



# The Steller's Quill

BCGREA New Westminster & District

Branch 800

“Spring 2023” Newsletter

**Contact info:**

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## 2023 Membership Dues Reminder

Membership dues of \$20 are payable each year by January 2<sup>nd</sup> (Dues are in arrears after March 15<sup>th</sup>) For members not on automatic deduction from their February pension, your cheque should be made payable to BCGREA and mailed to the Membership Secretary for the Branch: **Rita Pollock**, 302-1110 Howie Ave, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 1V1

**Welcome New Members!**

**Join us for lunch**

**Date: Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

**Time: Noon – 2:00 p.m.**

**Bonsor Recreation Complex (at Metrotown)**

**FREE for our members**

**RSVP required**

**If you plan to attend, confirm before Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
attention to: Branch Chair **Bonnie Billington** [bcgrea800@gmail.com](mailto:bcgrea800@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no meeting at the Centennial Community Centre on Tuesday March 21, 2023. The next branch meeting will be Tuesday April 18, 2023.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

#### **Coming Up:**

**In-person Provincial 'Extraordinary General Meeting' followed by the annual Director's Meeting will be held in Tsawwassen on April 25 & 26, 2023.**

**Purpose: to undertake a complete review of changes needed to the BCGREA Constitution and Bylaws to meet requirements of the BC Societies Act and to reflect the wishes of the membership outlined in the extensive survey completed in 2022.**

**Provincial BCGREA's proposal to change from a 'non-profit society' to a 'member funded society' will be voted on by the Delegates at this meeting. The deadline for resolutions to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee is March 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**BCGREA Policies and Procedures will be reviewed and updated at this extended Director's Meeting.**

**BCGREA Constitution & Bylaws, Policies and Procedures are posted on the BCGREA website [www.bcgrea.ca](http://www.bcgrea.ca) Click on ABOUT US**

### **Branch 800 AGM 2023 Meeting Notice**

**Branch 800's AGM is scheduled for Tuesday June 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the River Room at the Centennial Community Centre, 65 East 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. in New Westminster.**

#### **HELP WANTED - Call for Nominations**

Under the Branch 800 regulations, elections are held at the AGM in June of each year to fill the Executive board positions as follows:

##### **Chairperson**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

##### **Membership Chairperson**

**Telephone Convener**

**Goodwill Convener**

**Six Directors**

The regulations state: "Nominees must be nominated by a member in good standing and will provide written consent to stand for office and may submit background information along with their names."

It is important that we have both some continuity of service on the board *and* new people joining the branch executive to provide new ideas and energy to our organization. A number of branches have closed because new people have not volunteered to serve on the executive and long-term board members have refused to take on the tasks until death!

Please consider volunteering to serve or nominate a member to serve on the branch executive. Anyone interested in possibly serving on the board, please contact **Myrna Cresswell at 604-209-0492** Email: [myrna818@gmail.com](mailto:myrna818@gmail.com)

**Branch meeting location changes ahead:** Due to construction of the new Centennial Community Centre facilities, we will be temporarily unable to book meeting room space in the present location after the June 2023 meeting. Reopening is anticipated in early 2024. Meanwhile we are in the process of securing an alternate location on a temporary basis beginning with the September 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

**The BC Senior 55+ Games in Abbotsford from Aug 22 – 26, 2023.** This society is a volunteer based charitable organization holding the largest annual sporting event for the 55+ population in BC with over 3000 participants annually. Activities include a multitude of outdoor and indoor sports as well as bridge, cribbage and darts, just to name a few. The BCGREA Recruitment and Retention Committee is promoting our members participation or if not taking part in the actual events, to be present as volunteer supporters.

**Registration for this year begins March 1<sup>st</sup>. For info click on:**

[www.55plusbcgames.org/abbotsford2023/](http://www.55plusbcgames.org/abbotsford2023/)

Please note: The games will be held in Salmon Arm in 2024.

Branch 800 continues to support the following organizations with affiliate (group) membership. We benefit from the information and links that provide education and advocacy on important issues for seniors.

**BC Health Coalition:** [www.bchealthcoalition.ca](http://www.bchealthcoalition.ca)

**Burnaby Seniors' Resources Society:** <https://www.burnabyseniors.org>

**Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC** [www.coscobc.org](http://www.coscobc.org)

**Disability Alliance BC:** <https://disabilityalliancebc.org>

### **In review since the Fall 2022 Steller's Quill newsletter:**

**Provincial AGM October 18, 2022 in Tsawwassen:** There was considerable discussion on the proposed resolution requiring existing members paying annual dues by cash (or cheque) to convert to automatic deduction ("DCO") from their February pension each year *or* be removed from the membership list as of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. The motion was defeated.

Having said the above, we strongly encourage our remaining cash paying members to convert to automatic DCO for the following reasons:

- Collecting and safely depositing dues cheques (mailed to their home address) is an onerous task for our executive volunteers who must ensure the confidentiality of your personal chequing information.
- You would qualify for the one-year free membership dues offer from Provincial BCGREA.
- Membership lists would be automatically kept up to date.

We thank the members who have already switched to automatic dues checkoff!

**November 15, 2022: Guest Speaker Tracey Lundell (Senior Investment Advisor)** discussed the topic of "*Tips and Pitfalls in Financial and Estate Planning*" with an informative slide presentation and discussion on Advance Care Planning, Estate Considerations and Planned Giving.

## Christmas Lunch 2022

The Branch 800 Christmas Lunch was held at Ricky's Country Restaurant in Coquitlam on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Tickets were sold in advance at \$25 each for a traditional hot turkey 'dinner' that was well prepared and enjoyed by the 31 members and guests that were served.



The Branch provided door prizes including cash draws, poinsettias and chocolates. We are planning a venue with a larger room for this year's Christmas luncheon that will be held on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Feb 21, 2023: Guest speaker:** Retirement Living Consultant **Joel Grigg** provided an engaging presentation on *"Understanding Senior Housing and Terminology."*

### **Branch 800 Membership Update**

As a result of the outstanding success related to Provincial BCGREA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Promotion, our total membership numbers reflect a 30 % increase since Oct 24, 2022. We have now surpassed 800 members and counting as the promotion runs until Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **We encourage members with electronic devices to join the Branch 800 Facebook**

**Page.** This is a great way to share announcements, access up and coming events and connect with other members. This page has a high security setting, and you must be invited in. To join, please make your request to **Donna Dunedin Main** via email @ [donnaemain@gmail.com](mailto:donnaemain@gmail.com) and place 'Branch 800 FB Page' in the subject line.

**If anyone is aware of members residing in Assisted or Long Term Care, please notify Branch 800 Director Anna Tremere (604-936-3382). As valued members of our branch it is important that we maintain contact, so they and their families do not feel forgotten.**

### **Riverview Reunion Picnic**

**A reunion picnic is planned for former Riverview Hospital employees on Tuesday July 11, 2023 between the hours of 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.** The picnic will be on Riverview grounds, near Pennington Hall. The advertising poster indicates the picnic has been approved by Provincial Health Services Association and is 'No Host'. Everyone is welcome including children. Bring your own Lunch and your chair. There will be a Food Truck on site to purchase food if you so choose. Members are encouraged to inform their former Riverview colleagues.

**Contact: Tin Au - email: [tau1128@gmail.com](mailto:tau1128@gmail.com)**

### **Thank You BCGEU!**

Services provided by the BCGEU print room staff are invaluable and we appreciate their ongoing assistance with our copying needs and newsletter mailout.

### **'Jean's Joke' Police Inquiry into the Death of a Husband**

The sobbing wife was questioned by the police.  
"Your husband died from a poison overdose?"  
"Yes, that's right."  
"But his body is covered with bumps and bruises?"  
"That's because he didn't want to take the pills!"

Submitted by **Jean Ing**

## **In Memoriam**

We regret to announce the passing of the following members:

**Marion Craig, Sheila Ingiborg Dumore, Thomas George Dodsworth**

**Patricia J. Fingarson, Marie Anna Forsyth, William G. Idler**

**Barry John Jackson, George Alex Jones, Coreen Kerr,**

**Eila Elisa Keski-Hynnila, Peter Kolodiazny, Helen Mae Lamont,**

**Russell (Russ) Harold Martin, Douglas Thomas McCallum,**

**Dorothy Ellen Nagle, Michael J. Orason, Elven Garnet Sims,**

**Marie Towill, Lucille Vachon, Shirley Margaret Whiteside**

The Executive and members of the BCGREA, New Westminster & District Branch 800  
express sincere condolences to these families and their friends.