



November 2021 E-Bulletin

From the President's Desk

The Board has met twice through the summer focusing on our program planning, completion of the survey recommendations, the budget, the new member database, and the new look bulletin. However, we still need more volunteers:

WE DESPERATELY NEED A BOARD SECRETARY FOR BRANCH 1200

The Executive has struggled for 6 months without someone in this role. We really need a volunteer for 6-8 hours per month to act as secretary for the branch and executive meetings.

We meet the second (in the afternoon) and fourth (in the morning) Tuesdays of the month for 9 months of the year.

We hope to find someone interested in working at the heart of Branch 1200, to enjoy the camaraderie of a committed, innovative, and fun Board of Directors, and the satisfaction of serving our former colleagues and workmates.

Please contact us at victoriabranch@bcgre.ca



Barbara Golder, Chair

BCGREA Victoria Branch 1200

<https://bcgre.ca/branches/victoria-branch-1200/>

Covid 19 Information

Questions regarding vaccination?

Island Health booking number is:

1-833-838-2323 (Provincial Call Centre)

Information on Covid booster vaccination can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/booster>



Branch Activities

The BCGREA Branch 1200 is optimistic about the future and we are holding an in-person Executive meeting on November 23, our first since March 2020. We also hope to hold an in-person general meeting on January 11, 2022, Covid protocols permitting. In January we have been told by Dr. Bonnie that booster shots will be available for all vaccinated residents of BC so watch for that on the BC government website.

Recently seven members of the Executive attended the BCGREA Provincial Annual General Meeting in which we had a slate of new officers. Our congratulations to all the new Table Officers, but especially **Brian Green** who became President of the BCGREA Provincial Branch. At the moment he remains as our Second Vice President, but that may change as we move forward with some interesting new endeavors.

The new Provincial Executive is

- a. President – Brian Green
- b. 1st Vice-President – Vincent Sherry
- c. 2nd Vice – President – Patrick Harkness
- d. PSPP Trustee – Johanna Morrow
- e. The other positions are appointed by the President.

Johanna Morrow has agreed to remain as Provincial Treasurer as well as our representative on the Public Service Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

Our Thanks and Appreciation to Ken Pendergast (Past President)

Carrie Mulcahy (Past Second VP)

Lawrence Johnson (Former Trustee)

Charles La Vertu (Producer of the PEN)

The Provincial Logo contest was also completed with AGM delegates deciding to stick with the blue Steller's jay as our Logo. There was a \$100 prize for the logo contest, but as no new logo was chosen, the prize was awarded to the second choice which was a creation by our Treasurer, Tammy Welch. Congratulations Tammy on both the logo and prize!

Lastly, Isobel Mackenzie, The Office of the Seniors Advocate for BC gave an excellent presentation entitled "Seniors Issues and Priorities in British Columbia". The PDF files you can view [here](#).

Programs

Due to Dr. Bonnie Henry's decision to defer Step 4 of the BC Restart plan, the Branch is unable to return to the BCGEU building for general membership meetings at the moment. In the meantime, we will continue to have meetings **via Zoom** until further notice.

This is your Zoom invitation for the **November 9** General Meeting at 1:30 pm.

The Zoom link will open at 1:00pm on November 9, please click on it to enter the meeting. Please say your name, then mute your microphone on Zoom. If you have questions please write them in the 'chat box' and we will answer as many as possible in the time available.

Zoom details have been emailed with the November 2021 E-bulletin.

2021 Speaker Presentation Series

Our guest speaker for the month of November is Tracy Ryan. She will be presenting via Zoom at our general meeting below:

November 9 - **Tracy Ryan, Executive Director, Silver Threads Service of Victoria**

Topic: **Silver Threads Programs and Services and its 65th Anniversary!**

Please be aware, unless otherwise noted, the Speaker's Presentations will be posted on our website for those who are unable to attend and/or would like to view at your leisure.

We look forward to seeing you there!

ICBC Presentation Follow-up

Thanks to you all for the well-attended ICBC presentation featuring ICBC's Colleen Woodger, Road Safety and Community Coordinator, South Vancouver Island.

The presentation when available will be posted on our website.

[2021 Speaker Presentation Series](#)

Colleen Woodger has passed along several links that you might find useful.

Please bookmark these links for future reference:

[Tips for Senior Drivers](#)

[Driver Self-Assessment](#)

[Driver Self-Assessment Answer Key](#)

There are two driving guides & the practice tests:

[Learning to Drive Smart](#)

[Tuning Up for Drivers](#)

[On-line Practice Knowledge & Signs Test](#)

[Your Guide to Enhanced Care](#)

Your Questions Answered:

Vision Screening – I checked with our Driver Licencing folks about a question that was raised about how often you need to do a vision screening.

When you first get your driver's licence and then if you upgrade to a higher class of licence you will be required to do a vision screening as well.

[Driver Improvement Program](#) - this link is in response to the question about the points threshold for driving prohibitions.

Multi-Vehicle Plates – this is only available with collector vehicles – we recommend you contact your local Autoplan broker to obtain the details for this type of plate.

[Insurance Discounts and Savings](#) - page 32 – I recommend speaking with your local Autoplan broker about what coverage is best for you.



Photo Contest - LAST CALL - Entries must be received by Nov. 30th

Calling all shutterbugs! Have you captured some spectacular shots of our amazing Victoria outdoors you are itching to share? Want to maybe win a prize or see your pictures showcased in our photo gallery or chosen for our branch banner?

It's simple. Just submit them to our photo contest by following the entry rules below.

There will be three gift card prizes for the contest - a \$50 prize for the best camera shot, a \$50 prize for the best phone/tablet camera shot, and an overall \$100 prize for the best photo. Dani Cyr, a professional photographer, <https://www.danicyr.com/> has graciously agreed to assist in judging the contest.

The contest rules are as follows:

- 1) Photos should be your own original work, maximum of (3) pictures per entry in jpeg format and capable of being displayed on a full HD screen.
- 2) They should include information as to what device was used to capture the image.
- 3) We would like to focus on images of Greater Victoria excluding Butchart Gardens, the Gulf Islands and/or Sidney which is the encatchment area of the Saanich Peninsula branch.
- 4) If recognizable faces are included, a release should be obtained for publication.

All submissions will become the property of the BCGREA Victoria Branch. We are not responsible for lost materials so please backup your files.

Please attach your images and submit your entries via email or on the website to the following email address:

vicechair.branch1200@bcgre.ca

The subject line should be: **BCGREA Branch 1200 Photo Contest**

The contest is open from September 1- November 30th, so get your cameras out and start clicking!



MEMBERS CORNER

September/October 2021 Membership Draw

Winners

A complete list of winners for five \$25.00 gift cards drawn at our Executive meeting is now on our website.

<https://bcgre.ca/monthly-gift-card-winners/>

Congratulations to all!

Christmas Lunch

One of the traditions of our Branch has been to host an annual Christmas Lunch for our members. It is with a great deal of disappointment that for this year we have decided not to proceed with the in-person lunch. The logistic challenges and general concerns about COVID are just too great for us to fully address. We have a number of other initiatives available to members to celebrate the holiday season and we invite your participation. They are as follows:



BCGREA Christmas Gathering via Zoom

The Executive would like to invite all members to join them on Zoom, **Dec 14 from 1:30-2:30 pm** for a **free** Christmas Music Bingo game. Those wishing to play are requested to send their email address to victoriabranch@bcgre.ca with "**Christmas Zoom Bingo**" in the subject line so that we can email you a bingo sheet ahead of time. Prizes will be won! We will also be doing our Christmas raffles at that time, so feel free to join in with your favourite Christmas beverage, and enjoy some good music.

Butchart Gardens

We are once again offering a \$15 subsidy to those members in good standing that would like to visit Butchart Gardens from **Nov 15, 2021 thru Jan 15, 2022**. Please submit your receipt with your name and address to victoriabranch@bcgre.ca with "**Butchart Subsidy**" in the subject line by Jan 30, 2022. Please note if you would like a cheque or an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

Royal BC Museum

We are also offering a \$10 subsidy to those members in good standing that would like to visit The Royal BC Museum from **Nov 15, 2021 thru Jan 15, 2022**. Please submit your receipt with your name and address to victoriabranch@bcgre.ca with "**Museum Subsidy**" in the subject line by Jan 30, 2022. Please note if you would like a cheque or an EFT.

Gluu Technology Society



Want to learn how to use your new mobile device and/or become more confident online so that you can connect with your family and friends?

Gluu Technology Society provides **FREE** digital skills training for older Canadian adults.

See their [website](#) for more details on how to register for their many courses or for further information.

Tours from Old Cemeteries Society

For those looking to explore Victoria's cemetery heritage, the Old Cemeteries Society provides walking tours for members of the public for a small fee.

See their [website](#) for upcoming tours and further information

If you know of any member who is hospitalized, sick, ill or injured, please contact Sonja Ruffell, our Goodwill Coordinator at: victoriabranch@bcgre.ca with the information.



How to Reach Us

Board of Directors Contact Information

President: Barbara Golder

Email: chair.branch1200@bcgre.ca

1st Vice-Chair: Sarfaraz (Sarf) Ahmed

Email: vicechair.branch1200@bcgre.ca

2nd Vice-Chair: Brian Green

Email: vicechair.branch1200@bcgre.ca

Secretary: Vacant

Email: secretary.branch1200@bcgre.ca

Treasurer: Tammy Welch

Email: treasurer.branch1200@bcgre.ca

Membership Chair: Valeska Campbell

Email: membership.branch1200@bcgre.ca

Directors:

Gerry Buydens, Laura Lam, Terry Prentice, Sonja Ruffell, Marilyn Spencer, Vicki White

To message our team directly please visit our Contact Information on our website:

<https://bcgre.ca/branches/victoria-branch-1200/>

Our general Branch email is: victoriabranch@bcgre.ca

BCGRE Victoria Branch 1200's Mailing address is:

PO Box 9017, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9L6

Take care and see you next time!