



# Victoria Branch Newsletter

## B.C. Government Retired Employees Association

Editor: Carol Cullimore

November 2015

### BCGREA DIRECTORS' MEETING

It is my honour, on behalf of Branch Chair Sarjit Manhas, to provide you with the Chair's Report from the Annual General meeting.

The meeting was opened with the traditional and respectful two minutes of silence for deceased members.

Guest Speakers were Tom MacLean of Collette Travel, Andy Poon, BC Securities Commission and Jeff Bennet of Johnson Inc. with Lisa Hansen and Mark Costales.

It makes me sad to report that another Branch has shut down. Branch 1300 North Okanagan ceased operations despite many attempts by the Provincial Executive to help out.

Major business was three resolutions. The first was to more clearly define the criteria to receive Honorary Membership and changed the name to "Honoured Members". The second resolution was to complete the motion asking for the Shingles Vaccination to be covered by Blue Cross. Both of these were Moved, Seconded and Carried. The third resolution intended to ease the work of collecting dues by making automatic dues deduction mandatory, was defeated.

Honorary (nominated prior to being changed to Honoured) Membership to Fay Clease of Branch 1400.

#### Election:

President - Ken Pendergast, acclamation  
First VP - Art Kaehn, acclamation  
Second VP - Carrie Mulcahy, acclamation.

Ken Cruickshank  
First Vice Chair and  
A/Chair, Victoria Branch



### BCGREA TREASURER'S REPORT

July - September 2015

Bank chequing account	\$1,086
High Int. savings account	\$5,274
Term Deposits	<u>\$21,304</u>

Total	\$27,664
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Income \$260.00 from Bank Interest,  
Refreshment Donations  
Expense \$5,620.00 from Office and  
Postage, Catering, Goodwill and Bursary  
Fund.



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## TELEPHONE AND EMAIL REPORT

Last May, I took over the Email & Phone Director role from Dale Jasper. Thank you Dale, for all your previous work, and for handing things over in such an organized way.

### Phone Volunteers:

A special thank you to the wonderful Phone Volunteers who give of their time each month to call members without email, notifying them of upcoming events: Carol Cullimore, Nadine Derick, Murray Galbraith, Kathleen Hadley, Beth Jasper, Jean Kucy, Judith Legault, Maureen Lundquist, Kirby Rimer, John Evans, Anita Malkiewicz, Shirley Molberg, Irene Standal, Erika Veerkamp and JR (June) Wright.

New Phone Volunteers are always welcome. Currently each volunteer receives a list of 10 - 13 members to call depending on availability (volunteers sometimes book off months here and there for vacation), but with each new member, the lists become shorter. Please email or phone me if you'd like to give it a try.

### Changing your email address?

Lastly, please don't forget the BCGREA if you change your email address. Just a quick email to me is all that's required.

Sharon Stewart, Email/Phone Director  
Email: [sharonstew@gmail.com](mailto:sharonstew@gmail.com)  
Tel: 250-658-1424.



## LUNCHEONS

The June luncheon was held on June 9, 2015 at the Olive Grove Restaurant on West Saanich Road. The variety and quantity of the food was very good with excellent staff service. The highly popular meatballs were enormous. The restaurant even sent

several people home with lunch leftovers! We sold 69 tickets and I would like to thank our members and guests who came to support this event. The Olive Grove's buffet lunch fee was \$20, with the Branch paying the taxes and tip. Thanks to the donations of those who attended we sent a cheque to the United Way for \$105.00.

The Christmas buffet luncheon is on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 12:00 noon at the Vista 18 Restaurant on the 18th floor at the Chateau Victoria Hotel, 740 Burdett Avenue (off Douglas Street). Seating will be available starting at 11:30 a.m. Please join us and be amazed by the spectacular panoramic views, plus enjoy excellent food and socializing with fellow members and friends. I look forward to meeting everyone at the December 8th lunch.

For free parking you need to get a parking pass at the hotel front desk that you must put in your car. There are a limited number of luncheon tickets available for pre-purchase only on a first come first serve basis. No tickets will be held.

Tickets are still \$20 per person and can be purchased at the General Meeting on November 10th. The Branch will pay the extra \$2 per person lunch fee charged by the restaurant, plus again also pay the taxes and tip. That's a total lunch savings of about \$8 per person being paid by our Branch!

You may also get tickets by mail by mailing a cheque payable to "BC Government Retired Employees Association" (not abbreviated as BCGREA), for the number of tickets required, along with a stamped self addressed return envelope to: Vicki White, 11-118 Aldersmith Place, Victoria, BC V9A 7M9.

The deadline for pre-purchasing luncheon tickets and deadline for receiving payments for tickets is Wednesday, November 25th, unless all tickets are already sold out before

that date. This is a very popular event and seating is limited, so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

We will take up a collection for Rev. Al Tysick's Dandelion Society at the Christmas Luncheon. The Branch will match all donations and send a cheque to the Society. Thank you - Vicki White - Director



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Renewal time is rapidly approaching! Those of you not on direct deduction from your pension cheque should mark your calendar and send in a cheque before January 1 to avoid getting a "nag notice" from me. Also those non-direct deduction members that haven't sent in a cheque for 2015 remember that if you haven't paid by the end of the year I have to remove you from the membership.

**NOTE: One significant change this year is that cheques must be payable to "BC Government Retired Employees Association" written out in full. The letter abbreviation is not acceptable at the cheque clearing house.**

Questions and Answers:

1. **How do I report a change of address?**  
If your address, telephone number and/or email contact address has changed please ensure that you forward the changes to my attention at 250-744-4275 or [kccruickshank@gmail.com](mailto:kccruickshank@gmail.com). It is also very important for you to notify the Pension Corporation of any changes.
2. **Can I arrange to have my dues paid other than by writing a cheque each year?** You may want to consider having your dues deducted annually from your February pension cheque. Please contact me at 250-744-4275 or [kccruickshank@gmail.com](mailto:kccruickshank@gmail.com) to arrange to make the conversion starting in the year

2016. Changes must be made before December 31, 2015.

3. **How can I change from getting a paper copy of The PEN to getting it electronically?** Send an email to the Membership Director at [kccruickshank@gmail.com](mailto:kccruickshank@gmail.com) to request the change. Making the change now may not be enough time for the next edition.

Ken Cruickshank - Membership Chair



## UPCOMING MEETINGS with GUEST SPEAKERS and EVENTS

Location and time of regular meetings is 2 p.m. at the BCGEU Hall, 2994 Douglas Street. These meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month except June, July, August and December

**November 10** - Jean Galvin of Peninsula Emergency Measures Organization (PEMO). She is the Director of Emergency Support Services and will be speaking on what measure to take to prepare our homes for any dire emergency. She will also show how to prepare an emergency "Grab and Go" kit.

**December 8** - Christmas Luncheon - see details under Luncheons.

**January 12, 2016** - Tom MacLean, of Go Collette. He will have a video presentation of upcoming travel opportunities.

Michael Holbrook - Program Committee Chair



## GOODWILL

If you know of any member who is hospitalized, sick, ill or injured, please contact the Acting Goodwill Coordinator, Michael Holbrook at 250-656-7955 or [mjholbrook@telus.net](mailto:mjholbrook@telus.net) with the information.



BCGREA Victoria Branch  
Legislative Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

## Serving the Public Service Retiree

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### **British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association Branch Executive 2015-2016**

<b>Chair:</b>	Sarjit Manhas	250-384-9278	<a href="mailto:sarjit@telus.net">sarjit@telus.net</a>
<b>1st Vice Chair</b>	Ken Cruickshank	250-744-4275	<a href="mailto:kccruickshank@gmail.com">kccruickshank@gmail.com</a>
<b>2nd Vice Chair</b>	Vacant		
<b>Secretary</b>	Barb West	250-478-5935	<a href="mailto:barbarawest@shaw.ca">barbarawest@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marie Mills	250-642-5088	<a href="mailto:mariemills@shaw.ca">mariemills@shaw.ca</a>
<b>Past Chair</b>	Terry Prentice	250-383-2026	<a href="mailto:taprentice@shaw.ca">taprentice@shaw.ca</a>

Meetings are held at 2:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, (except June, July, August and December) at the BCGEU Hall, 2994 Douglas Street. Branch lunches and/or other events are held in June and December.

#### **DIRECTORS**

##### **Membership & Data Base**

Ken Cruickshank -----250-744-4275 [kccruickshank@gmail.com](mailto:kccruickshank@gmail.com)

##### **Program Committee**

Michael Holbrook -----250-384-5997 [mjholbrook@telus.net](mailto:mjholbrook@telus.net)

##### **House Committee**

Suzanne Iverson -----250-592-5991 [sliverson@telus.net](mailto:sliverson@telus.net)

##### **Telephone & Email Committee**

Sharon Stewart -----250-208-9012 [sharonstew@gmail.com](mailto:sharonstew@gmail.com)

##### **Social Coordinator**

Vicki White -----250-361-0024 [vltwhite@shaw.ca](mailto:vltwhite@shaw.ca)

##### **Newsletter**

Carol Cullimore -----250-477-4230 [grandmagreen@telus.net](mailto:grandmagreen@telus.net)

##### **Goodwill -Acting**

Michael Holbrook -----250-656-7955 [mjholbrook@telus.net](mailto:mjholbrook@telus.net)

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
[www.bcgrea.com](http://www.bcgrea.com)

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