

BCGREA
Rocky Mountain Branch #300

Newsletter
Spring 2024



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

Spring is finally here, and we are in the “shoulder season” which means that snowbirds are home from southern holidays, ski resorts are closing, days are finally getting longer, and garden shops are open.

Our membership has grown to 200 now and we are happy to share profiles about four members in this edition. We hope you enjoy our newsletter and will consider participating in some of our association activities in the coming months.

New Member Profiles

Ken Proskow & his partner Christine

Ken worked for the Ministry of Children & Family Development for 30 years. He has lived in Creston for the past 25 years & has worked previously in Kimberley, Cranbrook & Chilliwack

Hobbies include grandparenting & learning to play piano.



Lorraine Schmidt & her partner Randy



Worked for the Ministry of Water, Land & Resources for 28 years. Lorraine grew up & lives in Cranbrook. She retired in 2012. They enjoy time spent with their 2 rescue dogs, Bonnie Sue & Charley. Hobbies include:

- * membership in Fisher Peak Fibre Guild (weaver)
- * swimming 5 days a week
- * riding the “Rails to Trails” regularly on their bicycles.

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**
Membership / Treasurer: **Debbie Kerr**

chair.branch300@bcgre.ca
membership.branch300@bcgre.ca
treasurer.branch300@bcgre.ca

Recording Secretary: **Vacant**

If you are able to offer some time to assist with this position, please contact a member of the executive.

The very busy **Joel Vinge** has decided to step away from his role as the branch's Recording Secretary. He will now focus on helping organize fun events for our branch. We would like to thank Joel Vinge for his wisdom, support, patience and good humour during his time on the executive, now and in the past.

Name Badge Updates

Things change as we age, and many of us are not in close contact with colleagues. When we gather, we wear a name badge as it helps put a name to a face. Some members have also requested the name of the previous ministry they worked for to be added on the name badge.

Unfortunately, we don't have that information for everyone. We will do an email campaign to let you know what we have, or don't have, on file for you.

While we're at it, let's update your preferred name on the name badge. Data in our files is from pension data or your application form. Those require your full legal name, but for a lunch gathering we'd prefer to be less formal.

Please watch for the email and help us keep our files current.

2024 Local Events

In Creston, members from both the Rocky Mountain (Cranbrook) and Kootenay (Nelson) Branches will be gathering for an always tasty lunch at **Jimmy's Pub & Grill** on **April 30th**.

Our guest speaker will be **Barb Wloka**, the long-time agriculturalist and fruit stand owner. She will speak on conditions for Creston area farmers and invites lots of questions. The amazing **Thérèse Rioux** is organizing the lunch. Don't forget to RSVP!

In Fernie, we are hosting members residing in the area east of Cranbrook. This includes members living in the Elkford, Sparwood, Fernie, Elko, Galloway, Baynes Lake & Jaffrey areas. Lunch will be held at the Fernie Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre (*Fernie's best kept secret for delicious, inexpensive lunches*) on **May 6th**. Watch for your invitations and please RSVP to Cathy!

We will also be organizing get togethers for the **Columbia Valley** and **Cranbrook** members in 2024.

Also, Joel Vinge is working to organize a branch-wide event in **Kimberley** this year (*notice the Sullivan Mine Train photo at the top of the newsletter?*). Let us know if you are interested in helping by contacting Debbie or Cathy.

Member Benefits: **Hearing Life Services**

Our provincial association offers some great member benefits that provide cost savings, travel discounts, resource links and much more. You can find them on the [BCGREA.ca](https://bcgre.ca) site. Sometimes living in the East Kootenay area means that we don't have local access to all of the discounts or services available to members in the larger centres of the province. In the case of hearing services, we actually do!

BCGREA members and their families have access to free hearing tests and discounted rates by registering for the **Hearing Life Advantage Club Pass** on our website.

The local service provider in the east Kootenay area is **Dynamic Hearing** who have offices in Invermere, Kimberley, Fernie, Cranbrook and Creston. Contact them at **1-844 714-5321**.