

# The Steller's Quill

BCGREA New Westminster & District Branch 800

## "Spring 2017" Newsletter

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### 2016 Christmas Luncheon Report

A buffet style Christmas luncheon was held on December 6<sup>th</sup> in our regular meeting place – the River Room at the Centennial Community Centre. This was a departure from the traditional full service hot turkey dinner we have had in past years. From the comments made by many of the 49 members who made it despite the snow, it appears that most everyone really enjoyed the lunch. The food was plentiful and well prepared by Greens and Beans Deli for a very reasonable cost.

A big THANK YOU to our executive and hospitality committee for their hard work and to all those members who brought home made treats and helped with setting up. Along with non-perishable goods, approximately \$100 was collected for the local food bank. Thanks to the generous donations from our members and community sponsors we had a number of door prizes to offer including gift cards from Art Knapps, Save on foods, London Drugs and Buy Low Foods. Garden Works at Mandeville donated poinsettias again this year. The plan for next year is to hold the luncheon in the same location.

Bonnie Billington: [Hospitality Committee Chairperson.](#)

### Reunions, reunions

1953 Class Psychiatric Nurse Graduate Reunion [will take place on Thursday April 27, 2017, at 11:30am at Ricky's, 152 and Fraser Highway, Evergreen Mall, Surrey, B.C.](#)

[Call: 604-513-8977 or 604-437-5898 for info and reservation.](#)

Riverview Hospital School of Nursing September 1967 Graduating Class [is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year. A reunion is being held at the Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna, B.C., September 8 – 10, 2017.](#)

Arrangements can be made directly with the hotel (250-860-6060) advising that you are part of the September '67 nursing reunion. Rooms requested are on the garden floor facing the pool.

Any assistance locating classmates would be greatly appreciated. Please contact PJ Birch, Committee Chair, by phone 604-319-2914.

### 2016 Life Members

Congratulations go to the following members who achieved Life Member status in 2016:

Rose Marie Anonby, Andrea Apelo-Cruz, William Gerald Barber, Glen G Berkey, Anna Marie Beveridge, Sidney Birchfield, Richard Charles Bolding, Gertrude Breuer, Glenna Lynne Brinnen, Patricia Bulych, Gertrude Joy Cairns, William Robert Chomos, Fleming H

Christensen, Maria Lourdes Cruz, Mildred Marie Danyk, Peter U Dasnieres, Linda Mae Davies, Christine M Demchuk, Harry J Demchuk, Gale Ann Dodsworth, Thomas George Dodsworth, Joyce Lillian Doucette, Judith Ann Durney, Walter Eby, Senia Eyton, Bruno Ronald Falk, Vera Ellen Falk, Percival Alexander (Mick) Fenton, Sylvia Fencette, Howard N Garbe, Norma Gillespie, Irene Gillis, Joyce Mary Hall, Kathleen Vera Hall, Michael George Hardman, Clarence David Henry, Gordon T Howard, Donald Muir Isenor, Barry John Jackson, John William Kallenberger, Helen M Lamont, Diane Agnes Markham, Robert George Matthews, Harold Minskull, Joan D Moore, Lorne Eldred Moore, George Neeson, Margaret G Neil, Smith Neil, Daniel Leonard Nelson, Margaret Elizabeth Oram, Joan Pranzl, Mabel Joan Smith, Gordon Carl Snow, Garth Brian Sparkes, Lillian M Stevenson, Patrick Oliver Todd, George Trachuk, Norma Patricia Waters, David E White, Victor L Wilson.

#### Alan Davies

On March 22, 2017, our Honored and Life Member Alan Davies passed on. As well as being a long time member Al served on our branch board of directors for many years, serving as branch Membership Secretary and Privacy Officer for over a decade.

Alan was described by many as a true gentleman who shared his wit and humour with many of us. He will be missed by all.

A Celebration of Alan's life is being held at 2:00pm on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at the Heritage Mountain Community Church which meets in the Inlet Theatre adjacent to and to the left of the Port Moody Library at 100 Newport Drive in Port Moody.

Editor's Note: On a personal note, no one had a keener eye for spotting "typos" in our newsletter drafts, and, forty-nine years ago, it was Al who signed the letter offering me employment at Riverview.

#### Report from the Chair

Greetings to you all. We hope that you all managed to get safely through our very long winter this year and are now out and about enjoying our spring.

Since our fall newsletter we have continued with both social and educational activities at the branch. As noted in Bonnie's report, we had a different Christmas lunch at the end of last year that was enjoyed by all attending. Branch members approved our rental of the meeting room for another lunch on December 5, 2017.

In January, John McEwan of the Salvation Army spoke about Emergency Preparedness. He was an entertaining speaker who also provided multiple handouts with checklists and ideas to help people prepare for emergencies. He encouraged all of us to get prepared now rather than later. At our February meeting, Chris Chan from TransLink returned to update us on TransLink changes and the Evergreen expansion. Once again there were many questions and we ran out of time for the presentation.

March saw a short business meeting followed by a potluck lunch. There was a wonderful and surprising assortment of finger foods, including vegetables and fruits, and sweets donated by the attendees and organized by volunteers led by our Hospitality Chair, Bonnie Billington. Thank you to all who attended, volunteers who organized the room, table, and food set up and donated the food.

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Nick Cheng of Edward Jones is our scheduled speaker for our April 18 meeting. A workshop or speaker is still to be scheduled for our May 16 meeting. Our June 20 meeting is our Annual General meeting with elections which will be followed by a branch sponsored summer social organized by a group of volunteers working with our Hospitality Chair.

Branch membership is currently 782. Branch finances are sound and have improved through careful budgeting. We will continue to publish

two newsletters each year. Our fall newsletter will be mailed in September 2017. Our continued thanks to BCGEU who provides the printing and mailing expense for our newsletters and provides meeting space for branch executive meetings.

We welcome new members to our meetings. The meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except July, August and December at the River Room in the Centennial Community Centre, 65 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, New Westminster (adjacent to the Canada Games Pool at E. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Cumberland). The meetings start at 1:00pm sharp and end no later than 3:00pm.

Thank you and kudos to all our volunteers: Branch Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs and members, food and beverage volunteers and our diligent phoners.

### *In Memoriam*

*We regret to announce the passing of the following members since the last newsletter:*

|                        |                      |                        |                       |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Carole Mary Beaulieu   | Mildred Canessa      | Ramona E (Mona) Clegg  | Alan David Davies     |
| Natalia Donski         | Anna Carolina Elder  | Gladys Eleanor Eliason | Sheldon Feldman       |
| Lois Mildred Foulds    | Kenneth John Fowler  | Dianne R Hendrickson   | Paul Miller Hielscher |
| Rhea Marcoux           | Eileen M Martin      | Eileen Mary McCormick  | Fran E Moore          |
| Helen Caroline Staples | William John Sviatko | Karen Treider          |                       |

*The Executive and Members of the BCGREA, New Westminster & District Branch 800  
express sincere condolences to these families and their friends*

### *Welcome New Members*

*Welcome to the following new members who have joined Branch 800 since our last newsletter:*

*Cherif Abdallak, Andrew Patrick Ashby, Gerald Phillip Hodges, Mary Ann Knowles, Paul Clifford Knowles, Roslyn Mary Morley, Thomas James Morley, Donna Eileen Main, Frances Xavier Murzello, Constance Nordhoff, Manoj Amarshi Popat and Wendy Margaret Thompson.*

### *The Old Scottish Sabbath Drinking Laws*

*It is one of the founding principles of Scottish Presbyterianism that if someone should be seen enjoying themselves (especially on a Sunday) – that individual is firmly embarked on the road to Hell and must*

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*be brought back to the straight and narrow. Better yet, they should be prevented from straying in the first place. Prior to about 1961/62 Scotland had a peculiar Sunday drinking law.*

*Public Houses could be open for specified hours Monday through Saturday, but were not permitted to open for business on a Sunday. On the other hand, hotels with a Lounge Bar could be open (but not their public bar) for the benefit of the hotel's guests and what the law called "bona-fide travellers". If a person was "travelling" from one location to another and the distance was more than a specified minimum (It was either two or three miles), stopped at the hotel and purchased a "meal", that person was a "bona-fide traveller" and entitled to be served*

two alcoholic drinks. Apparently, the legislation did not define what was meant by “meal”. With usage, which was eventually confirmed in a judicial decision, the purchase of a pack of potato chips, was proved to be “food” and met the legal requirement for “a meal”.

There were few private cars on the roads immediately after the Second World War but over the late ‘forties and through the ‘fifties more and more people were owning cars. So, by the late ‘fifties there were hundreds of “bona-fide drivers” on the roads on Sundays, rocketing around from hotel to hotel.

There were “Rules” and “rules” covering bona-fide travellers. The Rules required the hotels to maintain a register in their lounge bars that each patron had to fill in with their name, address, where they were travelling from, where they were travelling to, and the nature of their journey. These registers were subject to inspection by “the authorities”.

Among the “rules” was, you never signed your own name, you gave a false address and the other information was bogus too.

There was one legendary carload from my hometown who signed themselves in one Sunday at lounge bars in Dalnally and Tyndrum as “Geraldo and his Orchestra”.

A schoolmate of my brother had a 1937 Ford, in perfect condition. He used to infuriate his fellow “travellers” by pulling in at the side of the road whenever he felt tired, tipping his cap over his eyes and snatching ‘forty winks”; while his mates had to sit quietly until he woke up. Some of you may even have seen the car. It appeared in a scene in the Donald Sutherland movie *The Eye of the Needle*. Not that you would have seen much. The scene was shot in daylight, but by the magic of movies it appeared as a night scene.

As the A82 comes west out of Glasgow, there is a stretch of divided highway known as “the Boulevard”. The Boulevard Hotel sits on a rise overlooking the highway. Back in the late ‘fifties it had pretensions to catering to a higher class of drunk. The hotel had a uniformed commissionaire who opened the door for patrons entering or leaving; and directed incoming guests to sign the register.

Another “rule” was disguising one’s writing when filling in the register. One Sunday in 1960 I was one of four such “travellers” signing in at the Boulevard. Three of us were left handed and all four of us unconsciously wrote with our usual hand. We heard the Commissionaire, who was gazing out the hotel door, (“ignoring” us), mention to nobody in particular but loud enough for us to hear “Ah’ve never before seen sae many left handed people as Ah have since Ah took this joab!”

Andy McColl

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