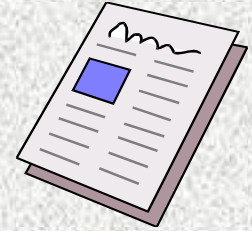


TALK

Third Age Learning at Kwantlen

August 2009



TALK'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION

TALK is celebrating 10 years of continued growth with an Oktoberfest. All members will receive an invitation in the mail and we hope you will plan to attend and celebrate.

Your admission will include two drinks, food, great oompa-pa music and a complimentary commemorative beer stein.

Admission: \$10 (members) and \$15 (non members)

Time: 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Mark October 17th on your calendar

Please register by October 9th so we can make sure we have enough for everyone.



Newsletter Committee

Elizabeth Bordeaux

Linda Coyle

Joanne Cunningham

Anand Ramanjooloo

Inside this Issue:

Oktoberfest 1

Programme Summaries.....2-4

Program 'Bites' 5

Board Lunch 5

History of Oktoberfest 6

Fall Courses 7

Profile: Marion Setterlund.....8-9

Andy Rooney's Things I've Learned.....10

History Lesson 11-12



OCTOBER 17, 2009

PROGRAMME SUMMARIES

Canadian Democracy - by Louise Hudson

Nick Loenen, former Richmond City Councilor, and BC MLA who has a M.Sc. in Political Science on studying voting systems worldwide gave a presentation on BC-STV to 16 TALK members.

His premise is that for BC to have a democratic government we need to change the voting system so that voters feel that their vote has counted.

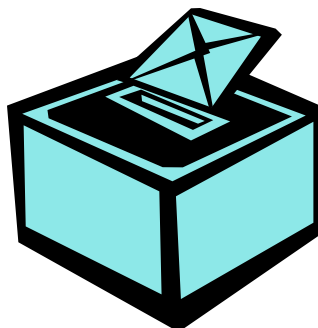
We will probably only have this last chance to change the system from one in which many MLAs get elected with only 40% of the popular vote; a system (first past the post) which is not used in most democracies in the world as it is so unfair; where thousands of people vote for third parties, but never see anyone representing them in the legislature.

The Liberal government appointed a Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform in 2003. This is important, as it was not politicians or political parties who were recommending the new voting system (BC-STV), it was 175 ordinary BC men and women who studied the present systems used around the world and 161 voted for recommending BC-STV.

They felt that this system was the best way for the voters to make their vote count. Although party lists will still be on the ballot, it is the voters who will choose whom they will elect. In this system more independents, more women and more people of colour will have a chance to be elected.

The system is used in Ireland, Malta, and in some local and senate elections in New Zealand and Australia. In Ireland the politicians have tried to change the system twice, but the people have voted against change. They love this system!

Yes, there will probably be coalition governments - but that means politicians will have to work together to find common ground and the legislature will be less adversarial.



BARD ON THE BEACH LECTURE AND PLAYS

A record number of TALK members attended Bard director and actor David Mackay's lecture on the two little-known comedies presented in this season's schedule. We had a preview of some of David's highly original ideas for *The Comedy of Errors*, which he directs, and learned details of plot, character and history of both that play and *All's Well that Ends Well*. Later, 38 TALK members and friends went to a matinee performance of *The Comedy of Errors* and 34 to *All's Well that Ends Well*. Below are reviews of both plays by members who attended.



A Comedy of Errors - By Wendy and Terry Fidgeon - June 13, 2009

What could be better than meeting one's friends on a sunny Saturday afternoon, the sky filled with kites on the adjoining beach. The good weather was part of the organization of Elizabeth Bordeaux, as were the booked seats.

The play is the shortest one that Shakespeare wrote, which is probably a good thing. Farce should be short and sweet. Gerard Ponsford muttered during a lull.... "*An 'Error of Comedies' would be more appropriate.*"

Why did we enjoy it so much? In two words - David Mackay. The minute the play opened it was obvious that his stamp was upon it, with his kind of humour and penetrating insight.

The plot reminded me of bedroom farces put on in theatres in the fifties, where couples rush in and out of bedrooms, never meeting. Or pantomime days where the Dame searches for someone who is directly behind, asking the audience for help.

Why was Christopher Gaze in drag anyway? [Gorgeous dress, my dear!] He was meant to be the Duke of Ephesus.

David managed to add to this farce of twins by adding to the fun with ad libs galore and satirical overkill of the "plot." There were a lot of very crude jokes, raising a reaction from today's audience, much as would have happened in Shakespeare's time.

The acting was superb, the timing impeccable, which one now expects as the norm from the Bard company.

There were many anachronistic jokes, such as using his crucifix as a cell phone to speak with God, off-beat jazz dancing and singing.



I loved the bit where someone walks through the stage with a sign reading "The end is nigh" and then reversed it to read, "In twenty minutes."

All in all, lots of fun. I think the Bard would have enjoyed it and although it is amazing that we still laugh at 400 year old jokes, a once in a lifetime experience is plenty for me.

“All’s Well That Ends Well” - by Deb Jack

Well, this is a first time of reviewing a play for me. To quote the programme: “...classified as a ‘problem play’...neither a comedy nor a tragedy....don’t offer clear solutions to the issues... poses more questions than it answers...makes it a fascinating and sophisticated psychological exploration.”

The play is set in the Victorian era; based on the costume bustle, I would guess around 1890. At Bard on the Beach they do a marvellous job of setting the stage with double-use items. For example, there were laundry lines strung along and across the stage, hung with a mixture of linens and lingerie. The line across the stage had sheets at either end. With gestures entirely in keeping with the scene, the actors pull the sheets open along the line, concealing the clothes, and with a pole propping the line up in the middle, suddenly it becomes the white sides of tents near the battlefield. The steps toward the back of the stage become ‘boxes, logs, whatever’, against which the soldiers loll. Minimum items on stage convey locale effectively. Action is not confined to the stage.

Special mention is required about the costumes, they are beautifully made, genuine, simply new. I was in the front row, scarce 6 feet from the stage – the detail was amazing. The actors are so good – one loses all sense of not being where the characters are and that what is happening is not real. It really is magic. I am not qualified to be a critic of actors, but Helena/Lois Anderson is good to watch, and easy to hear without microphone.

There was a lot to discuss after the play – much did not make sense. Why, for example, does Helena, a smart and capable woman, want Bertram, a self-centred, questionably competent, arrogant pill? Why, after one night together, which she has complexly engineered in a strange country having followed him after a marriage for which reluctance on his part is a mild description along with his refusal to consummate, to get pregnant and fulfill other of his criteria for staying with her in the marriage, does this woman act as if she has obtained the golden ball? Because marriage with nobility is a high achievement? And why does he, at the end, act as if he is madly in lust with her, even though he cannot recall sleeping with her? A baby/virility confirmation? Her connection with the King? So many questions, so much conjecture.

This play was written about 7 years after Romeo and Juliet – there is a Widow Capilet from Florence. There probably were all sorts of other references none of which I got.

Next year I’ll be in line.



PROGRAM BITES

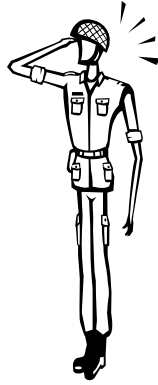
Memoir writing course

Ian's story:

“Joining The Army – On the 28th of July, 1945, I left home in order to join up with the full time army. And this meant proceeding down to the Royal Army Medical Corps depot in Aldershot. I had previously joined the RAMC, but as a territorial, which meant it was only part time, and this was associated with the Senior Training Corp at the university.

I was therefore able to proceed down to the depot in uniform, with the rank of Captain, which certainly created surprise amongst the staff who did not expect to see someone who was already in the army. We spent three weeks learning about the army and there was nothing very spectacular. We would be taken out on cross country running in order to try to get ourselves fit and we would be led by a lieutenant colonel who tried to keep up together using a small hunting horn such as the one which I later bought and used on various different occasions.”

Cheers, Gail & Ian Grant



TALK BOARD JUNE LUNCH

The TALK Board had their annual June meeting and lunch at the home of Board Member, Phil Warren. The Board quickly conducted their business and then spent much time eating and admiring Phil and Dee's beautiful garden. While most TALK business stops for the summer, the Anniversary committee will be busy getting ready for the big celebration on October 17th.



Standing: Phil Warren, Eileen Fuller, Linda Coyle, Brian Bjarnason, Anand Ramanjooloo, Hans Frie, Priscilla Bollo
Sitting: Joanne Cunningham, Sylvia Wiest, Adrienne Corbett



Hostess:
Dee Warren

TALK 2009 AGM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

1:30 – 2:00 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM

BLDG. G (soon to be called Cedar Bldg.)

Plan to attend the AGM before the Oktoberfest

We promise to make it short.

TALK IS CHEAP !

The TALK Board voted to change the membership fees from \$20 to \$10 per year and the Philosophers' Café to \$2 per café. It is hoped that this will be sustainable and will encourage people to join for the year in September.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OKTOBERFEST by Elissa Haney (from internet)

Oktoberfest isn't just for Germans anymore. People have flocked to **Germany** from all parts of the globe to participate in the world's largest annual festival for nearly 200 years. In addition to the two-week celebration in **Munich**, the Bavarian capital where the tradition began, Oktoberfest is enjoyed in one form or another in cities and towns worldwide.

Ludwig's "Royal" Party

So how did this global party get started? (And why didn't anyone think of it sooner?) Prince Ludwig of Bavaria, who was later crowned **King Ludwig I**, wanted his people to share in the celebration of his marriage to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on October 12, 1810.

Ludwig organized a horse race and invited all the people of Munich. The royal party drew about 40,000 guests - a major rager, by ordinary standards, but only a small fraction of the 6.4 million people at Oktoberfest in 1997. A good time, and copious amounts of **beer** were apparently had by all that first year. It was decided that the horse race would be held again in 1811, this time in conjunction with the state agricultural show.

Modern Munich celebration

Although the horse race was eventually abandoned, many characteristics of the early Oktoberfest celebrations have been retained, if not expanded upon. Munich's annual celebration is still held on the original site, dubbed *Theresienwiese* ("Theresa's fields"), in front of the city gates. The agricultural show continues to be a feature, though it is only held every third year now. The tradition of beer and food stands, begun in 1818, continues today and is perhaps the most significantly developed aspect of Oktoberfest.

16 days, six million people, and some great big tents

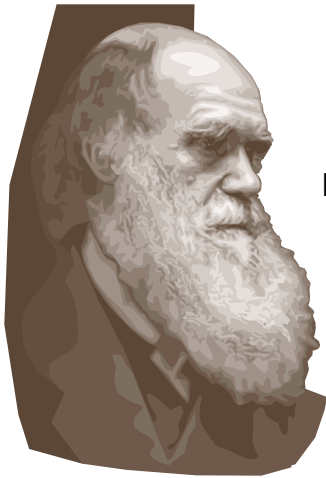
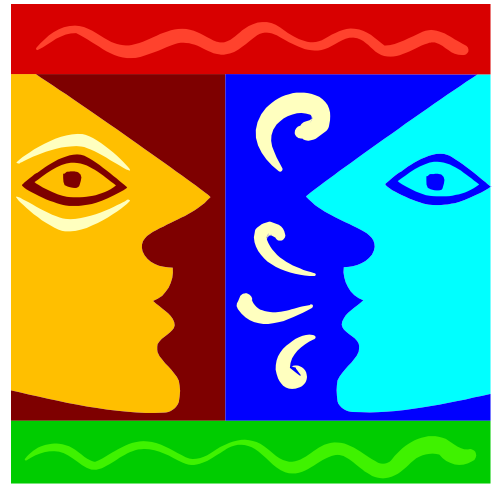
The modern celebration has replaced the small tents with giant brewery-sponsored **beer halls** that can hold up to 5,000 people apiece. The party has also grown in length, to become a 16-day extravaganza ending the first Sunday in October. The Oktoberfest in Munich has been cancelled at times in the past due to war and cholera. The festival opens with a grand parade of the Oktoberfest "landlords" and breweries, and features traditional dancers and costumed performers, the Riflemen's Procession, music...and, most definitely, beer!

Oktoberfakts

- In 1997, Oktoberfesters consumed more than 5 ½ million liters of beer, about 45,000 liters of wine, and almost 165,000 liters of nonalcoholic beer.
- The local name for Oktoberfest, "Wies'n," is derived from *Theresienwiese*, the name of the field on which the festival is held.
- The festival halls in Munich can seat 94,000 people.
- The beers that the Munich breweries produce specially for Oktoberfest contain 4.5 percent alcohol.
- Cincinnati, Ohio, which claims to hold the "largest authentic Oktoberfest" in the U.S., draws about 500,000 people to its celebration.

Fall Philosophers' Cafés

- What is philosophy?
- What effect is technology having on human evolution?
- What does 'smarter' really mean? Is intelligence the new class system?
- What does 'freedom' really mean?
- Bridging generations: Is it important or relevant?
- If you could extend your life span by 50 years, would you? Why?
- Should we value everyone equally? Do we?



Darwin



Evolution

FALL COURSES

Darwin
Paranormal & Paradoxical
Burns Bog Tour
Travel Tips
Photography
Chinese Phoenix
All the World's a Stage
Music
Marshall McLuhan
Women in History
Canada as Sanctuary
Ancient Kingdoms

PROFILE : MARION SETTERLUND

I became interested in life-long learning at an early age, actually the year before I graduated from high school. I joined 149 other Canadian girls in Montreal preparing to board the Duchess of Atholl to sail to Great Britain for the coronation of George VI. After three glorious weeks in London, including Coronation Day in front of the Palace and presentation to Mary, Queen Mother, at her residence, we were billeted all over England. For three weeks I attended school in Bristol. On the return trip on the Empress of Australia we almost hit an iceberg. Little did I realize how much I would be connected with Australia later in life.



Two years later our country was at war. Men from all over the Commonwealth visited our small town in Richmond, Quebec. I married one of them, and we had one year at Abbotsford, B.C. where he trained pilots. George went overseas in 1944. After the war, we settled in Quebec and had three sons. In 1958 George accepted a position in the Rumford Paper Mill and we moved to Maine, U.S.A. for 7 years. David was a toddler; Rod was in kindergarten and Grant in high school. Rod was moved up to Grade 1 and the entire class lined up to shake his hand. It was the beginning of making many lifetime friends. As a non-citizen, I was invited to a Town Meeting. I was hooked. I had to find out more about their system of government. A course on American Government at the University of Maine, in Portland, ninety miles away, provided the opportunity. It was the early Kennedy years. Grant was now at Boston University. The Vietnam War was on. We are going back to Canada, this time to the west coast. In Maine they gave us a street party before we left. We were involved with the community, especially with development of the ski area. We left with lifetime memberships to ski there. Grant followed his father in order to begin training for his commercial pilot's license in Langley. I sold the house and drove out with the two boys and the dog. Plans for the new mill in Prince George (PG) were completed and we left Vancouver regretfully. However, the boys were soon in school and back on the competition ski circuit, only the meets were a distance from PG. In the summer, daylight lasted until 11 pm and the golf was good. Grant flew up and gave us a ride. When he got his license, he worked to make money for more flight hours. Finally he returned to the University of Maine for a four-year degree in Geography. We went east again. By a circuitous route we ended up in Saint John, N.B. Rod was in Grade 12. I could not contain my glee when I saw up on the hill at the confluence of two rivers a university UNBSJ, an extension of UNB in Fredericton. I borrowed a Grade 12 math book and registered for the fall. The next year Rod joined me. A problem arose with two of us in the same Calculus class where the teacher seated her students alphabetically. I moved to another class where I found a teacher with infinite patience. We enjoyed studying American History together. We are on the move again, this time out of the country to Jamaica. Rod finished his Business Administration at Bishop's College. Grant took the dog to save a lengthy quarantine.

David was 14. In Jamaica he had some adjustments both scholastically and socially. The streets were dangerous. He traveled with a group, which included two Brits, one American and one Jamaican. The schools were very different from those in Canada or the U.S. Although it hurt us terribly to let him go, he went back to Vernon to continue his education. I was excited about learning economics in a Third World, but had to withdraw my registration at the University in Kingston when riots delayed classes for a month. We went back to Canada to PG once again. David joined us there. He completed Grade 12 with some of his old buddies. He had been in eight schools, and continued on for one year at the College of New Caledonia and then UBC to complete a degree in Chemical Engineering. Our return to PG meant I could take courses at the College too, having UNB confirm each one I took. For a couple of courses, the College had books sent up from U.Vic. UNB then set the exams. Rod had completed his time at Bishop's and went on to McGill for his C.A. Grant was accepted by Air Canada for pilot training. George had some health problems and we went on a backpacking trip to Europe.

We ended up in Chilliwack, which is only a stone's throw from Simon Fraser University. I was five credits away from my degree and it was wonderful completing it there. Meanwhile Rod married Deb at her home in Australia; it opened up a new continent for us. Rod's first job was in Numbular in the Northern Territories. We took Bush Pilot Airlines from Cairns and a light plane across the Gulf of Carpentaria. It is an aboriginal reserve where the government brings several clans together. There are schools taught by whites. Rod's job was Postmaster, Banker and other accounting activities used to run a community. An aboriginal who was cranky at the Town Council threw a spear through the wall of Rod's office. If blood is drawn the feud is over. Someone got cranky when we were there so Rod sent us home to their house on stilts. A snake managed to get up the railing into the house when Kim was a baby in her crib. Deb jumped up on a chair and called Rod who came home with the aboriginal who looks after snakes. Aboriginals are a beautiful people, gentle and family oriented. Sometimes they prefer to go to the bush to live. We visited two of their camps. The children were having school under a tree. Campfire was a fun time, with a didgeridoo playing. We felt privileged. Kim was born in the Northern Territories but when Angela came along they moved back to Brisbane, which is a beautiful city six hundred miles north of Sydney. Rod got his Masters in Public Administration and went to work for the State. Deb got her PhD in Social Work and spent a career teaching at University of Queensland. Now they are both semi-retired and volunteer under the auspices of Nepal Australia Friendship Association, going to Nepal for two or three months every year. Deb just received an award from her University for her work with NAFA. Kim has taught in the outback for 3 years and she and Scott will move to Brisbane. Angela is home from London to work on her PhD. David has a son and two girls. Tom is in New York studying Acting. Kirsty goes to UBC this fall and Nicole has two years to go in school. I have enjoyed learning some rules of soccer and volley ball. Grant, retired from the 747 run to Frankfurt, comes to visit. There's TALK & Friends.

Editors note: Marion has served on the TALK board and on the marketing committee where she used her communication skills to assist us in advertising and marketing TALK. She continues to attend TALK courses and has been a loyal supporter for 10 years.

Andy Rooney - A man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words.



The things I've learned -

- The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.
- That when you're in love, it shows.
- That just one person saying to me, "*You've made my day!*" Makes my day.
- That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- That being kind is more important than being right.
- That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- Sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.
- That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.
- That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
- That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
- That life is tough, but I am tougher.
- That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
- That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- That one should keep his words both soft and tender because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- That everyone wants to live on the top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

HISTORY LESSON

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.



Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, *"Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"*

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, *"It's raining cats and dogs."*



There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, *"Dirt poor."* The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: a thresh hold.

(Getting quite an education, aren't you?)

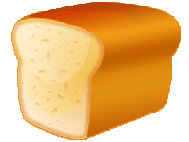
In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.



Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and chew the fat.

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.



Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.



And that's the truth. Now, whoever said History was boring !!!

So get out there and educate someone! Share these facts with a friend as I just did! !

HISTORY