



The Steller's Quill

BCGREA New Westminster & District

Branch 800

“Fall 2022” Newsletter

Contact info:

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2023 Membership Dues Reminder

Membership dues of \$20 are payable each year by January 2nd (Dues are in arrears after March 15th) 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:

Krystyna A. Bondi, Marion A. Brown-John, James Carroll, Rosemarie Carroll, Pablo A. Cartegena, Dulce C. Dolor, Robert Anthony Gurr, Cheryl Johnson, William Johnson, Lidia Rossi, Mercedes Santos, Anthony John Spence, Sieghard (Sig) Thoss, Lynn Marie White.

Branch General Meetings Confirmed for 2022:

September 20, 2022 and November 15, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

**Centennial Community Center River Room; 6th Ave & Cumberland St,
New Westminster**

Zoom Meeting Links:

***Note: meeting ID & codes are the same for electronic devices and telephone call-in**

Electronic Devices: Click on

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74691034411?pwd=TFBOYIZKUS9uajhZYnB5c3FJYUphdz09>

Phone-In: 778-907-2071

Meeting ID: 746 9103 4411 Press #

Participant ID: Press # Passcode: 172722

Report from the Chair

Our first in-person meeting since Covid began took place at the Centennial Community Center on June 15th for the **AGM**. The following is a list of the Branch 800 Executive for 2022/23.

Chair: Bonnie Billington
First Vice Chair: Navin Goburdhun
Second Vice Chair: Vacant
Secretary: Verna Cadwallader
Treasurer: Alfred Malcolm
Membership Chair: Rita Pollock
Goodwill: Jean Ing

Telephone Convener: Marilyn Melville
Directors:
Dennis Ishikawa
Andy McColl
Kathy Nelson
Anna Tremere
Marleine Wagner

Everyone attending enjoyed pizza after the election of officers. Congratulations to the Draw winners: Ross Tremere - \$50 and Chris Demchuk - \$25.

The Finance Review Committee (composed of **Val Davies** as Chair; **Ross Tremere** and **Loralee Wilkin**) met on July 6th with Alfred Malcom, Treasurer and Branch Chair Bonnie Billington to review the branch transactions and records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. The committee approved all records as presented. Thank you to the committee and to Alfred for keeping our records in good order, balancing the books and submitting reports to Provincial again this year. Our branch remains financially sound!

What else have we been up to? Zoom Zoom! In February we hosted a webinar on financial issues facing women in retirement. The presenter **Tanya Lyn Werk** recommends obtaining a credit history report once a year that is free of charge on request from two Canadian sources. For more information contact tanyalyn.werk@scotiabank.com or call her at 604-499-3594.

2022 Life Membership List

Congratulations go to the following members who attained Life Member status in 2021, reaching 20 consecutive years of membership in the BCGREA.

**Roberta Elaine Calderwood, Linda Pearl Carroll, Peter Anthony Caverhill,
Patricia Diane Colford, Shirley Mae Gust, Brian Mitchell Holland,
Patricia Mary Holland, Dennis Harry Jamieson, Ralph Thomas Johnston,
Eva Heung Ling Lau, Diane Patricia Laughlin, Constance Jean (Connie) Lawless,
Dawne LeBarge, Margaret Joan Leladhar Singh, Alfred S. Lee,
Trudy Anna Lemke, Alexander (Alex) Loukopoulos, Darshan S. Mann,
Zaher Hassanali (Mumtaz) Mapara, Patrica M. (Pat) McCabe,
David Samuel McHaffie, Ian William Murdoch, Mohamed Sam Sinnen,
Beverley Snook, Lenore Thomas, Lucas (Luke) Tsoukalas, Joyce M. Warren,
Eric Waterfield, Anne Watts, John Arthur Watts, Dwight L Wenham.**

More news and announcements:

Branch 800 Executive Planning Meeting Discussion July 6, 2022 – Changes

In view of the BCGREA Provincial Survey Report (March 2022), our Provincial Executive is advising branches to be more active in new membership recruitment and focus more on social events. Our executive will continue to meet monthly on zoom from September through June (except December). Plans for the Branch include:

- Reduce the number of business meetings to a minimum of twice a year beginning in September, early spring and as needed to conduct business at hand. We will continue with our AGM in June along with a social / food event.
- Reduce the use of Roberts Rules of Order e.g. on adoption of minutes & reports *except* for specific business and financial issues where voting /quorum should be maintained.
- Invite members at large to help the branch with specific tasks including more help with refreshments / hospitality at our general meetings and events.

There will be **NO BRANCH MEETING in October** due to executive attending the AGM.

Provincial AGM will be held Wednesday October 19th at the Tsawwassen Inn. Branch 800 is sending **4 Delegates:** Myrna Cresswell, Alfred Malcolm, Marilyn Melville, Kathy Nelson plus chair Bonnie Billington. **Observers:** Brenda Felker, Navin Goburdhun, Donna Main.

The BCGREA Recruitment and Retention Committee has been actively involved in launching a merchandise link attached to the R & R webpage. The goal is to promote the BCGREA image and allow branches the opportunity to order items of interest as a larger group at a reduced cost. Samples of these items were displayed at the Director's Meeting in April and will be at the AGM as well.

Please note: Nomination forms are available for the Provincial Executive positions of President, 1st Vice-President and 2nd Vice-President. Contact bcgrea800@gmail.com Attention to Branch 800 Chair.

ONE TO ONE Literacy Society is looking for volunteers who are willing to spend a few hours a week tutoring elementary school students in need of enhancing their reading skills. The virtual winter program runs from January to June and training begins this month. No experience necessary. *Find out more and apply now at <https://one-to-one.ca/get-involved/become-a-tutor/>.*

SPEAKER for the November 15th Branch Meeting: Senior Investment Advisor **Tracey Lundell** will do a presentation on Estate Planning at 1:00 p.m. in the Centennial Community Center River Room.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH is booked for Tuesday Dec 6th, 11:30 a.m. at Ricky's Country Restaurant (formerly ABC).

Address: #300 – 100 Schoolhouse St. in Coquitlam.

A traditional turkey dinner will be served for **\$25 per person.**

A maximum of 50 tickets will be sold and *must be purchased in advance*; available until the November 15th General Meeting.

For details and ticket information contact **Marilyn Melville at mmelville@telus.net or 604-522-9830.**

Branch 800 Picnic

A total of seventy members and guests attended The Branch 800 Picnic on September 7th in Queens Park in celebration of **BCGREA's 75th Anniversary**. The day was sunny with a balmy 23 degrees in the afternoon, but the covered picnic area could be a bit nippy when the breeze blew through. Roberta Calderwood arrived with McDonald's coffee and that was a hit!

The 'Tam O'Shanter's' Scottish Country Dancers began the event with a lively display of their traditional dance steps beside the picnic shelter, making do with a park pathway for a dance floor. **Thank you to Donna Main** who sponsored them and participated as a member of this group.



After the deli sandwich lunch, special guest **Provincial BCGREA President Brian Green** addressed the event, highlighting the benefits of membership in the BCGREA. The BCGREA 75th Anniversary cake was served to everyone.



Several canvas bags and pens with BCGREA Logo were offered as draw prizes along with four cash draws for \$25.



A big THANK YOU to all the Branch 800 Executive who helped facilitate this event.

Time for a Laugh from Jean Ing “The Helpful Husband”

It is important for men to remember that, as women grow older, it becomes harder for them to maintain the same quality of housekeeping as when they were younger. When you notice this, try not to yell at them.

My name is Ron. Let me relate how I handled the situation with my wife, Carol.

When I retired a few years ago, it became necessary for Carol to get a full-time job, along with her part-time job, both for extra income and for the health benefits that we needed.

Shortly after she started working, I noticed she was beginning to show her age. I usually get home from the golf club about the same time she gets home from work. Although she knows how hungry I am, she almost always says she has to rest for half an hour or so before she starts dinner. I don't yell at her. Instead, I tell her to take her time and just wake me when she gets dinner on the table.

I generally have lunch each day in the Men's Grill at the Golf Club, so eating out is not an option in the evening. I'm ready for some home cooked grub when I hit that door. She used to do the dishes as soon as we finished eating. But now, it's not unusual for them to sit on the table for several hours after dinner. I do what I can by diplomatically reminding her several times each evening that they won't clean themselves. I know she really appreciates this, as it does seem to motivate her to get them done before she goes to bed.

Another symptom of aging is complaining, I think. For example, she will say that it is difficult for her to find time to pay the monthly bills during her lunch hour. But, boys, we take 'em for better or worse, so I just smile and offer encouragement. I tell her to stretch it out over two, or even three days. That way she won't have to rush so much. I also remind her that missing lunch completely now and then wouldn't hurt her any (if you know what I mean). I like to think tact is one of my strong points.

When doing simple jobs, she seems to think she needs more rest periods. She had to take a break when she was only half-finished mowing the front lawn. I try not to make a scene. I'm a fair man... I tell her to fix herself a nice big, cold, glass of freshly squeezed lemonade and just sit for a while. And, as long as she is making one for herself, she may as well make one for me too.

I know that I probably look like a saint in the way I support Carol. I'm not saying that showing this much patience & consideration is easy. Many men will find it difficult. Some will find it impossible! Nobody knows better than I do how frustrating women get as they get older. However, guys, even if you just use a little more tact and less criticism of your aging wife because of this article, I will consider that writing it was well worthwhile. After all, we are put on this earth to help each other.

Editor's Note: Ron died suddenly on January 31 of a perforated rectum.

The police report says he was found with a Calloway extra-long 50-inch Big Bertha Driver¹¹ golf club jammed up his rear end, with barely 5 inches of grip showing, and a sledge hammer lying nearby. His wife Carol Anne was arrested and charged with murder...

The all-woman jury took only 10 minutes to find her Not Guilty, accepting her defence that Ron, somehow without looking, accidentally sat down on his golf club. A hole in one, so to speak.

A Winter Tale..by Andy McColl

One cold December weeknight in 1959 or '60, none of my buddies were about so I decided to have an 'early night' (this was about 8 or 8:30) and headed home. My family lived in the mental hospital's staff housing. When I arrived home I found the hospital's male night supervisor at our door asking my father to go with an ambulance to pick up a new patient. My father had something planned for the following day, so declined. Being 'young and keen' (i.e. 'stupid'), I volunteered.

I was accompanied by a Charge Nurse, Johnny, who had a trick of imparting unpleasant information out the corner of his mouth “They say this fellow has been running amok with a rook gun.” I lost some of my enthusiasm but it was too late to back out.

We were to pick up the patient from his home in Glen Lochy, in North Argyll, on the A85 between Dalmally and Tyndrum. The police constable from Dalmally was on the scene, and we were told the “Oban Patrol” (the highway patrol for that stretch of road) would be “standing by.”

The patient worked for the railway and lived in a short row of railway cottages that had a signal box on the west end of the row. Access to the cottages was by a footbridge over the river Lochy. It was a cold, dark, windy night with snow on the hills. The Patrol was “standing by”, but getting the patient out of his home was up to us. We had to drive off the highway, go down a track and park close to the bridge. Johnny, the ambulance driver, and I crossed over. The river was running fast and cold, radiating cold air. The entire row was in darkness. The cottages had no electric light. A neighbour met us and directed us to the man’s cottage. The patient’s doctor and the Dalmally police officer were already inside. The signal box was a structure where the walls were mostly all-around window. We could see the workmens’ faces as pale blurs inside the signal box; but the cottages were silent. The patient’s wife had taken her child and fled to Glasgow.

Light in the cottage was provided by kerosene lamps and my job for the night was to keep the lanterns burning brightly. (I didn’t see any sign of the shotgun he’d supposedly been running amok with.)

The patient, who was in pyjamas and in bed, was adamant that he wasn’t going anywhere. I thought he bore a strong resemblance to Jack Palance, an actor who appeared in a number of Hollywood movies in the 1940s and ’50s. The only difference I could see was this fellow had a one inch almost vertical scar between his eyes. The negotiating went on for ages. Eventually the patient made a move, whether with intent or not I don’t know, but the constable instantly had him in a half-nelson. The patient immediately went passively resistive. We pulled his day clothes on over his pyjamas and tried to get him into his duffel coat. We got his right arm into the sleeve but he wouldn’t let his left arm go in. And he wasn’t going to walk. The doctor led the way with a lantern. *This was where experience told.* I can’t recall who had the feet, the waist or the right arm, but I wound up with the “top left”. (The one without an armpit to get a grip of.) I could feel him slipping out of my grip all the way across the bridge. The bridge was about 4 feet wide and had upright posts on either side about every 8 feet, but no handrails. Those carrying at the feet and waist had no difficulty passing the posts but it was a bit “iffy” for us at the shoulders. Our own shoulder would connect with the post and we’d have to squeeze ourselves past our post and let our opposite do the same on their side. All with the Lochy rumbling along beneath and wafting icy cold air up at us. I was warmly dressed, but that updraft was bitterly cold. *And I didn’t want to get bumped off the bridge!* We all got across safely and loaded our man into the ambulance. The Oban patrol had gone, I guess they figured “the professionals” had all in hand.

For the first 45 minutes of our return trip our patient lay quietly. Then he stirred. Johnny and I exchanged glances and braced ourselves. Our man sat up with his feet on the floor, facing us, then slid his left arm into his coat sleeve. Pulling a cellophane pack of salted peanuts out of his coat pocket he ripped it open and offered it round. I accepted some, it’s called “establishing rapport”; (he did it well). He was fine the rest of the trip and was cooperative during his admission. At breakfast in the patients’ dining hall a couple of days later, one of the female staff, back from days off, caught sight of the new face at the male tables. She stared at him, then I heard her say to one of her colleagues “For a minute there I thought that new man was Jack Palance!”

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the passing of the following members:

**Werner Erwin (Joe) Berger, Elizabeth May Beirnes, Donna Julia Bird,
Garfield William Cooper, Kathleen Vera Hall, Douglas John Horan,
Diane Patricia (Joan) Laughlin, Judy Anne Marsh, Suzanne Stewart**

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



Kathleen Vera Hall

Kathleen Vera Hall passed away July 22, 2022 at the age of 105 years. Born in England, she came to Canada with her family in 1918. Her father was hired as the Head of the Occupational Therapy Department at Essondale/Riverview Hospital. Before purchasing a home in New Westminster, the family lived in one of the staff allocated cottages for several years located on the hospital grounds. She was the first born of four sisters and two brothers. The four sisters would eventually live together in the family home in New Westminster.

Vera, her preferred name, worked for the B.C. Provincial Government for 40 years. During those years she was promoted to Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, retiring in 1974. She joined the BC. Government Retired Employees Association Branch #800 in 1997 and was a twenty-five-year member.

Anna Tremere, Director