



BCGREA Victoria Branch September 2021 E-Bulletin

From the President's Desk

We have a new look for our e-bulletin this month and it will be sent out using the Campaigner email service. Any issues or accolades please send to our email address.

It is late August already. Summer is always the shortest season of the year as it flies by so quickly and suddenly it is September and we have cool evenings, morning dew, and even the odd rain shower. This summer has been particularly hot after the heat dome of late June, the wildfires and the drought conditions that are worrying to farmers, firemen, home owners and the many vulnerable communities in BC. In Victoria we are lucky, but must remain vigilant as the grass and trees within the CRD are still tinder-dry. If anyone is interested in doing a rain-dance – feel free we need all the help we can get!

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:

Victoria Branch NEEDS a Board Secretary as part of our team. This volunteer position will take 6 – 8 hours per month of your time. We are looking of an organized person to prepare for and take minutes at two meetings per month and help with other administrative duties.

The Provincial Branch is looking for an editor for the PEN – our provincial newsletter. Anyone interested should contact Ken Pendergast: wkwrp@telus.net

Barbara Golder, Chair

BCGREA Victoria Branch 1200

Covid 19 Information

Get that vaccination now!

Island Health booking number is:

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

The provincial website for Covid vaccinations can be found at:

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



Branch Activities

You would recall that the Branch undertook a members' survey in the fall of 2020. The survey report was circulated to all of you earlier this year. It had several recommendations.

Your Board has been working diligently to take action wherever possible on the recommendations of the survey working group.

We have grouped the survey recommendations into 12 key areas. The status of the recommendations, as well as the survey, is now posted on our new website.

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

As you can see, we have made good progress on a number of these recommendations while some are of an ongoing nature and have been built into our regular activities. Please feel free to provide any feedback by email to the Branch's email address if you wish.

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 **September 14** General Meeting at 1:30 pm.

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

[Click here for the Agenda](#)

[Click here for the May 11, 2021 meeting minutes](#)

This is your Zoom invitation for the **October 12** General Meeting at 1:30 pm.

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

2021 Speaker Presentation Series

We are pleased to announce an interesting series of guest speakers starting in the month of September. They will be presenting via Zoom at our general meetings below:

September 14 - Tom Vincent - Chair of the Board of Trustees, Public Service Pension Plan

October 12 - Colleen Woodger - Road Safety & Community Coordinator, Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

Topic: ICBC Mature Driving & Enhanced Care

We look forward to engaging with them!

Photo Contest

Update: The Entry Deadline date has been extended to November 11th!



We are conducting a photo contest to obtain some images for our banner and photo gallery that will showcase Victoria's beautiful landscapes.

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 11th, so get your cameras out and start clicking!



MEMBERS CORNER

September 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!

BC Systems Corporation Alumni Reunion



October 1, 2021 Update: Unfortunately we have had to postpone our gathering due to current Covid restrictions. When we have a new safe date, we will announce it then.

An event is being planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the end of the BC Systems Corporation in 1996.

It will be open to all those people who worked for BC Systems from 1977 to 31 March 1996 regardless of where. We will gather to reconnect with past colleagues and to remember the rewarding years we worked for one of the finest IT organizations of its time. The Reunion will happen on October 2nd this year in the Atrium at 4000 Seymour Place, subject to the restrictions on group events determined by the Province as it enters Stage 4 of the Covid Restart Plan. We have secured the space and the event will be an afternoon affair from 1:30 to 6:00 PM with coffee, tea, non-alcoholic beverages, and a cake. There will be a fee of \$5 to cover expenses.

If you would like to attend, please send an email to Susanna Francis (Susanna.Francis@gov.bc.ca) giving your name (previous surnames if it's changed) and your email address. Include your partner if they are attending as well. If you know of other ex-BC Systems employees, please pass this invitation on to them. Thank you!



If you know of any member who is hospitalized, sick, ill or injured, please contact Sonja Ruffell, Goodwill Coordinator at:

victoriabranch@bcgrea.ca with the information.

How to Reach Us

Board of Directors Contact Information

President: Barbara Golder

Email: chair.branch1200@bcgrea.ca

1st Vice-Chair: Sarfaraz (Sarf) Ahmed

Email: vicechair.branch1200@bcgrea.ca

2nd Vice-Chair: Brian Green

Email: vicechair.branch1200@bcgrea.ca

Secretary: Vacant

Email: secretary.branch1200@bcgrea.ca

Treasurer: Tammy Welch

Email: treasurer.branch1200@bcgrea.ca

Membership Chair: Valeska Campbell

Email: membership.branch1200@bcgrea.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://bcgrea.ca/branches/victoria-branch-1200/>

Our general Branch email is: victoriabranch@bcgrea.ca

BCGREA 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!