

The Apple Core

December 2015

Happy Holidays!

Upcoming Events

GVTA Exec meetings for the year at NPC. All meetings start at 4:00pm.

All are welcome:

- January 7
- February 2
- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- May 24—General Meeting



Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone from your GVTA executive. Relax, unwind and take a much deserved break! Make the most of your holiday, whatever that means to you! Enjoy yourselves and we will see you in January, ready to take on the new year!



Save the Date!



GVTA Social Committee is organizing a Bowling Night on February 19th from 6 - 8 pm at the Winkler Bowling Alley. More details will follow in January!

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Three times each year the GVTA President attends President's Council Meetings to connect with other association presidents and to participate in workshops offered by MTS. This year we were fortunate to have **John Ralston Saul** speak to us about his recent book - **The Comeback** - in which he implores our nation to return to our roots and re-emerge as peacekeepers. Saul suggests, that like our indigenous peoples that have recently re-emerged in our news media as significant and contributing members of our larger society, but who continue to feel disenfranchised, that we in fact, need to model our future on the peaceful and collaborative models for obtaining and sharing power that were central to how cultures coexisted - mostly peaceably - before European habitation. That like the original inhabitants of Canada, that we learn to collaborate between the various cultures in our nation. He believes that teachers and the teaching profession (and not the universities) are and should be the leaders at the forefront of a proposed narrative change, a narrative that no longer promotes Canada as a nation built through war and conflict but rather, that our true heritage as a nation be built along the notions and practices of our earliest inhabitants who knew how to collaborate, share wealth, land and property, and who managed to coexist as a diverse people on our continent. Like Kevin Lamoureux - the speaker on our first day back to school this year - Saul pushes us to incorporate aboriginal history and community insights into our teaching while cautioning that as approximately 45 indigenous languages die each year, that there is a real danger that on our watch, we stand to lose our rich variety of cultures and that our diverse national identity will also slowly die. He warns us not to become the generation that will be known for our complacency for allowing our indigenous cultures to die.

Also learned re: monitoring and surveillance at President's Council... *In Supreme Court: R. vs. Cole, 2012 SCC 53 (CanLII)*, it was determined that workers have a reasonable expectation of privacy when on the jobsite or when using employer electronic equipment. We were told by our MTS legal counsel that any employer monitoring of staff must be contextual / relational with an inherent "obligation of confidentiality" being ubiquitous. It was explained that there are only three reasons for electronic monitoring to occur: concerns re: time theft, proprietary, and risk. So, if we keep those three items in mind when using divisional electronic equipment, we will be compliant with the essence of *R. vs. Cole, 2012 SCC 53 (CanLII)*.

