

*June 24, 2008*

*This was our picnic meeting, and also the last meeting until September – sad but true. The summer is undoubtedly a good rest for Danny but sort of a let-down feeling for the rest of us. And we'll surely miss the continuing saga of what's happening with his boys. I'm sure he'll have lots to tell us when we meet again ... boys are so active that there won't be any rest for the parents!!*

*Right now his middle son is in New York with Danny's father, terrorizing the older relatives there. Grandpa is having problems with his vision, has a cataract in one eye and glaucoma in the other. The son is helping him out but also enjoying himself immensely.*

*At this picnic meeting Danny and I were each presented with a card and a large amount of cash. He deserves it but I feel I do not. I enjoy doing the newsletter and request that next year we divide it 3 ways – one-third each for Jean, Gail and myself. Better yet, eliminateme and give it all to Danny. He spends so many hours with us that we can't repay him. However, I do appreciate the card and the thought behind it. Thank you all very much. And Danny gave me a beautiful Kalanchoe plant – many thanks for that, too.*

*A side note about the high cost of gas .... Danny's wife said she wants to drive less so she went into town the other day and spent \$850. Her rationale is that she won't have to buy anything for a month so will save gas money. We have to wonder how spending \$850 is saving money ...?*

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Danny is asking that we tell Brian what we want to know more about so that he can put it on the list of upcoming classes. The ones that are already scheduled can be found in the current Bowen Seniors newsletter. Come on, everyone, put your thinking caps on. Brian's email address is [brian.sugiyama@nanaimo.ca](mailto:brian.sugiyama@nanaimo.ca)

### Flash Drives

Last meeting we had a short discussion on Flash Drives. Today, Danny said he should have mentioned that they should be used to back up information on your HD, not as a sole source of information. It is too easy to lose a Flash Drive because it is so small. If it is lost all that information is gone forever.

He again mentioned U3 storage, which store information but work in a different way than regular Flash Drives. Both can put information temporarily on someone else's computer when plugged into a USB port and leave no trace when it is withdrawn. The U3 has an additional drive called (are you ready for it?) a U3 drive.

New Flash Drives can be encrypted and need a password to get in. This is a good protection for the information on it in case you lose it.

Today is a good time to learn as much as you can about Flash Drives as they are still in their infancy, they are cheap and not yet complicated.

Already today you can plug a Flash Drive into any USB port in the world. Wireless ones can be used anywhere as you don't need to plug them in.

It won't be long until you can buy a whole computer in a Flash Drive size. The technology is here now. Think how useful it would be to have your entire computer with you in your purse or shirt pocket! There is a rumor that one will even be made to be worn on your wrist Dick Tracey style.

Quickies

You can now put passwords on your cell phone and I-Pod.

An MP3 Player looks a lot like a Flash Drive.

A wireless adapter hooks into some equipment to make them wireless. And vice versa.

Lots of cars now have a USB port built in.

External Hard Drives are not solid state so there can be problems with the moving parts.

For printers that work with Vista, check on-line. Try [downloads.com](http://downloads.com) first.

Vista

In Vista, the name *Outlook Express* is no longer used. It is called *Windows Mail*.

Vista is more media-oriented than XP. It is quite different in many ways so many businesses won't switch to it. A great many of their programs they use now in XP won't work with it as the programs were developed before Vista came along. As well, they would have to spend time and money training their staff to use it. Danny says that out of his 45 business clients, only one has switched over to Vista.

There are some XP programs that work with Vista but as more new ones are developed there will be a lesser proportion that work with XP.

We've probably all noticed that videos taken from U Tube play for a few seconds, pause for a few seconds then run another few seconds. This is very annoying. Apparently, it is caused by the downloading process, meaning that first it is playing from the internet then the next time it is playing off your computer. If you wait until it has completely downloaded then you don't have that problem.

Danny suggests it could have something to do with how many are using its website at that time, and may also have something to do with your computer doing some AV checking too.

If you find your computer seems to be working slower, do a *Disk Cleanup*. That is something you should do periodically anyway.

Go to *My Computer*, then right click on *C:Drive* → *Properties* → *Disk Cleanup*. *Defrag* is also in that location.

And that is all, my friends, until September. Don't forget to check our website through the summer in case there is something of interest posted there.

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*p.s. – The reason I am so late getting this out this time is kinda flimsy, however I'll tell you anyway. While leaving the picnic and trying to balance my left-over food, my purse, the card containing all that money, my notepad for my notes and the plant from Danny, I dropped the page with the notes on it. And all that was while I was trying to navigate the hill up to my car. Not a pretty sight, let me tell you. Marybeth kindly picked the page up and mailed it to me and it arrived this morning.*

*It seems there is still a use for snail mail.*

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**Next meetings are on September 9 and 23.**

**Good** bye for now . . . . .