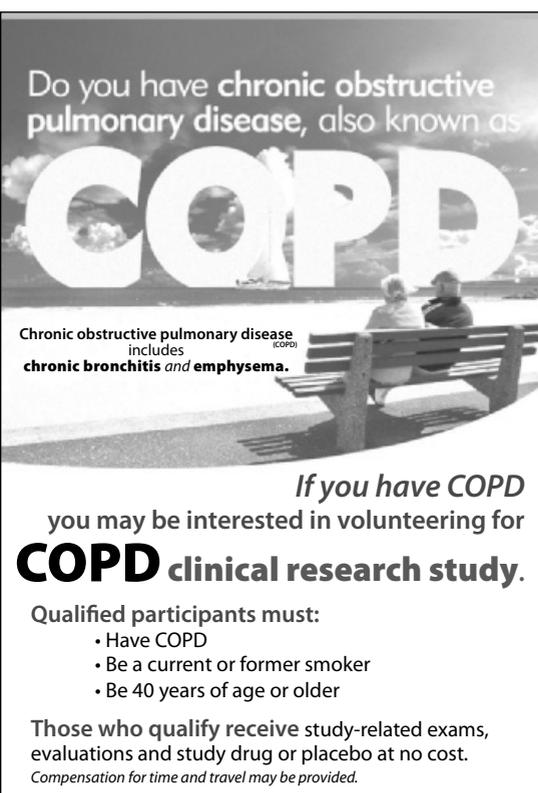


## NEWS

## Retired Sask. teachers gather

The Saskatchewan Superannuated Teachers Association's annual June social will be Tuesday, June 17, 11 a.m., at the Mission Seniors Activity Centre, 4398 Hobson Rd. in Kelowna.

The activities will include lawn games followed by lunch at noon. New members are welcome. For more information call 250-763-1055.



Do you have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, also known as **COPD**

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

**If you have COPD you may be interested in volunteering for COPD clinical research study.**

Qualified participants must:

- Have COPD
- Be a current or former smoker
- Be 40 years of age or older

Those who qualify receive study-related exams, evaluations and study drug or placebo at no cost. Compensation for time and travel may be provided.

## ▼ TWU DECISION

## Fundamental rights require acceptance

Those of us who have volunteered our time to lead organizations know how it works.

It might be a business group, community group, strata council or parent advisory council.

A handful of hard working volunteers take the time to learn all the facts and understand the big picture so that the best decisions can be made for everyone else.

Inevitably, there is a minority of those ignorant of the full picture who cry foul and challenge those decisions.

The word "ignorant" is often used as an insult.

I am using it with the ever-reliable Wikipedia definition: "Ignorance is a state of being uninformed (lack of knowledge)."

Indeed, insults might be levied at those who bitch and complain without bothering to become informed but I don't think it is fair to think any less of someone on the simple basis of being uninformed.

Perhaps I am trying to make myself feel better about my own ignorance.

I was one of the lawyers to add my name to the petition requiring a special meeting of the Law Society of British Columbia to rethink its approval of the Trinity Western University law school.

I was one of those "bitch and complainers"



ACHIEVING JUSTICE

Paul Hergott

who challenged the decision-making of our capable leadership who volunteered their time to very carefully consider the issue on our behalf.

I did so believing that I was reasonably well informed.

My ignorance became apparent to me as my eyes were opened by the submissions made during the meeting.

The first speaker was lawyer Barbara Findlay (the lower case is intentional, in my respect to how this incredible woman publishes her name).

She blew my mind with her description of how backward our society had been as recently as 1977 when she was one of very few women called to the British Columbia bar.

At the time, homosexuality was seen by psychiatrists as a mental illness.

She required the certification of a psychiatrist that she was sane as a prerequisite to becoming a lawyer.

A heterosexual white guy, the closest I have ever come to feeling discrimination has been,

ironically, fearing the stigma of ethnic heritage exposed by my last name (literally translated to mean "Mr. God" in German) in relation to Nazi atrocities during World War II.

Findlay has noted that gay sex was still a criminal offence in Canada in 1967 when she first realized she was a lesbian.

As I type this, I am learning from international news that there are still areas in the United States of America where young people undergo "conversion therapy" in failed attempts to "cure" sexual orientation.

I was also struck by the comments of another speaker, Michael Mulligan.

I had walked into the meeting with the perspective that there was a debate between equally important rights and freedoms, i.e. the freedom of religion versus the freedom to be free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Mr. Mulligan opened my eyes to the notion that the two rights and freedoms are nowhere close to being equal—one being a freedom of belief and dogma; the other being a right to be free from harm.

How could a right to beliefs, when butting up against a right to be free from harm, ever be on an equal footing?

How ironic, by the way, that we were discussing these competing rights when religion was a key factor in the oppression of those of alternate sexual orientation in the first place.

The harms from this form of discrimination have become less and less dramatic in our province and our country, but they continue.

I am learning that we must be vigilant to stand up against those continuing harms, including those at Trinity Western University.

I went to the meeting with Jill Bishop, a new

## Majority of lawyers reject TWU law school

JEFF NAGEL  
CONTRIBUTOR

Law Society of B.C. members voted 76 per cent Tuesday against approval of a law school at Trinity Western University over its opposition to sex outside heterosexual marriage.

The vote of the special general meeting isn't binding on the board of governors, who previously voted to approve the contentious law school in Langley.

Opponents within the legal community argued the Christian university's community covenant prohibiting "sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman" discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation against gay and lesbian law students and faculty.

The vote was 3,210 in favour to 968 opposed.

The governors, known as Benchers, made their decision April 11 after extensive debate, a number of legal opinions and a Supreme Court of Canada decision on religious freedom won by Trinity Western University in 2001.

TWU president Bob Kuhn said he's disappointed by the vote. "Difficult decisions involving fundamental rights and freedoms should not be decided by popular opinion," Kuhn said.

He said there's no evidence that religious beliefs of TWU-trained lawyers would affect their ability to serve all clients. "A just society protects the rights of religious minorities."

Law Society president Jan Lindsay said Benchers will give the result of the vote "serious and thoughtful consideration."

The law school already has approval from the provincial government to open but the law society controls who can practise as a lawyer in B.C.

A court challenge is meanwhile underway to overturn the provincial government's approval, and law societies in Ontario and Nova Scotia recently refused to approve TWU's law school, meaning graduates may not be able to practise law across the country.

"This is a complex issue that engages many points of view," Lindsay said. "Ultimately, I fully expect that the issues raised will be decided by the Supreme Court of Canada."

TWU aims to open the new law school by September 2016.

lawyer whose ceremony of being called to the bar had been just the day before. We made history together, along with an overwhelming majority of British Columbia lawyers who said no to Trinity Western University's law program.

Bishop was prepared to add her voice to the meeting, but there were already too many

like-minded lawyers lined up at microphones.

She was going to express her prediction that her grandchildren will look back on that historic day and wonder, aghast, how the point could have been debated in the first place.

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## Park'n Play at Knowles Park a family event

Park'n Play is a family fun event put on by the City of Kelowna and Kelowna South-Central Association of Neighbourhoods.

It will take place Sunday, June 22, 10

a.m. to 2 p.m., at Knowles Park, located at the corner of Ethel Street and Bernard Avenue.

There will be free hot dogs and juice plus a potluck table.

## Join our Creative Team

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**RAISED BED GARDENING AND OTHER EASY LANDSCAPE IDEAS**

A raised bed garden is now easy to obtain for anyone. With the new kits that are available a raised garden bed or children's sandbox can be constructed in a matter of minutes. The frame kits are available in curved or straight timbers and are economical, eco-friendly and durable. The pre-measured kits, timbers and pieces can be assembled in a number of design options to meet most landscaping needs.

A raised garden bed is an all-in-one solution for planting in a small space. Landscaping has never been easier. Easily plant flowers, shrubs or a vegetable garden when you assemble these composite timbers or western red cedar boards with a screwdriver and a hammer. Raised bed gardening requires no grass and no yard so you can create a beautiful, eco-friendly space in an unlikely place like a deck or a rooftop. Check out our accessories for Frame It All's raised garden beds like cold frame greenhouses, trellises and more!

If you are interested in checking out a kit for your next project, drop in to chat with one of our friendly staff and we would be more than happy to help you.



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