet). "Yes, please!" came the reply from the dark. "Where are you?" asks the husband. "Over here on the swing!" replied the drunk.

And the Fight was on

Son: Dad, I got a part in the school play. I'll play a man who is married for 25 years.
Dad: Maybe next time you will get a speaking part.

Wife: Do you remember the stupidest thing you ever said.

Husband: I do.



Wife: Am I fat?

Husband: You are not fat. You are just easier to see.

Blood Donations

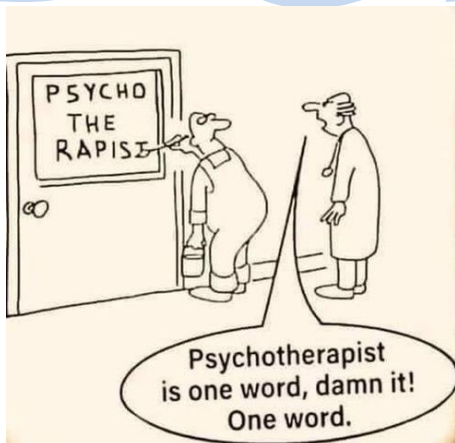
An Arab Sheik was admitted to the Hospital for heart surgery, but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to have some of his blood type stored in case the need arose. As the gentleman had an extremely rare type of blood that couldn't be found locally, the call went out around the world. Finally, a Scotsman was located who had the same rare blood type. After some coaxing, the Scot donated his blood for the Arab. After the surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman a BMW, a diamond necklace for his wife, and \$100,000 US dollars in appreciation for the blood donation. A few months later, the Arab had to undergo a further corrective surgery procedure. Once again, his doctor telephoned the Scotsman who was more than happy to donate his blood. After the second surgery the Arab sent the Scotsman a thank-you card and a box of Quality Street chocolates. The Scotsman was shocked that the Arab did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had anticipated. He phoned the Arab and asked him: "I thought you would be more generous than that. Last time you sent me a BMW, diamonds and money, but this time

you only sent me a lousy thank-you card and a crappy box of chocolates?" To this the Arab replied: "Aye laddie, but I now have Scottish blood in me veins."

Church Ladies with Typewriters

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

1. Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
2. At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.
3. Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
4. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
5. The Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
6. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.



7. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
8. Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Time for more Dad jokes

1. Dad, are we "pyromaniacs"? Yes, we arson.
2. How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.
3. I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.
4. My friends and I have named our band 'Duvet.' We're a cover band.
5. Why is 'dark' spelled with a k and not c? Because you can't 'c' in the dark.
6. What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.



7. Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar, and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."
8. I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

The Cynical Philosopher.

1. I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble but shouldn't that be an even number?
2. I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.
3. Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?
4. Apparently money talks... all mine ever says is good-bye.

5. I can't understand why women are okay that JC Penny has an older women's clothing line named, "Sag Harbor."

6. Canada is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

7. The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because almost nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T. Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis, and he stayed drunk ALL the time.

Answers to the History Quiz

1. (b) On the floor, to the left of the clutch
2. (b) To sprinkle clothes before ironing.
Who had a steam iron?
3. (a) 1946 Studebaker.
4. (a) With clamps , tightened by a skate key, which you wore on a shoestring around your neck.
5. (c) Polio. In beginning of August, swimming pools were closed, movies and other public gathering places were closed to try to prevent spread of the disease..
6. (c) Hiding under your desk, and covering your head with your arms in an A-bomb drill.
7. (a) Princess Summerfallwinterspring. She was another puppet.
8. (a) The widely famous 50's group: The Inkspots.

A Millennial wedding proposal

Dearest Dad,
I am coming home to get married soon, so get your cheque book out. I'm in love with a boy who is far away from me. As you know, I am presently living in Australia ... and he lives in Scotland. We met on a dating website, became friends on Facebook, had long chats on Whatsapp. He proposed to me on Skype, and now we've had two months of a relationship through Viber. My

beloved and favorite Dad, I need your blessing, good wishes, and a really big wedding.

Lots of love and thanks.

Your favorite daughter,
Lilly

DAD'S RESPONSE:

My Dearest Lilly,
Like Wow! Really? Cool!

I suggest you two get married on Twitter, have a honeymoon on Tango, buy your kids on Amazon, and pay for it all through PayPal. And when you get fed up with this new husband, sell him on eBay..

Love,
Your Dad

NWRTA EXECUTIVE, 2024-2025

(results of June 10th AGM)

PRESIDENT: Kerry Babiuk

VICE PRESIDENT: Karl Moser

SECRETARY: Patricia Tanaka

TREASURER: Orrie Babiuk

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: Kerry Babiuk

PROGRAMS COORDINATOR: Janet Sammon

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Sydney Dean
Jenni Lynnea
Roxsane Tiernan
Carmen Wiseman

Carmen is also our travel editor and historian. She is looking for anyone who has been on an interesting trip, anywhere in the world. Please contact me with your trip idea and I will forward it to Carmen.