

---

# THE BRIDGE

---

**KTRTA Newsletter** *Editor: Donna Sharpe [onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com](mailto:onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com)*

## Letter from the Editor

I return once again to think about the Spring Summer issue of *The Bridge*. While we are still dealing with the effects of COVID, we have been very fortunate to have had time together at our luncheons. We have carefully followed the safety protocols at each get-together, requiring everyone to show their vaccination card on entry. Mask wearing was optional once seated at the tables during the final two sessions of the 2021-2022 season (March and April), with some people choosing to continue wearing their masks and others choosing to leave their masks off. Our February get-together had the theme of Valentine's and Lunar New Year. Everyone came with their story about their love of animals; some of these are included in this newsletter. We held our Silent Auction at our March meeting, and at our final meeting in April, we had elections and Annual General Meeting. In May, we had hoped to host an extra luncheon with the Merritt Retired Teachers, but that had to be cancelled as the Merritt Teachers could not attend. We hope to reschedule this to a later date. I hope everyone is having a healthy, active, and happy summer and that we will find ourselves in a more normal situation when we convene again in the fall.

Donna Sharpe

### The Bridge

Bridges provide a link, bringing people closer,  
Filling the space with new possibilities.  
Let's bridge age, status, race, differences  
With uncommon humanity.  
Let's bridge the gaps that chain us,  
Unlocking our grandest vision for today.

Barb Stankiewicz

## Message from the President

I hope everyone is enjoying our lovely summer weather. The wind has undoubtedly continued to blow in Knutsford!

I want to welcome our new Kamloops Thompson Retired Teachers Executive team. I sincerely thank all members for volunteering their time and effort to hold a position and providing for our membership.

### **KTRTA Executive 2022-23**

President - Marney Bethell

Vice President - Betty Karpuk

Past President - Sheila Park

Membership and Online Office - Noeleen Bunney & Troylana Manson

Secretary - Carolynne Miller & Caroline Ramsay

Treasurer - Sandy Baird

Programs - Rosemarie Stoltze

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

Sunshine - Mary Ellen Patterson, Anne Brogden

*THE BRIDGE* Newsletter Editor - Donna Sharpe  
Newsletter Committee: Margaret Catherwood, Libby Denbigh, Carolynne Miller, Sheila Park

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

I attended a BCRTA Meeting (via Zoom) on May 25 with presidents from all branches in BC. David Scott and several others were on the BCRTA cruise to Alaska and were at sea and could not attend the meeting. At this meeting, we learned that there would be a motion at the 2022 AGM and Conference scheduled for the end of September, to make a modest increase in our yearly membership fees, from \$42.00 to \$45.00. This is 1/10 of 1% of our most recent Cost of Living increase and is the first fee increase since 2001. In the future, our fee will be adjusted annually according to our cost of living increases.

Each branch president presented a brief report on the year's activities. Our Kamloops branch has held more monthly meetings province-wide than the other local branches. We have also informed our members with our monthly bulletins (Sept. - April) and bi-annual newsletter, *THE BRIDGE*. Most branches, at least in our zone, have not yet held any indoor meetings or luncheons since the start of COVID. I am so proud of the efforts of our executive team to organize meetings, follow safety protocols and keep in touch with our members. I hope to see more of you as our members become comfortable meeting in person and coming out for our monthly meetings and lunches starting in the fall of 2022.

I hope to see more of you as our members become comfortable meeting in person and coming out for our monthly meetings and lunches starting in the fall of 2022.

At the BCRTA meeting, presidents were encouraged to remind members that getting their travel insurance before booking a trip is essential as things open up and we start to travel

more freely. It has to do with trip cancellation policies. Our partner is Johnson Insurance. Go to the BCRTA website and click on their link. Johnson Travel Insurance has improved coverage to include travel cancellations due to COVID.

Our BCRTA Postscript magazine always calls for member submissions, and there are prizes for the best! You can share your travel, gardening, photos, baking, cooking, and scrapbooking adventures! Just go to the BCRTA website for more information. Our KTRTA newsletter, THE BRIDGE, is always looking for submissions, too. Just contact Donna Sharpe via [ktrta.onlineoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ktrta.onlineoffice@gmail.com).

Please note that the BCRTA conference is being held on Sept 30th this year; our local branch's September get-together will be held one week earlier, September 23, 2022. Be sure to mark your calendars! We have invited Merritt RTA to join us for the September meeting.

Happy summer, everyone. I am hopeful that the wildfires, heat domes, floods, and COVID restrictions will all stay away!

Marney Bethell

## KTRT Club Silent Auction



Marney Bethell and Bev Maxwell  
Photo Credit - Donna Sharpe

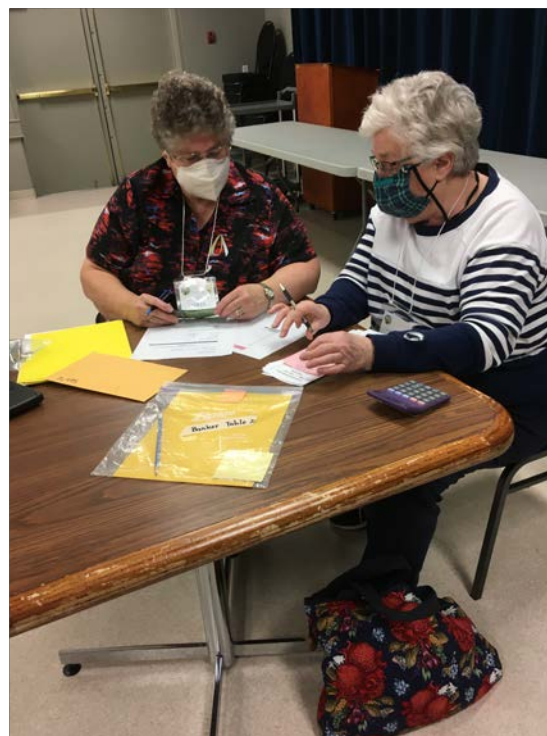
We held our annual silent auction at our March 25, 2022, meeting and luncheon. It was a fun event with lots of visiting and raising funds for our TRU bursaries and our CHES program in Tanzania. We had a good turnout of members and many items for the auction, filling eight tables and the stage front for the overflow.

There were baked goods, plants, craft items, household items, experiences, and many more lovely things to choose from.

Unfortunately, our bursary recipients could not join us because their practicum interfered with our date. However, they had each sent us a short note about their goals and life circumstances and a thank you for our financial sup-



Silent Auction Table  
Photo Credit - Donna Sharpe



Treasurer Sandy Baird and Carolynne Miller  
Photo Credit - Donna Sharpe

port. Bev and Glenda read these.

Thank you to all who participated and worked to make this event successful. We were able to raise money through the auction and through direct cheques that were collected at the tables. We raised \$1149.50 through the silent auction and \$230 to TRU, and \$205 to CHES through direct contributions.

Donna Sharpe

## A Few Words from the KTRT Club President

I look forward to working with the Board of Directors of the KTRT Club. Our main task is to raise funds to support our Endowment Bursaries at TRU. The executive team will meet before the September KTRTA general meeting to decide how much money we can donate to TRU and determine if we are financially able to contribute to the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES) this year.

I will be able to give an update at the September meeting concerning those donations and any other decisions related to donating through *The Club*.

Past President, Bev Maxwell, has left me with huge shoes to fill, and I appreciate her willingness to mentor me with this new position on the Board. Her commitment, organizational skills and delicious treats at our meetings have set high standards for me to follow. Our meetings and fundraising activities have always been fun, and I look forward to carrying on this tradition.

I sincerely hope everyone is enjoying an enjoyable summer – much deserved after the COVID restrictions and the fires of 2021. I am off to Vancouver Island on the first of three trips across the Strait. This outing is a Rock Rendezvous (exploration of old mines, caves and fossil sites) headquartered at Coombs. I am excited about what I might find and look forward to lots of beach walking time.

Pat Petley

**KTRT Club Executive 2022-23**

President - Pat Petley

Past President - Bev Maxwell

Vice President - Sheila Park

Secretary - Donna Walsh

Treasurer - Sandy Baird

CHES - Marlene Olineck

TRU and R.R. Smith Bursaries -  
Glenda Miles

Members-at-Large -

Carolynne Miller

Suzanne Legault

Sharon Olsen

Chiara Anselmo

Marney Bethell

Noeleen Bunney

## Canadian Harambee Education Society

The following brief article is an excerpt from the Spring 2022 Canadian Harambee Education Society [CHES Newsletter #76](#) and has been reprinted here to inform you about some of their work:

In the last newsletter, we informed readers of the funding we had received to enable us to complete the girl's hostel at Mwahu Secondary School. The project started in 2019 when 26 students from Stelly's Secondary in Central Saanich on Vancouver Island spent an industrious spring break that took construction from foundation to "walls up and roof on." Sadly, with no further funding available, the structure remained unfinished for nearly three years.

In December 2021, our CHES treasurer in Katesh, Naomi Saulo, was delighted to learn that funds were available to complete the dorm. She wasted no time arranging and coordinating a team that got to work in early January.

They plastered and painted the walls inside and out. The floor was finished, a ceiling was installed, and windows were fitted. There is no water at the school – it all has to be brought in with a tanker truck – so a pit latrine was built nearby. Within the hostel, shower stalls are in place, but the girls will wash using a litre or two of water from a bucket. The name was painted over the main entrance on the final day: STELLY'S HOSTEL.

The January 2022 newsletter invited CHES supporters to buy a bed for a Mwahu girl. Naomi determined that we needed 144 beds at \$92 a bed. You were wonderfully generous. Believe it or not, we were slightly over-subscribed. With the extra funds, we have been able to purchase mosquito nets and simple lockers or chests for all the girls. Many, many thanks to everyone who supported this project!

On April 7, with parents and local officials there to mark the occasion, the girls collected their belongings from the atrocious and toxic old dorm and, with smiles of delight on every face, moved into their new, clean, spacious accommodation.

Chris Harker

## KTRTA Pensions, Benefits, Member Well-Being

The BCRTA Member Well-Being Committee has been involved in meetings about Residential Care with other concerned groups in BC and Canada. There were issues with the provision of Residential Care before the Covid 19 pandemic, but many more cases have been acknowledged during the past months of COVID and the problems continue to be ongoing.

The BCRTA wrote to the Federal Government regarding the National Standards for Long Term Care. They will also be participating in other activities. The BC Seniors Advocates is carrying out a second (the previous one was done in 2016-17) survey on Residential Care.

You can participate by:

- 1) Volunteering to join the Survey Team that will interview residents and their families. Information can be found at [www.surveybcseniors.org](http://www.surveybcseniors.org) or call the Seniors Advocate Office at 1 877 952 3181
- 2) You can volunteer to be surveyed if you have a family member in a Residential Care Facility in BC – watch for the survey information at the facility or contact the Seniors Advocate number 1 877 952 3181 or email [info@seniorsadvocate.ca](mailto:info@seniorsadvocate.ca) ask about the survey happening in the facility where your family member lives.

You may be interested in joining a Facebook group - Action for Reform in Residential Care BC.

It is time to make changes; please consider getting involved. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions: 778 220 2812 or [spark1@telus.net](mailto:spark1@telus.net).

Sheila Park - Chairperson



## Donna Sharpe and Marjorie Brierton's Series of Remarkable Coincidences

I have an incredible story about a series of strange coincidences with my teaching colleague, Marjorie Brierton. I have told this story many times before, so you may have heard me tell it whenever I mention my trip to India.

Marjorie and I had become good friends after I started to teach at John Tod Elementary School. Near the end of our teaching careers, Marjorie and I often talked in our classrooms. Our first coincidence was discovered during one of these after-school chats. The conversation got around to India because that is where Marjorie grew up. I told her that I had a special place in my heart for India because my family had a connection, and I had heard many stories about a school in Agra that was started by two of my Great Aunts who had been missionaries in India. My parents had sent money to help the school finances over many years. I told Marjorie my childhood memory of meeting one of the current teachers/administrators when he visited our home on a trip to Canada. Marjorie asked what the school's name was, and I told her it was called *The Holman Institute*. My family's surname was Holman; my two Great Aunties were Charlotte and Sarah Holman.



Painting of Aunt Charlotte Holman



Aunt Sarah Holman

As I told her, she got the strangest look on her face, and I was very shocked when she announced that *The Holman Institute* was where she had done her practice teaching when she was studying to be a teacher many years ago. Our conversation continued, and we excitedly agreed that after we had retired, we would take a trip to India together, and she would show me the REAL India.



Eventually, I retired, and then a few years later, Marjorie retired, too. Then Marjorie moved to Calgary to be closer to her family. I lost track of her there. A few more years passed, Marjorie and I had lost touch, and I had no plans to go to India alone. That changed, however, when, at one of our KTRTA meetings, we had a special presentation by Trudy Bonbernard from a local group called *Developing World Connections*. She told us about their work in third-world countries helping with small projects undertaken by the community there. This type of travel would give one a special connection with the people there. India seemed to be one of the countries they organized a trip for. I thought, here it is! This is my chance to go to India, and I will have to figure out how to visit *The Holman Institute* when I am there. I expressed my interest in going on the *Developing World Connections* trip to India that day, however, I didn't officially sign up because the trip had not been organized yet.

In the meantime, a series of related coincidences were brewing. My husband and I were visiting family in Alberta. We went to his sister's home, and while there, my sister-in-law said to me, "Donna, there is a lady at our church who wants you to call her." She handed me a piece of paper with Marjorie's full name, address and phone number. "How on earth did you and Marjorie ever figure out that you had me in common?" was my surprised reply.

"It was easy," she said, "We were sitting together at a church supper, and I asked her about her career. She told me she had been a teacher in Kamloops. So I asked her if she had met my sister-in-law, Donna Sharpe." Of course, Marjorie told my sister-in-law that we had been good friends, that we had taught across the hall from each other at John Tod School for many years, and that, unfortunately, we had lost touch with each other after retirement. Marjorie then asked my sister-in-law to give me her phone number. I phoned her right away, and we had a good long chat on the phone. I excitedly told her I was considering going on a summer trip to India with *Developing World Connections*. Well, it just so happened that she would be in India that summer, too. She was working with a friend of hers to build a school in a small community called Fatehgarh. She was providing funding from her pension, and her friend, Rojishan, had the land on which the school was being built. She encouraged me to visit her while she was there, so I added two more weeks to the beginning of my trip so I could be in India with Marjorie and help her out at her school.

I was met at the airport in Delhi at 4:00 am by Marjorie and her friend Rojishan. We drove to his home in Agra, and because this was a Sunday, we got ready right away to go to the Church — at *The Holman Institute*! It was not very far from where Rojishan and his wife, Rotani, lived. I met the minister, who was also the school's administrator, and he invited us to come again on Monday morning when the school was in session. How exciting! I could go into a couple of classes and meet with the children, telling them who I was and my connection with their school. We spent the rest of the day sightseeing in Agra, and of course, we went to the Taj Mahal and a few other places.



The next day we set out on a 6-hour drive to Fahtegarh. Marjorie and I had accommodations in a building that had been used as a hospital, and Rojishan picked us up every day to take us to the new school, St. Paul's Brierton Academy. It had only been operating for about 3 or 4 months and only had about 75 students from pre-school to grade 3. I spent the rest of my two weeks helping out in classes and teaching students and teachers English. They wanted to have the school specialize in English Language Education. That was very popular in India at that time.



Thanks to our Indian friends and Marjorie, I did experience much of REAL India. On the weekend, we spent a day at the community where Rojishan had grown up, went to church there, had a lovely meal, and picked peanuts in the field.

One evening I attended a 125th Anniversary Party of their church back in Fahtegarh complete with much entertainment by the members.



Then when we went back to Agra, I participated in an engagement party for a friend of theirs, an arranged marriage; the couple had only met supervised but had not ever dated.

After a day back in their home in Agra, Rojishan, Rotani, and Marjorie took me to the airport in Delhi so that I could catch the plane for the second leg of my India trip with *Developing World Connections*.

I have always thought there was a greater force in the universe, working to see that I had the opportunity to visit *The Holman Institute* and enjoy an authentic trip to REAL India.

Donna Sharpe



## The Love of Animals

This topic, *The Love of Animals*, was introduced to us at the February 25th, 2022, luncheon. Rosemarie Stoltze asked our members to share stories and photos of their beloved pets, or other animals, during our luncheon based on the Valentine's Day theme. Thanks to all who participated in this sharing activity. Many stories were told around our lunch tables. Some of you might like to read a sampling of the stories given to me. First up is this lovely story about Shivers, the coldest dog ever, as she was constantly shivering, hence her name.



## Shivers



Our lovely dog, Shivers, came to us as a puppy and lived with us for 14 years. She was a Basset/Sheltie cross with the Sheltie intelligence and the Basset personality - intelligent and calm. She slept a lot and was okay with being at home alone while we were at work. She would wake up when we got home as if to say, "Oh, you're here." As long as she was warm, she was quiet and content. But she was often cold, and she shivered a lot. The children on our street told us she should be named "Shivers," and the name stuck. She slept under blankets if at all possible.

Our son was moving and had a mirror propped up by our front door for several days. Shivers liked to go and see the puppy in the mirror. I had knit her a blue coat to wear outside to keep her warm, and when I put it on her, she went to look at the puppy in the mirror and immediately went and hid under the couch. Whenever I took out the blue sweater, she would run and hide. So, I knit another sweater for her; this time, it was a brown sweater, and somehow she was pleased seeing it on herself and wearing it - for whatever reason! Who says dogs are colour blind?

Joan Saunders

## Mountain Chickadees



At our cabin at Walloper Lake, we had a lot of birds and animals who became relatively tame. Most endearing were the mountain chickadees who just loved peanuts. If we broke a peanut into little bits, they would come to our hand and eat right out of it.

I remember one day going for a walk with our two black cats. My husband, Dick, had put some peanut bits in the brim of his cowboy hat and off we went, two cats running along the ground and a couple of chickadees flying along with us to get the peanut pieces from the cap!

I once took my class to our cottage at Walloper Lake for a field trip. I had them all lined up, sitting along the porch while I gave them instructions about where they could go and where not to go. I didn't want them on our neighbours' property. As I was pointing to the side, a chickadee landed on my pointed finger, and, well, you guessed it, that was the end of having my students' attention!

Donna Sharpe

## Daisy



I was Daisy's fourth owner, so it took nearly a year to overcome her separation anxiety. She was a tiny, gentle, and kind-hearted dog. We had eight years of happy times together.

Daisy especially liked to travel with me. Off we would go to the TRU campus or Peterson Creek. She also enjoyed longer trips to Barriere, Kelowna or Grand Forks. She was happy as long as she was with me. Once when strolling with me off-leash (as usual) at TRU, a woman wearing lovely traditional Native African attire came around the corner of a building. When she spotted us, she immediately and automatically jumped onto a small retaining wall at the edge of the lawn as she repeatedly and fearfully told us, "Keep away!" It was amusing that someone would

be anxious about a dog like Daisy, but I respectfully kept a straight face. This must have been an unexpected event for this student; she was not accustomed to seeing a dog off-leash. We passed by with no problems.

Anne Kelly

## Papageno



David purchased our cockatiel Papageno a few months before we got married. He was a very young bird, and we named him after the Birdman in *The Magic Flute*, an opera by Mozart. Papageno was a brilliant bird. He could say, "Whatcha doing?" and "Hi, Papageno." He could also do *The Magic Flute* tune with a whistle and imitate the sound of brushing teeth. Papageno liked to hang out on people's shoulders. He also enjoyed doing the lion tamer act where he would put his face in David's mouth and do his whistle while David's mouth was open.

One day when we came home, a friend of ours, who was living with us at the time, was sitting in the front yard looking up at the sky, calling out, "Papageno, come back!". Our bird was lost! He had flown away while being on our friend's shoulder while outside. We were very sad! David put an ad in the paper, and we got him back several days later. A neighbour had found our cockatiel. The neighbour luckily had a cage and some bird food. He realized that this cockatiel was a brilliant fellow and then looked in the paper to see if anybody was missing him. Sure enough, he found our ad in the local newspaper. He called us, and we came over to get Papageno. We gave the man a bottle of tequila as a thank you gift for returning him to us. It was a wonderful reunion with our good little friend!

After that, we kept Papageno's wing feathers clipped so that he couldn't fly very well!

When Papageno was about two years old, Dave and I went on our Honeymoon to Europe for a couple of months. Our cockatiel stayed at the Evergreen Lodge in Yosemite with David's sister and brother-in-law. He was their bar Parrot! Papageno learned to take care of himself and communicated his displeasure when people kept poking at him in the cage. Unfortunately, he had to deal with drunks sometimes. He was still an amiable bird with most people and liked to have his head scratched. Our special bird was delighted to see us when we returned to get him!

Papageno was our only bird for his first few years. After moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, we built a greenhouse on a southern exposure. Then we had some flight cages built. After that, we bought some more birds to keep Papageno company. Over the years, we purchased other cockatiels, lovebirds, budgies and finches from an excellent local source.

When we had Papageno, we had a variety of other birds, too. Most were not friendly with people; a few were tame. No bird was as charming. It was probably because Papageno

thought he was a person. He was around people all his life and got along with them very well. However, he did have a girlfriend for a couple of years, and her name was Penelope. She laid some eggs, but no babies hatched. Unfortunately for her, Papageno preferred to hang out with us. Eventually, Penelope would screech whenever her boyfriend was out of sight. It wasn't enjoyable! So we gave her to one of our friends that could provide her with more attention. When he became a much older bird, Papageno got arthritis in his feet and used his beak to help him climb the cage. It was unfortunate to see him lose his agility. He lived to be 20 years old and died peacefully in my hands late at night. We gave him a good burial, but we have a portrait of us with him on David's shoulder. It is a friendly reminder of him.

We kept birds in Las Vegas for another ten years until we moved to Canada. Now we enjoy birds in the great outdoors!

Rosemarie Stoltze

## Beau



This beautiful quilt was hand-made by Liz Brown several years ago. It features my former pet, Buddy. (Liz has been in New Zealand for several years with family and hopes to return to Canada this spring.)



Here is our nine-month-old Doberman, Beau. He keeps us very busy! We love him a lot. The breeder was holding him for a show dog, but a back tooth didn't come in, so he couldn't be shown. Lucky us, I think. He is a real handful. Fortunate for him for sure!

Mary Ellen Patterson



## Geordie

In this photo, I am getting ready to walk Geordie and several other canine friends! I like to take Geordie, weather permitting, along with all the others, for a walk around my Brocklehurst neighbourhood near the Orchard Court residences.

May Ince



## Neighbourhood Pet



My children, Brian and Brenda, are playing with the most adorable neighbourhood dog. Notice the date in the top left corner? Yes, 1965!

Mildred Kolody

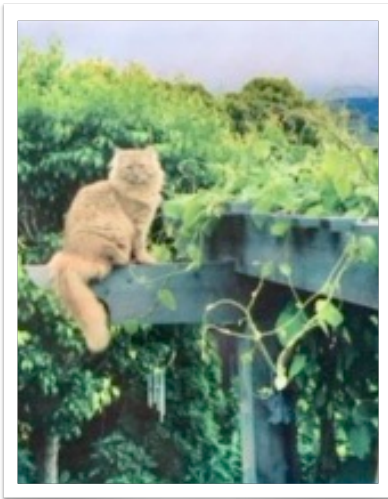
## Trek

Here is my granddaughter, Geneviève Laroche, and her dog, Trek. Trek is the ultimate adventure dog. He loves to go cross-country skiing and mountain biking. He also loves to catch sticks in his mouth!

Charlotte Reid



## Garfield



Garfield is my next-door neighbour's cat. He came to them through the Williams Lake wildfires. He is a large orange cat, probably a barn cat from one of the ranches. What a personality! One morning while getting ready for my walk, he appeared in the driveway and started rolling side to side. I bent down to pet him, and he grabbed my hand in his teeth. I soon learned that only with his permission can I touch him. He is about a foot and a half long and looks huge in his coat of orange hair, but he is skin and bones.

He is the 'Dandy' of the neighbourhood and brings many females to our yard to watch the birds feeding. Some days I find him on the Pergola gazing into our dining room window or trying to reach the bird houses. He would somehow get on the roof of the house by fence and tree.

I have several brown birds nesting in the houses on the south side of the pergola. We now have a wisteria going over the pergola and bird houses. He would lie along the back fence in the shade with his intent paramour facing the birdhouses. I have put chicken wire over the pergola to deter him.

He is quite a character because of his size, huge yellow eyes and especially his independence. He doesn't want petting, but to have you look at him and admire him by telling him how handsome he is as he rolls for you.

Marie Laroche

## THE BRIDGE Editorial Team

Donna Sharpe (Editor), Libby Denbigh, Margaret Catherwood, Carolynne Miller, Sheila Park.

Contributing Writers for THE BRIDGE Spring/Summer 2022 Issue: Donna Sharpe (Editor), Marney Bethell, Pat Petley, Sheila Park.

## Making Submissions to *THE BRIDGE*

*THE BRIDGE* editorial team is looking for articles from our members. Email your submissions to Donna Sharpe at [onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com](mailto:onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com). Submissions are welcomed on a wide range of topics, such as:

- Travel experiences – recommendations, adventures,
- Personal history of interesting characters and episodes while working in the education system,
- Creative endeavours, hobbies, sports,
- Community service, personal re-invention and celebration.

Authors agree to allow their submissions to be edited as needed. We appreciate submissions of articles and photographs. Donna Sharpe

Did you know? Many of our members receive *The Bridge* KTRTA newsletter online via email and our website. *Going paperless* improves our environmental stewardship and saves money on printing and postage costs.

Thank you for providing us with your email address - [onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com](mailto:onlineoffice.ktrta@gmail.com)

*The information in this KTRTA Newsletter is not dispensing legal, medical or financial advice. Opinions are those of the writers.*