

RIVERSIDE

REFLECTIONS

Newsletter of the New Westminster
Retired Teachers
January 2023



Duke of Connaught High School - 1917

The President's Comments

by Kerry Babiuk

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year; one that is filled with good health, happiness, and time to spend with family and friends.

There have been times in the past two years that I have become quite frustrated and stressed out. I worried that the NWRTA wasn't meeting the objectives of our members. The cancellation of the Hume Park year-end picnic, the cancellation of the Canadian's baseball game, the cancellation of the beer tasting evening, and that only 11 members came to the Hell-o-we'en brunch have all led to my angst. I was frustrated that Covid was creating so much fear and isolation within the public sector and consequently depriving people the opportunity to return to a 'normal' life. However, after our Baskets for Bursaries, I had a renewed sense of hope. This event reminded me that despite the setbacks and misfortunes, that being surrounded by an incredibly supportive Executive, friends, and

family, things will work out and the NWRTA will be successful.

The Baskets for Bursaries had 21 one people in attendance and they raised over \$700.00. We had enjoyable lunch and were thoroughly entertained by "The Old Broadway".

I will leave you with a quote from Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier' ...".

Duke of Connaught High School

(Opening photo)

Duke of Connaught High School was located just east of the present day City Hall. It was part of the land that was intended to be used for the provincial legislature, but was not needed when Victoria was designated as British Columbia's capital. The cornerstone for the school was laid by the Duke of Connaught on September 21, 1912. The school was torn down in 1953.

On February 14, 1921 the New Westminster Teacher's Association went on an "illegal" strike. Since the founding of the BCTF in 1917, only the Victoria local had defied their employer. George Ford, the president of the NWTA and secondary teacher at Connaught, told the NW School Board that the New Westminster teacher's salaries were falling behind other districts. The strike lasted all week and finally over the weekend an agreement was made between the board and teachers. Unfortunately, the salary issues were not settled until late December. George Ford went on to become the president of the BCTF in 1929.

This photo is from the New Westminster Archives. This is item 2425 and can be located at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2rb59sdt>

For a more detailed account of the 1921 strike go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/44atxa2s>

2023 - 2023 NWRTA Meetings

Late February/Early March

Possible topics for this meeting are:

Roxsane Tiernan - "Art and Soul", Jerry Tiede - "Aging in Place", Miriam Soet/Sharon Yeadon - El Camino walk, Sylvia Olsen - "Life on a Reserve with her First Nations husband", Daphne Bramham - various topics, Dave Doroghy - author and business executive who became a bee keeper, and Barb Mikeluc - programs available through Cosco.

Please note that these are possible topics and the Executive would love to hear what you might be interested in attending. You come up with the idea and we will do the planning.

WHERE: at a restaurant where we can hold a meeting and have a great lunch.

Late April/ Early May

Guided walking tour

Possible choices - historical downtown New West, Heritage homes of Queen's Park, Fraser Cemetery **OR????**

June

Year end meeting/ AGM

Possible ideas: Picnic, Best Ball Golf, Lawn Bowling, Bocci Tournament

THINGS TO DO

1. Upstart and Crow is the name of a truly unique independent bookstore on Granville Island. It is unique in that their program, Stories in a Box, is the perfect gift for the person you just don't know what to get for Christmas or birthday or.... The way it works is that the reader completes a questionnaire outlining their preferences and personality. This information is used to curate books that that person would be interested in. The reader then receives a book once a month for the period chosen. I did this last year for my university

granddaughter. She loved every book she received and looked forward to the mail every month. I highly recommend this little independent bookstore.

2. About Time with Tom Allen

Every afternoon from noon to 3:00p.m., I am indisposed. The pride of Canada, CBC radio 2, presents a wonderful program of "classical" music. The host is a professional musician, Tom Allen, whose incredible knowledge of musical genres and musicians is like a university undergraduate program. He often has audience participation sections. For example during the spring he had Duelling Divas. He would choose two recordings of the same aria. He did not divulge the names of the singers. We were able to vote on the performance we enjoyed the most based simply on what we liked. He tallied the votes and reported, the next week, the winner of that showdown. He also revealed the name of the performance with the least votes. He would read emails of some explaining their choices. This continued for several weeks until it was narrowed down to the final two. We were often surprised by the name of the diva who was voted out early like Cecilia Bartoli. I learn so much from his choices and his explanation of how it has contributed to the history of music from around the world. I think we are so lucky to have the CBC with such great programming like this.

submitted by Sydney Dean, Member at Large, NWRTA

MORE THINGS TO DO

Bernie Legge Theatre

Rumors by Neil Simon

February 2 - 25, 2023

Seniors - \$15.00

Anvil Centre

In: British Columbia BC World Music Collective

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2023

Time: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Cost: Free

Cancer Survivor Exercises
Stay Strong at Century House

Date: Tuesdays and Thursdays
for 12 weeks, Starting Jan. 12th
Time: 3:30 - 4:30p.m.
Cost: \$52.00
Register: Century House 604-519-1066

DINING WITH PATRICIA

Travel and Food

For relaxing sightseeing, with good food and comfortable accommodations, cruises are the ultimate. Most Princess cruises that are a week long have a lobster night. There is also prime rib and steak for those who prefer beef to seafood as well as many other entrees. If you enjoy afternoon tea, this is served most afternoons. The desserts are decadent with chocolate creations, crème brûlée, and so many others. We walked a lot, went to the gym, and took the stairs instead of the elevator just to balance the dining pleasures. And don't forget the wine.



Lobster night

San Francisco

In San Francisco, Chinatown has the oldest fortune cookie factory in the USA. They also make very decorative fortune cookies suitable for gift giving. Our Purdy's also makes chocolate covered fortune cookies just for the Chinese New Year. A good dessert after having Dim Sum, perhaps at the Spring Garden on Twelfth Street or one of the other Chinese

restaurants in Vancouver and Richmond. Gung Hay Fat Choy!



San Francisco Chinatown

THE BOOK CORNER:

A Seamstress, An Orphan, A Secret and...Paris

Historical Novels Book Review

Ah, Paris! The beautiful capital city of France. But what might this amazing city have in common with an orphan, a seamstress and a secret?? It is the setting for three of the many historical fiction novels written by author Natasha Lester. She began writing historical fiction in 2016 combining her passion for history, travel, research, and fashion.

First up in this dual timeline Paris series is *The Paris Seamstress* –a story that weaves its way back and forth between the 1940's and the year 2015. It is about a young seamstress in WWII Paris who flees from her home to go to New York City with only a suitcase and her sewing machine. She is headed for the Garment District in hopes of becoming a fashion designer. But what is happening decades later in 2015? Hmmm! Grab a copy and discover the connection between the two cities.

Next is *The Paris Orphan*. Imagine an American soldier and a beautiful photojournalist in Occupied France helping to give a little girl something she has never

had...a family. Fast forward to 2005. A photo curator comes to a beautiful French chateau to curate a famous wartime photo collection. What will she discover? Secrets? Heartbreak? Another fascinating WWII novel to capture your attention.



And lastly *The Paris Secret* – a story about three women WWII Sky Pilots, a wardrobe of Dior gowns, and a secret that has been kept for sixty years. And let's throw in a present day Australian setting to really make it interesting. It might have you wondering about how pilots, Dior gowns and Australia are all connected over time.

I have read all three of these books and enjoyed every one of them. Gripping and enthralling, they are all a worthwhile read. If you are a WWII genre historical fiction reader, these would be a wonderful addition to your reading list.

Au revoir - until we meet again in the next book review.

by Devon Codesmith

AND YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW MUSIC

...Edition#10

Contributed by: Seedy

Welcome to 2023, a good time to get back to the original theme of this column, after straying a bit last year. To briefly review, the purpose of these articles is two-fold: to show you other types of music (other than those 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. Indeed, there is little restriction on an artist with heart and vision.



Let's start the year with a simple yet very popular tune. I say simple, as it has only four chords (plus a bit of colour in the bridge); and popular, as it has been around for over ninety years, and recorded by numerous artists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Rod Stewart, Mel Torme and Elvis Presley (none of which “made the cut” to be included in this article). Research indicates *Blue Moon* was written by Rogers and Hart in 1934, and this Boswell Sisters 1935 rendition is the original recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiwnOHUHXc0> . With those harmonies and hairdos, I expected Rudolph Valentino to show up! Clearly, a sound of music we don't hear often any more.

Next, we move to the big band era of the late 30's/early 40's. As indicated above, there are many excellent tunesters who covered this song in this era, but as the bobby-soxers of the day used to scream; we want YOU, Frankie!! So, here he is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJUrp-cGQyQ>

For Canadian content, I had already selected *Ian Tyson's* rendition. Ian, who was alive when I started putting this together, was a Canadian icon and one of my favourites. I won't try to re-iterate his obit here, will just say the simplicity of this rendition really moves me: a man, a voice, an acoustic guitar, a lotta heart, and very little else = a LOT of emotion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=moXFk7>

[mhOTQ](#) How very Canadian, eh? Not a bit of pretence, just total simplicity.

Regular readers will KNOW what's coming, and the editor is counting the words, so here is: [The Marcells Blue Moon - YouTube](#)
Now THERE'S a toe-tapper!

Hope Y'all enjoy listening to this stuff as much as I do. For next time, and based on a suggestion by my friend OB, we plan to take you from Classical to big band to Cuban.

MUST HAVE TOYS OF THE 50'S

1. 1950: The Magic 8 Ball, Silly Putty
2. 1951: Colorforms
2. 1952: Mr. Potato Head, Paint-by-Numbers, Slinky Dog
3. 1953: Matchbox cars
4. 1955: Gumby, Play-Doh, Tonka Truck
Mouseketeer Typewriter
5. 1957: Corn Popper, Pogo stick, Frisbee
6. 1958: Hula Hoop, Pull-a-Tune
7. 1959: Barbie, Fisher-Price: Little People



Corn Popper

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Having A Best Friend

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point in their journey they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

"Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to go for a swim. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but his friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

"Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now, you write on a stone, why?" The other friend replied, "When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

Moral of the story:

Don't value the things you have in your life. But value who you have in your life.



KERRY'S TOONIES WORTH

or

One Step Away from Relevance

The Hall Mirror

Patty staggered home very late after another evening with his drinking buddy, Finn. He took off his shoes to avoid waking his wife, Kathleen. He tiptoed as quietly as he could toward the stairs leading to their upstairs bedroom, but misjudged the bottom step. As he caught himself by grabbing the banister, his body swung around and he landed heavily on his rump. A whiskey

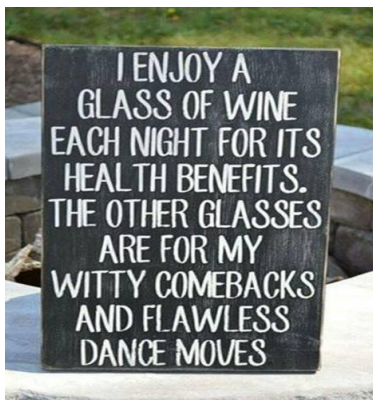
bottle in each back pocket broke and made the landing especially painful. Managing not to yell, Patty sprung up, pulled down his pants, and looked in the hall mirror to see that his butt cheeks were cut and bleeding. He managed to quietly find a full box of Band-Aids and began putting a Band-Aid as best he could on each place he saw blood. He then hid the now almost empty Band-Aid box and shuffled and stumbled his way to bed.

My doctor said only one beer a day



So I ordered only one

In the morning, Patty woke up with searing pain in both his head and butt and Kathleen staring at him from across the room. She said, "You were drunk again last night weren't you?" Patty said, "Why would you say such a mean thing?" "Well," Kathleen said, "it could be the open front door, it could be the broken glass at the bottom of the stairs, it could be the drops of blood trailing through the house, it could be your bloodshot eyes, but mostly.....it's all those Band-Aids stuck on the hall mirror.



Idiosyncrasies of the English Language

We'll begin with a single box, but the plural is boxes; however the plural of ox becomes oxen not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese, yet the plural of moose would never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice; yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn't the plural of a pan be called pen?

If I spoke of my foot and show you my feet, and I give you a boot, would a pair not be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth, why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him, but imagine the feminine, she, shis and shim.



"My mom is an English teacher and she says Santa's elves are subordinate clauses."

More Fun with the English Language

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert before crossing the desert.

7. Since there was no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. They were too close to the door to close it.
9. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
10. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.



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.

Seniors' Morning thoughts

1. "The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us." – Bill Watterson
2. I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand. Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it the most never use it.
3. It's not my age that bothers me, it's the side effects.

4. I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on trash day.
5. I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the Produce Department trying to open this stupid plastic bag.
6. My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen, and I have no clue where the music is coming from.
7. Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.
8. She says I keep pushing her buttons. If that were true, I would have found "Mute" by now.
9. So, you've been eating hot dogs and McChickens all your life, but you won't take the vaccine because you don't know what's in it?
10. There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. The truth is, once you get old you stop being polite and start being honest.

We are not aging, we are ripening to perfection.

Religion at its Best

Paddy was visiting his cousin in New York. He was patiently waiting and watching the traffic cop on a busy street crossing. The cop stopped the flow of traffic and shouted, "Okay, pedestrians." Then he'd allow the traffic to pass. He'd done this several times, and Paddy still stood on the sidewalk. After the cop had shouted, "Pedestrians!" for the tenth time, Paddy went over to him and said, "Is it not about time ye let the Catholics across?"

And the Fight was on

I was out for dinner with my wife at our local bistro. The waiter, comes up to us and asks me what we would like for our mains. "I would like T-Bone steak, medium please." He replied, "Are you not concerned about the mad cow?" To which I then said "No, she will order for herself." And that's when the fight started....

**I asked my wife if
I was the only one
she'd been with.**

**She said yes, all
the others had been
nines and tens...**

I Just Don't Understand

I go to the grocery store and buy: a pound of sliced ham wrapped in plastic, a loaf of bread in a plastic bag, a gallon of milk in a plastic jug, a pack of napkins wrapped in plastic, a ready-made salad in a plastic container, a plastic bottle of mustard, and a plastic bottle of ketchup. Then the clerk won't give me a plastic bag to carry it home because the plastic bag is bad for the environment.

**The biggest test of my
patience throughout
this entire pandemic has
been opening a plastic
produce bag without
licking my fingers.**