



NANAIMO/MID ISLAND BRANCH #600 Fall Newsletter 2022



CHAIR'S REPORT Lawrence Johnson

That was a long dry summer and fall but it looks like the fall and winter rains have finally arrived. We held two branch meetings after the summer break, one on September 13th and one on October 11th. We have a planned meeting on November 8th where you can purchase tickets for our annual Christmas luncheon on Tuesday December 13th at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #256 on Bowen Road. If you unable to attend the November meeting you can contact Branch Treasurer Gloria Johnson at 250-816-3827 or via email: gloria.johnson.321@gmail.com for tickets.

Chair's Report Lawrence Johnson cont'd

The B.C.G.R.E.A. "Annual General Meeting" was held in Tsawwassen on October 19th, 2022. Our Branch was represented by 1st Vice Chairperson Lea Campbell, Branch Director Mary McDaid, member Janice Katzell and member Peter Kanigan. This was a special meeting honouring the association's 75th year since its inception in 1947. A letter of congratulations from the chair of the Public Service Pension Plan, Tom Vincent was read to the delegates. Guests from the British Columbia Council of Seniors (COSCO), The British Columbia Pensioners Association (BCOAP), and the British Columbia Federation of Retired Union Members (BCFORUM) were introduced to the meeting and each guest gave a short presentation on the purpose of their associations. Short presentations were given by Martell Insurance, Johnson Inc. and Hearing Life. The President of the Municipal Pension Retirees Association talked about his organizations efforts to sign up new members. Membership Secretary Al Barclay reported that 48,000 people who receive a pension from the B.C. Public Service Pension Plan but are not a member of the B.C.G.R.E.A. will receive a promotional flyer encouraging them to join our association. This campaign was a significant cost of \$60,000, it is hoped to attract around 2,400 new members. Thanks to Lea, Mary, Janice and Peter for representing our branch at the AGM. We invite you to attend our November 8th meeting and hear their report.

Hope to see you at the membership meeting and at the December 13th, 2022 Christmas luncheon don't forget to get your tickets from our Treasurer Gloria Johnson.

In the meantime stay safe and be kind to yourself.

****PLEASE GET INVOLVED!*****



1st Vice & Membership Director Lea Campbell

Autumn Greetings to all our Branch 600 Members. As the 2022 Year comes to a close, this season proved to be an interesting one. Beautiful sunny, warm days to enjoy, then cold and winter like temperatures the next day.

Before accepting the position of Vice-Chair I reviewed the Job Guidelines. Feeling confident that I could “provide assistance to Branch leadership and direction by organizing and chairing Branch meetings when requested.” I knew I could do that. However, I did not realize our experienced and wonderful President Lawrence was about to embark on a wonderful, out of country vacation. With the support of all other chair members and kindness of Branch 600 members, everything seemed to of nicely progressed at our much shorter meetings in October.



1st Vice & Membership Director**Lea Campbell cont'd**

Continuing as the Membership Director, I attended the BCGREA AGM meeting held at the Tsawwassen Inn. I attended the Membership Chair meeting with my peers, Josie (from Central Support) and Al Barclay the Provincial Membership Chair. A wide variety of topics were discussed, from the print size of the online application, retention of paper copies, to reports and procedures.

The Branch 600 Membership remains strong, with just over 400 members. With the help of Josie Byington at the BCGREA Central Registry, the work load has really lessened. Together we keep our membership information up to date and secure using Sync.

If you have any new information, such as email, address or phone number changes, please let me know. I am available by email at membership.branch600@bcgre.ca or at our meetings at the front table when you sign the attendance book.

While we have accepted new protocols, such as social distances, many of us still miss the hugs and handshakes. It is nice to see the friendly smiles which are slowly coming out of hiding behind the masks. Let's enjoy the colours of the new season, the shorter days and soon cheerful Christmas Decorations!

The foggy view while waiting for the ferry ride home.





Buddy Callers/ Telephone Committee Mary McDaid

The Telephone Committee has historically contacted Branch members who did not have access to email in order to provide information about upcoming meetings, special events and changes or updates to our pension and/or benefits.

In the Spring of 2020, one of our members, Dan Murphy, suggested that we make “Buddy Calls” to check in on members and maintain contact.

Our long term members of the Phone Committee are Tom and Gail Moore, Lorna Fulton and Peter Kanigan. Last Fall we were pleased to add two more members to our group- Monica Kirkhope and Bettyann Fulton. The contribution of all the Committee members is appreciated by the Branch Executive.

Many of the members have formed friendships with the people they contact. This is important as many of those we call are unable to attend meetings due to distance or physical limitations.

We would be happy to call additional members whether or not they receive emails from our Branch. This allows you to have regular contact with another member.

If you would like to receive calls from a member of our group, please contact me at mamcdaid@shaw.ca or 250-390-0747



Roz Kennedy

In my role as a Director I am interested in member feedback as to what kind of speakers or presenters the membership would like to hear at our monthly meetings. Be it political, health related, senior service or hobbies and if you or someone you know has an interesting presentation please let me know.



Autumn Fires

Robert Louis Stevenson

In the other gardens
And all up in the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over,
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!



Benefits and Reasons to be a BCGREA Member:

****Keep informed of what is happening with our pension issues through discussion and newsletters.****

****Socialize, meet new friends and former colleagues.****

****Have a voice in our organization.****

*****PLEASE GET INVOLVED!*****

Membership Meetings

**The 2nd Tuesday of Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May == Sep, Oct, Nov
at**

**The Unitarian Fellowship Hall – 395 Townsite Road
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

Chair – Lawrence Johnson
1st Vice /Membership– Lea Campbell
Secretary – Kathy Torhjem
Treasurer – Gloria Johnson
Membership – Lea Campbell
Director – Mary McDaid
Director – Roz Kennedy

250-816-0113
250-756-2587
250-753-5778
250-616-3827
250-756-2587
250-390-0747
250-682–58

Director of Special Events - Vacant
Director of Good and Welfare - Vacant
Director Social Activities - Vacant

Kathy Torhjem – Secretary With the BCGREA cake



A nice autumn recipe to enjoy.

Blueberry Gingerbread

9" x 13" pan, buttered. Preheat oven to 350° F.

Beat together in order:

½ cup oil	1 cup sugar	¼ cup molasses	1 egg
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Combine: (reserving 3 Tbsp)

2 cups flour	1 tsp powdered ginger	1 ½ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp nutmeg	¼ tsp cloves	1 tsp baking soda

Add flour mixture and **1 cup buttermilk** alternately to sugar/molasses mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture.

2 cups frozen or fresh blueberries – dredge with 3 tbsp flour mixture and fold into batter.

Pour into pan and bake for 45 to 50 minutes.

Lemon Glaze

1 cup water	½ cup sugar	3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
2 tbsp cornstarch	2 tsp grated lemon rind	

Combine and heat until mixture thickens and comes to a boil. Remove from heat.

Stir in ¼ cup butter until melted. Pour warm glaze over cake. Serves 8 to 10

****SERVE WARM****



*****BCGREA CHRISTMAS LUNCH*****
Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Branch 256 Legion on Bowen/Townsite Road

Doors open at 11:30 with lunch at 12:00

Members of BCGREA Branch 600 \$15
Non-members \$25

Contact Gloria Johnson at [250-616-3827](tel:250-616-3827) or
gloria.johnson.321@gmail.com

Deadline for purchasing Lunch tickets is **Friday December 2nd**



IN MEMORY

Thomas W L David

Winfred A Foster

Melvin Gow

Bodil Hansen

Bruce Holloway

Arthur Ernest Horsley

Dorothy Patterson

Gloria Peachy

Margaree J Porteous

Trevor Price

Ronald James Reeves

Pamela Reynolds

Gerald Wilcox

Ralph S White