



Newsletter

Fall 2023

Welcome to the fall edition of our Rocky Mountain Branch Newsletter!

We are happy to share this update on the branch's activities and plans. Your branch executive has been working to create opportunities to connect with our members, share and learn about topics of interest in the upcoming year.

Our Branch Executive is a blend of new and more experienced members. **Co-Chairs** Morgan Bridger &

Cathy Phillips are new to their roles. Thankfully, Debbie Kerr continues in the **Membership** position. Joel Vinge, a long-time member, has stepped up to be our **Treasurer**. Joel brings broad experience from serving on executive years ago. And, of course, we are all grateful to be supported by **Past Chair** Ron Kerr.

Our **Secretary** position is currently vacant. If you are interested in taking on this role, please contact Debbie Kerr to find out more.

2023 – 24 Local Events

We heard you when you told us that you would like to gather locally more often. Our group has now increased to 194, including spouse members, thanks to the membership drive, and we are located throughout the East Kootenays and out side of the region:

Locations	Members	Spouse Members
Columbia Valley (<i>from Skookumchuck , Invermere to Golden</i>)	14	2
Cranbrook (<i>including Kimberley, Fort Steele & Wasa</i>)	108	21
Creston (<i>from Kingsgate, Creston to Wyndell</i>)	13	2
Elk Valley (<i>from Jaffray, Fernie to Sparwood & Elkford</i>)	16	5
Not Local / Other	12	1
	163	31

Creston members have already met twice for lunch, with members from both the Rocky Mountain (Cranbrook) and Kootenay (Nelson) Branches. They now plan to meet twice a year for lunch.

Thank you to **Therese Rioux** for the amazing work she did to bring these events together so smoothly!

We will be organizing get togethers in each area in 2024 – let us know if you are interested in helping by contacting Debbie or Cathy.

COSCO Information Opportunities

We also heard you when you asked for useful information on topics important to seniors. Our branch is joining the Council of Senior Organizations of BC (COSCO) for 2024. COSCO offers several presentations for specific seniors-focused subjects, including Healthy Living, Legal & Financial, Personal Planning and Safety.

COSCO will provide speakers at a local meeting. In the new year we will be following up with you to confirm what topics are of interest to you, in order to plan these events.

Check it out yourself at [COSCO BC Workshops](#)

Christmas Lunch – Italian Style

We are pleased to invite you to our annual Christmas Lunch in Cranbrook! Lunch will be held in the Banquet Room at **East Side Marios**, located at 1201 Cranbrook Street North.

Doors are open at 11:30 am and lunch will start at noon. The menu selection is included in your attached invitation for you to pre-order when you RSVP.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect and re-connect with all of our Rocky Mountain branch members. Santa's elves will have door prizes too!

Members are welcome to bring a guest. The cost for members will be \$20, and the cost for guests will be \$25.

We hope everyone throughout the branch will consider attending. For those living further away please consider car-pooling.

*Your invitation is attached. **Please RSVP and send us your menu selections to Debbie by December 5th.***



BCGREA Annual General Meeting



President Brian Green emailed all members recently regarding the AGM. Here are a few more details.

Debbie Kerr and Cathy Phillips were our branch's delegates at the October 18th meeting. Presentations from the President, Vice President, Membership, Finance, & Recruitment and Retention committees were very informative. We also heard presentations from the Public Service Pension plan, Johnson Insurance and our legal counsel. More information will be coming in early 2024.

Rocky Mountain Branch's Past-Chair Ron Kerr was recognized for the work he has done for years to support our branch and his contributions to the entire association. A beautiful plaque was presented by President Brian Green to Debbie Kerr in Ron's absence.

Contact us: We plan to send out branch newsletters four times a year. Please give us your feedback and feel free to share pictures and ideas for topics to:

Co-chairs: **Morgan Bridger & Cathy Phillips**

chair.branch300@bcgre.ca

Membership / Acting Secretary: **Debbie Kerr**

membership.branch300@bcgre.ca

Treasurer **Joel Vinge:**

treasurer.branch300@bcgre.ca