

BCGREA VICTORIA BRANCH AGM – JUNE 18, 2026

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of your Executive Team, it is my honour to present our annual report of activities for the year 2025-26.

Your current Executive Team was elected at the last AGM in October 2025 with some new volunteers joining. We had a short tenure of 8 months as it was decided to change the annual date of AGM from October each year to June each year. This change was made in view of the province's decision to change the financial year end of the Association to December 31. The new AGM date allows us to present the financial statements to our branch members within 6 months of the year end.

During this shortened 8-month period, the Executive engaged in several activities at the Provincial level and organized various events for its branch members.

At the Provincial level, we actively participated in the All-Branch Chairs meetings, Recruitment and Retention Committee, By-Laws Committee, Finance Committee (which I chair as well), Treasurer's meetings, Communications, Membership Committee and Merchandising Committee. This is in addition to representing the Branch at the Society's AGM and Directors meeting.

At the Branch level, we conducted a survey of our branch members to assess areas of interest for programming. The top three areas of interest in the survey were gardens and recreation events in the spring/summer season, hobbies and special interests and staying physically safe. Many events for the current year had been planned before the survey results but we did organize a garden tour and our upcoming keynote speaker at the AGM will cover a favorite summer past time for many – baseball.

The incoming executive will consider the survey results in planning activities for 2026-27.

The Executive met five times in October, January, March, April and May to plan and organize events for members. We also initiated some efficiencies by introducing forms-based bookkeeping, use of artificial intelligence for meeting minutes, closing our BC Mail post box and consolidating it with the head office. A new laptop was purchased for Branch use.

In December, we had a full house for our Christmas Lunch and meeting at Vista 18 restaurant. I presented my interim report followed by a buffet lunch and draw for gift prizes. Members were charged \$35 per person.

In February, we collaborated with the West Shore branch to arrange a presentation from CRA and Service BC through zoom.

In March, we organized presentations on Reverse Mortgages and Financial investments at the Gorge Pavillion. This event was also well attended.

In April, a post retirement workshop was held in coordination with the provincial BCGREA.

In May, we recognized our past and present volunteers for a lunch event at Swan's Pub and Restaurant. Also, on a sunny afternoon in May many of our members enjoyed a leisurely and informative guided walk through the gardens at Government House as an activity hosted by our Branch.

Finally, in June we have organized the summer lunch followed by a presentation from Victoria HarbourCats and AGM for election of the executive for 2026-27.

We continued to provide telephone support and goodwill wishes to members whenever we hear they are not doing well.

Our finances are in good standing. For the 12 months that ended December 2025, the branch had income of \$9,034 and expenses of \$8,044 leaving a surplus of \$990. The financial statements were independently reviewed by 2 members who were non-signatories on the bank account as required by the province. We ended 2025, with a bank balance of \$18,401 at Coast Capital Savings. More details will be provided in the Treasurer's report.

For the year 2026, we received \$7,638.30 in funds from the province and have budgeted expenses of \$11,728. As a result we expect reduction in the bank balance.

At the time of writing, your branch has approximately 2,300 members which is about 20% of the total members of the Provincial Association.

We will bid farewell to couple of our executive members this year due to health / family reasons and wish them well. Gerry Buydens leaves the Executive after many years of service. He was instrumental in arranging presenters for our members' meetings.

We are fortunate that most of our existing executive can volunteer for the next year. We also have at least 2 members willing to join the executive. We still need more members to volunteer for activities and deliver on the survey results. You can volunteer for specific tasks related to something you enjoy like your hobbies or special interests, if not able to make a year long commitment. Just send us an email at chair.branch1200@bcgre.ca

On behalf of your Executive Team,

Sarf Ahmed

Chair