



Regional Rep Rap

by Dave Stubbs



The Mensa Canada National office reports that, as of the end of February, the B.C./Yukon region had 250 members, a number much greater than one would expect to normally see two months into the new year. As it

is safe to assume that Mensans have not suddenly abandoned their collective tendency to procrastinate in renewing their memberships, the only logical explanation for the current high membership count is the two-year memberships offered for the first time last year. For those of you who have not yet renewed for 2008, please do so as soon as possible, before your name gets dropped off the mailing list.

On March 1, Vancouver Mensa held its AGM at the home of Sheila Gair. As only six members, including Sheila, were in attendance (yes, six), the meeting was all over within a few minutes, with all of the Board positions filled by the incumbents. Afterwards, eight of us enjoyed a great potluck supper.

Just another reminder that the Mensa Canada AGM this year is taking place in Quebec City during the last weekend in June. For those of you who have always wanted to experience the charm and history of this unique part of Canada, here is your opportunity. Not only is Quebec City the oldest city in North America, founded in 1608, it is the only walled city on the continent.

If you have not yet made vacation plans for this summer, seriously consider visiting Quebec to attend the Mensa AGM. ☺

Leo's Speakers Group

Upcoming speakers:

April 23rd: Mensan Ashley Tait 'Sound Healing.' Ashley is a BMus grad from UBC School of Music. He uses Music Therapy in the clinical setting at Vancouver (General) Hospital to promote healing and induce calmness.

May 28th: Dr. Heather Fay 'Chi Gong Therapy.' Dr. Fay is a practising physician who uses Chi Gong Therapy as an adjunct to her clinical practice.

August 27th: Dr. Alina Wydra PhD 'Fantasy & Visualization.' Dr. Wydra is a psychologist and associate of Bianca Rucker & Associates.

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Editor's Letter

by Lisa Le Blanc



Dear Readers

Welcome to Spring. I regret that I managed to offend at least one reader, the last time I mentioned God. I truly am sorry. I know, my Mum told me it's not polite to discuss religion and I usually listen to her. She escaped the London blitz by spending high school in a convent, so I appreciate life and I thank God for it. I am not trying to offend anyone, but I would love to hear from you.

In response to the many requests for someone to report on the Think Tank discussions, I am offering the following tidbits of the conversations we entertained ourselves with.

God! What did eight Mensans do on a Monday night in March? We watched the first part of *Zeitgeist*, the documentary which discusses God. It opens with a quote from George Carlin. We discussed various concepts of God. Is there a God? What is Religion? Where did it come from? We discussed God as an ethical compass. We wondered why not teach ethics to kids through logic instead of myths? Does religion alienate men from nature and then from each other?

There are so many different ways to look at life that some don't want to limit their view by imposing restrictions. We discussed that God must exist, because order does. That can't be accidental. God as symbology? How is astrology involved? Why did ancient civilizations create supernatural beings?

We just don't know. Without God we live in an existential vacuum. Nietzsche said, "God is dead." Now what do we believe in? For answers to these and other such questions, please join the Think Tank, first Mondays of the month.

Please forward all submissions to editor@lumens.ca or write to *Lumens* with any brainstorms or ideas.

*Looking forward to hearing from you,
Lisa*

Here's another fine mess you've gotten me into...



The Think Tank

by Borce Gjorjievski

BC Yukon Mountain Mensa Yahoo Group now fully operational and under new management.

There have been some problems with the "BC Yukon Mountain Mensa Yahoo Group" and those of you who tried to join had their request expire after 14 days. The reason was that the previous administrator was not actively involved in the group for some time, but since then I have taken over administering the group, so all future request will be responded to promptly. If you have submitted a request in the previous 6 months, please re-submit it and I will see to it.

Since every yahoo group is BOTH a web bulleting board and e-mailing list, there are two ways to subscribe to the group:

On the web: Go to:http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mensa_Canada_BC_Yukon and follow instructions

By email: Send email to: Mensa_Canada_BC_Yukon-subscribe@yahoo.com

Myths and Questions:

Myth #1: You must have Yahoo email or ID to subscribe.

Answer: No, you don't. If you use the email subscribe way above you can use any email whatsoever. The downside is that you wont be able to use the web features (files, photos, links, polls, etc) of the group, but you will definitely be able to post and receive messages. To use the web features of the group you need to create a Yahoo ID or email.

Myth #2: I will receive too many email messages.

Answer: No, you won't. If you subscribe by the web method above, you can select an option 'read messages on the web only', and thus you will receive NO messages whatsoever, but will be able to read the discussion on the groups web page, whenever you want.

Another option is to subscribe with the 'daily digest', which will combine all the messages for the day in one email, thus you will be receive at most one (or none, if there are no messages that day) email per day.

Question #1: Who can join?

Answer: All current and former members of Mensa Canada who are currently residing in BC, Yukon, Alberta or NWT. Other mensans should be ok, but I have no way of verifying their membership. The list is not open to the general public.

Question #2: What topics are discussed?

Answer: Anything and everything. From current issues, SIGs that you host, changes in times of events, articles, politics, weather, anecdotes, etc. etc. It is a forum for mensans to get together. Everything is discussed in a respectful and considerate way.

That's a good idea, Ollie, tell me that again...



Annual General Meeting

by Sheila Gair, Loc Sec

The Annual General Meeting and elections for Vancouver Mensa were held on March 1, 2008. The turnout was incredibly small, but then quality versus quantity has always been Mensa's maxim to live by – or has it?

I can only assume that many read of the upcoming event and failed to put it on their calendars, or they thought that everyone else would go, so why should they? Or could it be that the distance from Vancouver to Surrey was a great deterrent, although going the other way is a snap for those who live in the suburbs?

No matter! Six stalwarts and two 'better halves' showed up, and conducted the business of the group with the utmost speed and efficiency. As in the past several years the entire 'slate of officers' was reinstated by acclamation, and the paper work for Dave Stubbs

to serve another term as Regional Representative were duly signed and witnessed. We had a look at the treasurer's report, and decided that some funds could be disbursed to cover Dave's expenses when he travelled to meetings of the Mensa Board if he would submit receipts.

The matter of certificates for 25 year veterans of Mensa came up for discussion and Millie Norrie has been advised of our comments. We adjourned and enjoyed a potluck supper and a good chat around the dining room table.

It would appear that our members are completely satisfied with Lumens and the calendar which keep us all in contact with the groups to which we naturally gravitate, for there have been no whispers of complaint. Here's to another year within Mensa – and if you haven't paid up, it's time to renew your membership.

Accomodations, Anyone?

A local Mensan is looking for a new home in Vancouver. Any ideas? She has great references, loves gardening, occasionally tickles the ivories and has a friendly, quiet older dog.

All suggestions welcome.

Please contact:
alalisa@gmail.com.

Mountain Mensa

The members of Mountain Mensa live in areas far removed from Vancouver and Victoria. We do not have the same opportunities for meeting as the members in Vancouver and Victoria, so I hope e-mail connections will make people who live in remote areas feel more connected with Mensa.

I thought that with the help of e-mail addresses I would be able to connect some of the people to other people in their areas. So far members in the Dawson Creek, Fort.St.John, Prince George, Terrace, Edgewood and Vernon have been given e-mail addresses of people in their respective areas. This was done after I asked members whether they would be interested in such an idea and only the people who indicated an interest were sent e-mail addresses.

Birthe, LocSec Mountain Mensa

Fred

by Brian Hollington



About once a week I visit Kaethe Batdorf in the George Pearson Centre at 57th and Cambie. I would recommend a visit to Kaethe. Her MS has not robbed her of a robust sense of humour, and if you go armed with a couple of disgraceful stories or limericks you will be well received. It was on one of these visits that I met Fred (not his real name, for reasons that will emerge).

Fred was often outside the front door in his wheelchair. He is a heavy smoker and you cannot have that inside a healthy place like a hospital. Like many MS patients, his hand control had deteriorated to the point that having any form of flame near his face was asking for trouble. The solution was a metal block with a cigarette-sized hole, attached to the arm of his chair. A plastic tube to Fred's lips completed a sort of hookah arrangement. Since Fred had no way of extinguishing the dog end, it tended to be smoked down to the metal. Since I have a Swiss Army knife

with one of those spikes for getting boy scouts out of horses' hooves, it was easy for me to remove the butt. Hence I became Fred's go-to light-up guy.

One afternoon, however, Fred did not need a light. MS has robbed him of any speech, but he has an alphabet card. His hand problems make this a less than ideal solution, but as a crossword fanatic I was able to decipher his wishes: Fred wanted to go to the store. The store was the other side of the hospital and an elevator ride down. But, when we got there, Fred wanted to go outside. In fact he directed me out on to 59th Ave. and we headed west, uphill. Now I am not quite the Greek god I used to be. These days I am more like a goddamned Greek. Fred is not a small man, and, after a few blocks I had to stop for a puff and to count the little, black spots. I thought about this venture. Apparently we were en route to some corner store on South Granville to buy cigarettes. I was pushing a very sick man away from his hospital. If he had an event, I was in trouble; if I

threw a wobbly, Fred was in big trouble, although the slope might return him to the Pearson Centre at quite a high rate of knots. I explained this to Fred, he sighed, and we returned to whence we came.

At the door we met a nurse, who said "Hi, Fred" (everyone seems to know all the patients at the Pearson). Then she raised an interrogative eyebrow at me. I explained where we had been, and why we had returned. "That was the right thing to do," she assured me. Then she added, with a wicked grin, "I bet he doesn't have money for cigarettes anyway." I glanced down at Fred. His look of outraged innocence would not have deceived a Federal Liberal voter.

Consider: I had been conned into pushing someone a considerable distance to buy cigarettes, which were then going to be at my expense: all this by a severely disabled man who was incapable of speech. My dear late mother was right. I should not be allowed out of the house without a keeper. ☹



Young Men's Adventure Weekend

by Lisa Le Blanc



Young Men's Adventure Weekend



YMAW 2008

The next Young Men's Adventure Weekend will be July 11, 12, 13 2008 in a wilderness near you.

Please call Brad Leslie at 604-688-2363.

www.ymaw.com

Last year the Young Men's Adventure Weekend was held at Hale Creek. All of the weekends that we have produced have been great and unique, but this one ranks as one of the best in almost 20 years. Just to settle one rumour – NO we did not plan for the bus to break down. That must have been someone else's plan. We did plan the location, the beach, the meals, the forest, the Quest, the stations, Saturday Nite, the Sweat Lodges and the games. We did not plan to throw the leaders in the lake.

Maybe some of you discovered potential that will come in handy in your future. It has been a privilege for Brad Leslie to co-ordinate this year's event, but he couldn't have done it without the dedication of the 45 men on the production team. These "Men of Good Heart" willingly volunteer their time and effort to make this event happen because we believe it is important to give the next generation of men as much help as we can. We know they will be fathers, businessmen, and leaders in the community.

As part of the 2006 Quest, the Young Men came around a corner and were met by a gruff, burly gentleman who declared: "In your life you are going to have to build something. A house, a home, a family, a career, a future."

So they set out to build the above pictured 9 ft tall INUKSHUK. This has become an icon for the weekend. It welcomes all with open arms, declaring "here is a safe harbour. Here is shelter."

New pics are online at www.ymaw.com. Watch the website for updates.

Leo's Lot

by Leo Jung

Come and join us at Speaker's Group. Guests are welcome.



Since 2000, speakers have covered topics ranging from cutting edge scientific research thru religion, meditation, philosophy 'Zen & the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance,' and 'Dance & Art: a New Renaissance', the latter presented by UNESCO president and long time Mensa member Max Wyman.

Popular topics included 'Dogs' with Dr. Stanley Coren, 'Skeptics' with Dale Beyerstein & the late Dr. Barry Beyerstein, 'How You Can Make a Fortune Collecting Rare Books.' Books include those by Sherlock Holmes, Thomas Hardy and 19th Century French-Canadian female authors.

We have chosen topics which should appeal to most Mensa members. All are presented by knowledgeable speakers. I want to encourage people to try to think of Speaker's Group as an opportunity to learn about a new topic. To enhance your learning, research ahead to ask the speaker specific questions. Where else can you ask an expert a question about their specialty and get a candid opinion during a free, one hour lecture?

Upcoming speakers include Dr. Heather Fay, on May 28th, an MD who finds use for Holistic Healing and Qi Gong in her clinical practice. The sexual fantasy speaker for the fall season is psychologist Alina Wydra, who is an associate of one of my ballroom dance friends: Bianca Rucker (www.biancarucker.com).

On behalf of the members of Speaker's Group I invite you to attend, and look forward to meeting you at upcoming meetings!:)

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