



The Steller's Quill

BCGREA New Westminster & District Branch 800

“Fall 2017” Newsletter

Contact info:

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2017 Life members

Congratulations go to the following members who achieved 20 years of paid membership in 2017 and are now acknowledged as life members.

Elizabeth Beirnes, Jordon Bowcott, Peter Burnett, Donna Lyn Cave, Doreen Corbett, Thomas W. Cox, Louis Joseph Des Roches, Brenda Felker, Terrence Fitzgerald, Barbara Froese, Rene Joseph Gobillot, Pauline Goetz, Lilliane Johansen, Betty Louise Knowles, Albert Lacroix, Kenneth Miyoshi, William Douglas Moe, Magdolna Moricz, Lawrence Porter, Bernadette Slevin, Sheamus Slevin, Agnes Smith, Margaret Smithson, Sarah Helena Smyth, Catherine (Gayl) Taylor, Katherine Taylor, William Arthur Turner, Johanne Voogd and Katerina Zarembo.

Correction to Spring Newsletter

In the 2016 Christmas Luncheon report it was erroneously reported that gift cards were donated by Art Knapps, and the poinsettias were donated by Mandeville Garden Works. In actuality, the poinsettias came from Art Knapps and the gift cards were from Mandeville Garden Works.

Report from the Chair-Myrna Cresswell

Greetings to you all. We hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable summer.

Since our spring newsletter we have continued with both social and educational activities at the branch. In May, our member **Gail Harmer** who is a presenter for COSCO (Council of Senior Citizen Organization) presented an informative and interesting workshop on “Mature Driver Assessment Procedures”. Our final meeting in June was our AGM followed by our summer social.

Our thanks go to our outgoing board members **Wendell Ratcliffe** and **Robert Langley** for their service to our Branch. **Robert** served as a Director for 4 years and was a delegate to COSCO. **Wendell** served as our 1st Vice-Chair for more than a decade, arranging our many educational workshops and speakers. For several years, he also arranged tours at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Garden in Vancouver followed by



dim sum. **Wendell** also was my go to person for rules of order, protocol and history of the branch. I cannot thank him enough for his support and encouragement during my years in the Chair.

Former First Vice Chair
Wendell Ratcliffe with
Chair **Myrna Cresswell**

Special thanks go to:

* Our Hospitality Committee chaired by **Bonnie Billington** who provided refreshments at all our branch meetings, arranged our food events, and prepared all the food for our summer social this last year. The members include: **Verna Cadwallader, Marilyn Melville, Christine Demchuk, Harry Demchuk, Anna Tremere, Marleine Wagner, Magda Moricz, Roberta Calderwood** and **Joe Berger**. Thank you also to our members who have also contributed food and snacks at our meetings.

* Our Phone Convenor and branch volunteer phoners who try to contact members monthly to bring them up to date on activities.

Branch membership is currently 883. Branch finances are sound and have improved through careful budgeting. Our Treasurer completed his year end balanced report for our Provincial body. The Treasurers' records and year end report was reviewed by the Finance and Review Committee, chaired by **Kathy Nelson** (substituting for **Lorraine Logan**), **Valerie Davies** and **Gail Harmer** who found them to be in good order and in sound financial compliance.

Our new board starting August 1, 2017, include: Chair, **Myrna Cresswell**; 1st Vice-Chair, **Navin Goburdhun**; 2nd Vice-Chair, **Bonnie Billington**; Secretary, **Gail Harmer**; Treasurer, **Alfred Malcolm**; Membership Secretary & Privacy Officer, **Rita Pollock**; Goodwill Co-ordinator, **Jean Ing**; Phone Convenor, **Sheila Halvorson**; Directors; **Andy McColl** (Newsletter); **Verna Cadwallader** (Hospitality); **Anna Tremere** (Shut-in Visits); **Kathy Nelson** (Alternate Delegate to COSCO); **Marleine Wagner**, (Shut-in Visits); **Pansy Wong** (Christmas tickets). Congratulations on your election and thank you for your service to the branch. Our thanks go to **Brenda Felker** who once again capably handled our election at our June Annual General Meeting.

The executive met in mid August to do some planning for the new year. Our meeting/events this fall are:

September 19 branch meeting with speakers from the BC Health Coalition.

October 17 branch meeting and potluck lunch.

November 14 branch meeting and speaker Tanya-Lyn Werk on Powers of Attorney and estates.

On **December 5**, we will once again have a Christmas buffet lunch at our regular meeting place. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance of the event. Tickets are available from **Pansy Wong** at a cost of \$15.00 each. Tickets may be purchased at branch meetings starting September 19 and ending November 14. **Jean Ing** is already hard at work preparing our Christmas raffle basket that is a much sought-after basket at our lunch. Thanks **Jean** for all the work.

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are payable each year by January 2. Cheques should be made payable to BCGREA for \$20 and mailed to the Membership Secretary & Privacy Officer for the branch:

**Rita Pollock
302-1110 Howie Ave,
Coquitlam, BC, V3J 1V1**

Those owing for 2016 or earlier years must pay by January 2, 2018 or be **removed from membership**. If this happens, to be reinstated you must reapply with a new application and current dues. Please consider having your dues deducted automatically from your pension cheque each February. Not only will this relieve you of wondering if you have paid your dues each year but will provide the association with reliable funding. If you opt for automatic deduction, please provide the Membership Secretary with your social insurance number. Thank you, (your SIN is held in strictest confidence and is used by the Pension Corporation and the Association to avoid confusion between members with similar names or first initials).

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined Branch 800 since our last newsletter: **Allan Glen Angus, Moncrief (Monty) John Carstairs, Owen Cameron Croy, Satish Kumar, Joanne Carol Lomas, Teresa Lynne Macdougall, Sheena Frances MacLeod, Edward M Mulcahy, Richard Graham Nebel, Judy Lynn Pike, Jane W Player, Donald Austin Shaw and Linda Ann Shaw.**

Income Tax-Disability Tax Credit

Canada Revenue Agency Disability Tax Credit form is available from the Canada Revenue Agency website www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/README.html or by calling 1-800-959-8251. As of March 22, 2017, nurse practitioners are now included on the list of health practitioners who can certify the impairments for the Disability Tax Credit.



In Memory of Fred Bennett

Branch 800 members and Executive attended a memorial service on July 24th, 2017 at the Maple Ridge Funeral Chapel to honour Past Chairperson Fred Bennett who passed away suddenly on June 13th at age 77.

Fred held the position of Branch 800 Chairperson from 1997 to 2014 will be remembered for his dedication and many achievements which were profiled in the Fall 2014 issue of the Steller's Quill.

Fred had many interests and was well known in several other groups who filled the Chapel to pay their respects and reminisce. Mementos large and small were proudly displayed by his family in the foyer, including a vintage Triumph Bonneville 750 motorcycle.

Lawrence Johnson, a past BCGREA Provincial President, spoke of Fred's steadfast commitment and long service to this organization at both the Provincial and Branch levels.

In Memoriam

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

**Frederick (Fred) Bennett
Keith Douglas Perry
Norma Patricia Waters**

**Carol Jean Halstead
Lois Helen Siddall
Jeanette (Florence) Weintz**

**Sarah A Newman
John (Edwin) Warkentin**

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