

The Centre News

Dec. 2023

cssca@shaw.ca

President's Message

I can't believe it is almost 2024! Just three years ago, the Centre was closed at this time due to COVID. I am very confident that the Centre is now back in full swing.

Our Christmas Lunch was a big hit. Everyone enjoyed singing along with the Centre Carolers. What can I say about *The Twelve Days of Christmas*; it was a hoot and all were smiling -- some even chuckling. The Carolers did a great job! Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this a very enjoyable and entertaining afternoon.

Our Craft and Bake Sale was also a success, bringing in more than \$2,400 for the Centre. During the sale, the Jammers expertly entertained us with their festive songs. Thanks again to all of the volunteers; we couldn't do the sale without you.

The Executive and Board of Directors wish you and your family the very best of the holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

*Dale Broad,
President*

Coming Events

Hot Dog Day

Dec. 20 at noon

Christmas Coffee Break

Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. until noon

New Year's Eve Social

Dec. 31 from 6 p.m. until midnight

Centre Closure

Dec. 22 until Jan. 3

Bingo

Jan. 3 and 17, 1 to 4 p.m.

Raconteurs

Jan. 5 at 2 p.m.

Art Appreciation

Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.

Hot Dog Day

Jan. 17 at noon

Potluck Lunch

Jan. 18 at noon

Speaker's Series: Stephen Hume

Jan. 19 at 2 p.m.

Lunch Bunch

Jan. 25 at 11:30 a.m. at The Prairie Inn



Holiday Get-together!

By Krystina Manning

Please join fellow members for a holiday get-together on December 28th. The activity room downstairs will be open from 10 a.m. until noon and the coffee and tea are on us. Contributions to the snack table are welcome but not necessary. Please use the BINGO entrance.

Have a wonderful Christmas, and we hope to see you on the 28th!



New Year's Eve Celebration

By Dale Broad

A New Year's Eve celebration will be hosted by members Barbara Jefferies, Sue Tribe and Ken Bull on December 31st at the Centre. This celebration is open to Centre members and their guests. Drop in between 6 p.m. and midnight for dancing and a celebration of the "dropping of the ball". Bring your own beverage and an appetizer or snack to share. Tickets are \$5 for members and guests and can be purchased at the Front Desk. Tickets must be purchased by

December 18. The Front Desk is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 a.m. to noon.

For further enquiries, please contact Ken Bull at 250 886-2901.

Now THAT'S Funny! Wraps up With Duct Tape

By Roger Boutilier

The 14th and final episode of *Now THAT'S Funny!* took place at 2:22 (p.m., of course) as The Possum Lodge gang invaded the Centre for fun and frolic on Friday, December 8th. Steve Smith was kind enough to bring along his friends Dalton, Mike, Ranger Gord, Animal Control Officer Ed Frid and, naturally, his nephew Harold.

The show started in an unusual way with circus master Roger quizzing the crowd of 15 using a pocketful of Red Green trivia questions. As eternity began to approach, he gave up and eventually Elizabeth Skaggs was awarded the grand prize of TWO FREE TICKETS to Steve's *This Could Be It!* Canada-USA tour based on the date of her birthday. Unfortunately for her, these were for the 2019 show in Nanaimo which this correspondent and his wife attended in pre-COVID times... but she was a good sport and posed for the camera shot anyway.

We looked at eight clips from Steve's career, extending from a prototype Red Green characterization in 1980 to much more polished segments in the early 2000s.

Funny stuff and told in a manner largely foreign today, devoid of vulgarity and profanity, and all the more humorous because the material is genuinely funny and delivered with professional timing and poise. That's what this series was intended to do --- show some of the last 50 years best comedians from Canada, Britain, and Trump-dumb whose work has endured the test of time.

We concluded by 3:33 (p.m., not a.m.) with the traditional Possum Lodge Man's Prayer: "I'm a man, but I can change, if I have to, I guess."

I would like to thank those who attended some of these sessions and, even more, those who assisted with reading the introductory biographies of each featured comedian(s).

Hopefully, this sortie will tweak the imagination of other Centre members to propose an activity or program.

If you have some interest or expertise to present, speak to the Board of Directors about leading such an interest group.

Travelling With Raconteurs

By Joan Boutilier

Although our raconteur reflections generally represent an eclectic mix of topics, we have recently embarked on

something of a travel theme, which promises to shape our offerings for the coming year.

In December, John Gunton shared stories and pictures from a 2,000+ kilometer trek the Guntons undertook around Northern British Columbia.

It was far more than a travelogue, featuring snaps of the exuberant Patricia in pretty places. John provided context for the extensive summer wildfires with an overview of wildfire prevalence over the past 100 years – and offered a surprising conclusion.

The sparse population of our vast northern expanse was put into perspective with global population trends over 10,000 years and prospects for the future if we fail to learn from the past.

He concluded with some tantalizing comments about upcoming energy requirements and a hint of topics under consideration for the Speaker Series, which John recently inherited. So much to think about!

John has enough content based on that excursion alone to plan a Part B for this talk which he will offer to us in February.

Wonderful Galapagos

Our first raconteur for 2024, Margaret Lounds, has travelled extensively around the world and enjoyed many cruises to exotic places. She has chosen to share with us a very unique experience which she particularly values.

Instead of a huge cruise ship with thousands of travellers, Margaret embarked on a boat which was small enough to allow her to get to know her fellow passengers. She appreciated the crew's efforts to conserve resources and to be environmentally responsible. And the LOCATION – well, it was nothing less than fabulous! Margaret and her fellow passengers revelled in the unique and extraordinary animals and birds, and the amazing progress of evolution on the isolated and protected Galapagos Islands.

For a unique peek into these natural wonders, join us on Friday, January 5 at 2 p.m. at the Centre. All are welcome – please bring a toonie to keep our Centre humming.

Winning Tickets!

Pat Tranter won the Knitting Group's blanket and Jamie McDougall, a sous chef at the Roost, won the Weaving Group's poncho. As of press time, the winner of the Fitness basket had not yet been determined.

Activities Update

By Lisa van Bommel

Tuesday Morning Socials: We are still looking for a volunteer coordinator for a new social activity hopefully beginning in the New Year. This gathering will be free. This new social will be an opportunity for members to drop in for a visit over a warm drink, a great way to meet new people and socialize. The

Tuesday Morning Socials will happen once or twice a month on Tuesday mornings depending on popularity. Coordinator responsibilities include opening and closing the Centre, making the coffee/tea, and collecting the coffee/tea money. Please email activitycssca@shaw.ca if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.

Potluck: Potluck leader Ann McMillan is looking for one or more people to help out with the set-up on Potluck days at 10:50 a.m. Please speak with Ann directly or email activitycssca@shaw.ca if you would like assist in these monthly gatherings. The next Potluck will be on Thursday, January 18th. A sign-up sheet will be available at the front desk.

Lunch Bunch: The next Lunch Bunch outing will be January 25th at The Prairie Inn. Sign up at the Front Desk in the new year if you are attending.

Weaving: The weaving group is currently full to capacity. You can still add your name to a waitlist if you are wanting to join. Please speak to weaving group leader Janis Ball directly or email activitycssca@shaw.ca for more information.

Now That's Funny: A big thank you to Roger Boutilier for leading *Now That's Funny* and bringing much appreciated laughter to our members over the past few years. The group met for its final gathering on December 8th.

Happy January Birthdays!

Jan. 3	Joanne McGowan
Jan. 6	Pat Timmerman
Jan. 7	Pat Browett
Jan. 9	Dale Broad

Jan. 9 Ruth Coldwell
Jan. 16 Felicity Streeten-Horne
Jan. 27 Michael Bird
Jan. 30 Marian Davies

Welcome New Members!

Doreen Stephen	Sylvia Kuzyk
Linda Strudwick	Diane Bagshaw
Teresa Lachowski	Barbara Madison
Judy Greer	Michou Szabo
Kathy Crawley	Jean Simpson
Jeanne Tweter	

Editor's Note: An apology to Jack Lusk for misspelling his name in last month's issue. Sorry, Jack!



President Dale Broad displays a photo of the Centre's opening ceremony. Members celebrated 40 years of having the Centre at this location.



The Writers' Circle Celebrates!

By Pat Gunton



Around the circle from left to right: Shelly Dennis-Orr, Randy Mains, Sharon Wright, Dorothy Sly, Krystina Manning, Lynda Miller, Mary Grant, Marilyn Soames, and Patricia Gunton.

The CSSCA Writers Group celebrated Christmas early with a November 30th gathering to recognise their fellowship over the past year at Pat Gunton's home. Each participant was invited to read a Christmas story they had written for the occasion. It is clear from the attached photo that a good time was had by all as we enjoyed salmon quiche, chocolates, Christmas cake with cheese and homemade Christmas cookies. Some wine was on hand!



Exercise Leader Barb Jefferies enjoys a laugh at the Centre's Baking and Craft Sale held on December 9th. Photo by Jan Ball.



Contributions to the Newsletter: if you would like to contribute news, writing, photography, recipes, or jokes to the newsletter, please send them to editor Shelly Dennis-Orr at sdennisorr@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2023

The Centre Carolers gave a spirited rendition of “The Twelve Days of Christmas”.



Valerie Thompson won the prize inside the Christmas crackers.



Janice Mercer won the 50/50 draw.



Geoffrey Cochrane won the candy can guessing game.



Gerie Turner won the door prize.



The scrumptious lunch was catered by Island Culinary Service.

More Photos!



The Centre's 40th anniversary at this location was celebrated on November 16 this year.

The Jammin' Seniors entertained at the Bake And Craft Sale.



Speaker's Series

Your new Speaker's Series Coordinator is John Gunton who is excited about taking over from Joyce Vezina. Joyce has dedicated seven years to finding speakers to keep us all informed and entertained at the Centre. She just won't quit however, as she has committed to jointly running the "hospitality" with Pam Brambell which will follow each upcoming presentation. Thank you so much ladies and Joyce in particular!



Pull out your calendars for 2024 and mark down 2 p.m. on each third Friday of every month (except July, August, and December) I am putting together a program of stimulating speakers presenting an eclectic range of exciting topics. While details will be confirmed for each talk as soon as I have them, I can invite you to a presentation on January 19th to be given by Stephen Hume ...



"The Impact of the Scots on Modern British Columbia"

Close enough to Robbie Burns Day for a bit of a Scottish theme! Many of you will know Stephen as a journalist for over 50 years, mostly with the *Vancouver Sun*. Full of stories, he is an entertainer extraordinaire and we must be prepared for much levity. Details to follow.

After Stephen in January, I have a long list of speakers covering a range of topics such as Seaweed Aquaculture in Sidney. Then on March 15th (close enough to St. Patrick's Day) Pearse Moroney will unravel some Irish history and perhaps tell us who St. Patrick really was! Other speakers will cover such topics as criminal justice, the history of vaccination (from smallpox to malaria), Dean Park history, Yorkshire stories and poetry, taxi driving in the Middle East and much more. Watch this space as the calendar evolves.



Most importantly is YOU. If you should have a topic you would like to speak about, perhaps your passion, or if you know someone who you would like to hear speak, please send me a note at geogunton@shaw.ca or give me a call 250-514-4026. Remember every third Friday at 2 p.m.!

Weekly Activity Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aerobics 9:00- 10:00am		Aerobics 9:00 - 10:00 am	Scottish Country Dance 11 :00am - Noon	Aerobics 9 :00- 10:00 am	Jammin' Seniors 9:30am - Noon
Mild Fitness 10:30 - 11:30 am		Mild Fitness 10:30 - 11:30 am	Hatha (mat) Yoga 12:30—1:30 pm	Mild Fitness 10:30 - 11:30 am	
Bridge 12:00 -4:00 pm	Art Group 12:00 - 3:00 pm	Weaving 11:00am - 3:00pm	Pot Luck Lunch 12:00—1:30 pm 3rd Thursday		
		500 Club 1:00—3:30pm	Lunch Bunch 11:30 AM 4th Thursday		Bridge 12:00—4:00 pm
	Chair Yoga 2:30—3:30pm	Hot Dog Days Noon 3rd Wed Before Bingo	Book Club 2:00—3:30 pm 2nd Thursday	Raconteur 2:00—3:00 pm 1st Friday	Bridge Lessons 12:10—4:00 pm
		Bingo 1:00 - 4:00 pm 1st and 3rd Wed	Writing Circle 2:00—3:30 pm 3rd, 4th, and 5th Thursday	Speakers Series 2:00-3:00 PM 3rd Friday	<u>SUNDAY</u> Walking Group 2:00 pm
		Knitting 1:30—3:30 pm	Bridge 12:00—4:00 pm	Scrabble/ Cribbage/ Pool 3:00	
	Art Appreciation 7:00 pm 2nd & 4th Tues				<i>New schedule for newsletter Dec 23 pub</i>