



ANNUAL REPORT

September, 2012 – June, 2013

BRANCH #2500 – Peninsula & Gulf Islands –

Our year has passed quickly. My thanks to the executive and members of the Peninsula & Gulf Islands Branch for their support. We have had a busy year. Some of the high-lites of the past year are:

This year we conducted a Thrifty Food **“Smile Card”** campaign to raise funds for our Branch to purchase a dedicated “Branch Computer” to enable any volunteer executive member to maintain Branch records without having to use their own personal equipment. It was very successful and our next ‘campaign’ is already underway to raise funds to purchase “Volunteer Identification Vests”.

Membership - September started the year with a reported membership of 270 and as of June 30th 2012, the membership stood at **267**.

September 2012 – For our start-up meeting Ian Cameron presented his “Month Near Provence”. It was a travelogue of his trip through the south of France with his rugby team. A marvelous presentation.

October 2012 – The meeting was well attended and a presentation by “Epicure Selections”, a local successful business, was well received.

November 2012 – At our November meeting we had speakers from ICBC to give a very interesting talk about Senior Drivers’ examinations and other driving issues for seniors.

In late November we adopted a Salvation Army Christmas Kettle for a week. Our volunteers stood at the entrance to Thrifty Foods store in Sidney for five days (Mon. to Fri., 9 a.m. ‘til 5 p.m.). We successfully raised \$2,641.34. Thank you to all our volunteers.



December 2012 – Our Christmas Dinner was well attended and instead of spending money on entertainment this year, we donated the funds to the Sidney Lions’ Food Bank. As usual, the dinner was fantastic and our “Gift” exchange was fun and entertaining.



January 2013 – Our January meeting was well attended and we were spoken to by David Salzano, from the B.C. Securities Commission on how to protect ourselves against investment fraud.

February 2013 – Two representatives from B.C. Investment management Corporation gave an excellent presentation at our February meeting on how, not only our pension funds, but those of many other employers as well are managed.

March 2013 – We were very well entertained with a presentation by Angus Matthews on the “Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre” here in Sidney.

I also attended, on your behalf, the annual directors’ meeting of the BCGREA in Tsawwassen on March 20th. Their guest, Adam Lynes-Ford from the BC Health Coalition (www.bchealthcoalition.ca) spoke on the Report on Seniors written by the Provincial Ombudsperson. There was also a long general discussion on recruitment and retention of members of the BCGREA. I spoke about our positive efforts to be involved with our members and community.

April 2013– We held our April meeting at the “School House” at the Saanich Historical Society’s “Heritage Acres”. After the meeting members were treated to a guided tour of the many interesting displays around the site.

May 2013 – A full slate of executive officers was elected or acclaimed for the 13/14 year. We were entertained by a representative of “LEE VALLEY TOOLS”. She demonstrated many items of interest to seniors.



June 2013 – Our Branch held a “Garage Sale” for the benefit of our members. Table rental proceeds and profit from our food sales went to the “Sidney Lions’ Food Bank.”



July 2013 – The Branch Parade in Sidney on July 1st.



again participated in the “Canada Day”



An “end-of-year” Picnic at Centennial Park was held and, for \$3.00, our members were treated to a wonderful Barbeque Lunch prepared by



members of our executive. It was well attended, prizes were awarded and a presentation was made to our members who had reached 20 years of membership in the BCGREA. A great time of fellowship and good eating was enjoyed by all.



John MacLucas, Chairperson, Branch #2500

Peninsula & Gulf Islands