



B.C.G.R.E.A.

Nanaimo/MidIsland Branch #600

Newsletter

Fall 2016 issue

Your Branch Newsletter has a new look this issue as our editor Eric Spalding is recovering from major surgery. We wish him well. Hopefully Eric will be able to produce the 2017 Spring Issue and once again give this newsletter a professional look. (Lawrence Johnson)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT November 2016

Branch Executive:

Chair: Lawrence Johnson

1st Vice: Brenda Jones

Secretary: Kathy Torhjem

Treasurer: Gloria Johnson

Director Social Activities

✓ *Mary Foster &
Andre Letain*

Director: Publicity & E-mail Distribution

✓ *Lawrence Johnson
& Andre Letain*

Director: Membership

✓ *Janis Katzell*

Director: Program

✓ *Lee Montgomery*

Newsletter

✓ *Nancy Stewart &
Mary Foster*

Director: Special Events

✓ *Lawrence Johnson
Mark Johnson*

Branch 600 has been very busy over the past months. We held 6 Branch Executive meetings and 4 Branch Membership meetings, including our Annual General Meeting on September 13th, 2016. During the past year Mark Johnson continued to assist with the task of Special Events which includes the organizing of our June and December Luncheons. Mary Foster continues to take on the task of Social Activities along with Andre Letain which included several outings to interesting sites and locations around our area and some great lunches. Branch Executive elections were held at the September meeting and all incumbents were re-elected. As I reported last year the branch is still seeking members who are willing to step forward to take on the role of publicity/e-mail list director. Lee Montgomery scheduled some interesting and informative speakers as Branch Director of Programs. Janis continues to take on the duties as membership director. Although Andre Letain continues as assistant Branch e-mail list director, I continue to take on the duties of maintaining the Branch e-mail distribution list and send out meeting notices.

Branch #600 has discussed and agreed to support the resolution

that encourages new members and present members who pay annual dues on a "cash basis" to go on DUES CHECKOFF for their annual membership dues. We informed the AGM 2016 that the province of Ontario has recently agreed to provide seniors the "Shingles Virus" vaccine without cost as part of the provincial health care system. Hopefully our Provincial Government will take a similar position soon. We have attended four "Preparing for Retirement" seminars and it is our intention to attend an additional seminar, scheduled for Thursday November 24th, 2016. We are also scheduled to speak at the Annual B.C.G.E.U. Local Activist Appreciation Banquet in Nanaimo, as we do each year. During the year we welcomed 9 new members, bring our branch membership total to 504. We will continue to pursue every opportunity to increase and retain our membership. In summary we at Branch #600 have had a busy year and are looking forward to an even more exciting future. We invite all members to attend their Branch Meetings and to take an active role in senior's issues in their communities.

What happened at the Annual General Meeting... see page 4

Nanaimo/MidIsland Branch #600

Social Activities Report

Submitted by Mary Foster



What's not to like about an outing on Protection Island? Thanks to Lawrence Johnson's organization, on May 5 a group boarded the ferry to PI to enjoy a leisurely walk, followed by lunch at the Dinghy Dock Pub. This is an ever popular repeated excursion always enjoyed by those attending.

Another May event was a tour of Nanaimo Longwood Brewery on Boxwood Road. We started with lunch at the Longwood Pub and then drove to the brewery where we were given several beer/ale samples in the tasting room, then continued on through the inner building where staff guided us through the beer making process. We learned the brewery is partnered with local farmers who supply quality barley and hops that are beer ingredients.

July 23 was this year's date of our annual picnic. The Celestial Design Committee favored us with perfect weather and folks relaxed in the atmosphere of Transfer Beach Park. Generous pot luck dishes dressed the food tables, hot dogs and coffee were provided by our executive. The door prize of a \$25 gift certificate to the Simonholt restaurant was won by Del Horn and Lawrence Johnson took home a \$25 Columbia Bakery gift certificate game prize. Monica Kirkhope won the Travel Bag donated by Johnson Inc. The picnics are leisurely, friendly hours where folks enjoy becoming acquainted and chatting with friends.

On September 28, a dozen members attended a visitation of the new Nanaimo SPCA on Westwood Road conducted by Leon Davis, branch manager. Leon gave a wonderful tour of the grounds and spacious building that sits on the 10 acre grounds. Among the many amenities are immaculate state of the art dog and cat kennels, a dog wash, large convention room and patio for public use and a gift shop.

Have a google of Nanaimo SPCA and better yet do a visitation, you are welcomed. Following the tour the group lunched at Westwood Lake Bistro.



Membership Report

Janis Katzell – Membership Director

We have had a number of membership changes during year 2016. Our present membership standing is 496. We welcome new members with encouragement to attend meetings, meet branch colleagues and become involved in branch functions. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings! If you have membership questions, I will be glad to help.

Welcome to new members: Michael Atto, Al Jensen, Daniel Ferguson, Marlene Sonye, Cindy and Earl Pleasance, June Marshall, William Luscombe, Christine Manson, Betty Fulton, Debbie Ketler, Shelley Hough, and Maria Agius-Aasen.



Sadly we have lost the following members:

Regan Kirkpatrick, George Reekie, Kathleen Sanderson, John Bernard Rogers.



Nanaimo/MidIsland Branch #600

Membership Report (cont'd)

Janis Katzell – Membership Director

Your annual dues of \$20.00 may be deducted from your February pension payment if you so choose. It is convenient and ensures that you do not forget and so remain a member in good standing. There are many benefits to be enjoyed.

REMINDER: Dues of \$20.00 per member are due January 2nd of each year. Please make cheque out to BCGREA. Cheques can be given to Janis Katzell, Membership Chairperson at a meeting or mailed to: #6 - 6211 Blueback Road, Nanaimo B.C. V9V 3M8.

I AUTHORIZE THE PENSION CORPORATION to deduct my dues annually in February commencing 2017

Signature _____ SIN # _____ DATE _____

Signature _____ SIN # _____ DATE _____

THE EFFECTIVE WAY TO PAY DUES IS BY AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION (DUES CHECK OFF)

Guest Speakers

Lee Montgomery – Program Director

November 08, 2016	B.C. Hydro, Steve Watson, Hart Dam/Elk Falls
January 10, 2017	Nanaimo Community Kitchens Society, Anita Smith
February 14, 2017	ETA Bus Tours (representative not known at booking)
March 14, 2017	Nanaimo Citizen Advocacy, Bob Coulter
April 11, 2017	Nanaimo Hospice (representative not known at booking)



A BIG THANK YOU TO

John and Monica Kirkhope for making coffee and cookies at all our meetings
Gwyn Oaten for organizing the 50/50 draw and Loaves and Fishes donations

Nanaimo/MidIsland Branch #600

HAPPENINGS FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

Thanks to Brenda Jones, Mary Foster and Al Jensen for representing Branch #600 at the AGM. There were two guest speakers; Sally Thompson, Director of Affinity Partner Development/Canada Hearing Centre Limited. She talked about hearing loss which is common as we age and which can negatively affect the brain and a person's quality of life. Hearing tests are free and should be done once a year. Mark Costellos and Lisa Hansen spoke about the new plan "Thrive" which offers more flexibility with choices of extended health dental and travel insurance.

Meeting Business included; the endorsement of our motion to have the B.C. Medical Services Plan cover the cost of the shingles vaccine, similar to what was done in the province of Ontario for citizens aged 65 to 70 years of age. It included writing a letter to Minister of Health Terry Lake with copies to Premier Christy Clark and Leader of the Opposition John Horgan.

The Association will examine the feasibility of establishing a scholarship in memory of Denis Carriere who was a respected long time member and Chair of the Kamloops Branch #500. It was decided to enter into discussions with Canada Hearing Centre to develop a program for hearing services that should result in "group rates" similar to partnerships with Johnson Inc. and Collette Travel. The meeting passed a resolution that will require new members to pay Annual Dues through "dues check off" they will be considered as paid up until the deduction for annual dues is made from their February pension cheque. Discussion on declining membership numbers, resulted in the commitment to organize a workshop at next year's Directors' meeting on ways to attract new members and increase participation. Elections resulted in Ken Pendergast being acclaimed as President, Art Kaehn being acclaimed as 1st Vice-President and Carrie Mulcahy being acclaimed as 2nd Vice-President.

NANAIMO BRANCH 2017 MEETING DATES

December 13 th (Luncheon)	January 10 th
February 14 th	March 14th
April 11 th (Potluck)	May 9th
June 13 th (Luncheon)	July - August (Picnic)
September 12 th	October 10th
November 14 th (Potluck)	December 12 th

EDITOR'S NOTES

Remember the purpose of this newsletter is to be as interesting and informative to you as possible. If you have anything that you feel would be of interest to your fellow members please let us know.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

LOCATION: FILICE CAVALLOTTI LODGE, 2060 East Wellington Road, Nanaimo B.C.

Cost: The subsidized ticket price of \$25.00 per person for members and \$30.00 for non-members

Date: December 13th, 2016 Time: 11:30 for conversation, Lunch at NOON

Tickets available from Mark Johnson (250) 740-2565 or e-mail: mark.john@shaw.ca
Or

Mail this form to Mark Johnson, Unit 4 - 111 Wall Street, Nanaimo, BC V9S 5H9

PLEASE RESERVE ____ tickets in the name of _____

ENCLOSED IS A CHEQUE FOR \$_____ payable to: BCGREA NANAIMO/MIDISLAND BRANCH

PLEASE ORDER BY DECEMBER 2ND, 2016. TICKET SALES ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR