



South Okanagan/Similkameen Branch 900

CHRISTMAS 2021 ISSUE

# NEWSLETTER

Penticton, Summerland, Oliver, Osoyoos, Keremeos, Cawston, Hedley,  
Princeton, Peachland & all points in between!



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## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT



Maurice Davidson

*While we have not been able to hold in person meetings or plan any social events for almost two years, things are not standing still with the BCGREA.*

*We recently attended a virtual AGM where a new slate of provincial executive and a new public service pension plan trustee were elected. The fall issue of "The Pen" will carry names and pictures of the new provincial executive and other good news.*

*More recently Imre Horvath and I attended and participated in the Remembrance Day service here in Penticton by laying a wreath at the cenotaph.*

*I would like to encourage members that have computers to look at the updated BCGREA website. Each branch has its own webpage that we can use ourselves. Bill Myers has volunteered to be the Br. 900 webmaster. Look there for more branch information in the weeks ahead.*

*Branch 900 has appointed Imre Horvath branch treasurer as Larry Martin has stepped down. On behalf of all our members I want to thank Larry for his expertise in keeping track of our finances and for his support over the past 14 years. He is not off the hook just yet as we will still rely on him for his help, and he is currently working with the recruitment and retention committee.*

*I would also like to acknowledge another long serving member of Branch 900. Sharon Hudson has managed our telephone committee for years and has gone above and beyond those duties on several occasions. During the first months of the pandemic Sharon called on all the members that do not have an e-mail address to advise them how to apply for the provincial grant that was offered at that time.*

*In closing I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season and let's look forward to a healthy new year where we can resume more of our regular activities.*

### **Elections:**

*We are obliged to hold annual elections for branch executive positions. The positions filled by election are; Branch Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> vice chair and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair. All other positions are filled by executive appointments from interested volunteers.*

*Currently the executive positions are as follows;*

<i>Branch Chair:</i>	<i>Maurice Davidson</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup>. Vice Chair:</i>	<i>John Dame</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice Chair:</i>	<i>Paul Perkins</i>

*All the above are willing to stand for election for another term.*

*The appointed positions are as follows;*

<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Imre Horvath</i>
<i>Membership Director:</i>	<i>Frances Monro</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Jean McLeod</i>
<i>Telephone Committee:</i>	<i>Sharon Hudson</i>
<i>Speaker Chair:</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

*We would also like to have a volunteer for a director-at-large position. This would be a position suitable for anyone who would like to be involved with the executive but not commit to an elected slot. This is not open for nomination, simply volunteer.*

*All nominations must be in to Larry Martin at (250) 497-7881 or [fs-lemartin@shaw.ca](mailto:fs-lemartin@shaw.ca) by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Election to follow if required.*

*If anyone is interested in running for a position on the executive, please contact Larry Martin and he will nominate you on the spot.*

## ***Invitation to Stick Curling***

*If you used to be a curler or just want to give it a try, Stick Curling may be an interesting sport for you to consider.*

*The significant differences from traditional curling are:*

- only two players per team*
- no sweeping of rocks between the hog lines*
- most, (and I recommend it) players use two grippers at all times as no sliding is required during delivery*

***Rules of Play:*** <https://canadianstickcurling.ca/wp-content/uploads?2021/06/CSCARules-2021-09-30.pdf>

- 1. Most Curling Clubs in our area now have Stick Curling leagues. The Penticton Club curls on Friday afternoons, Summerland Friday morning, Oliver Friday night, Osoyoos Wednesday mornings. Like most clubs there is a mix of newcomers and old pros.*
- 2. Most of these clubs have a second season starting in January, some are still looking for players or spares. Call now so they can arrange for practice times or lessons or visit one of the clubs to watch a game. Please call ahead as all clubs have COVID plans in place that require prior notice to attend, wearing a face mask in common areas and proof of full vaccination to enter even as a spectator.*
- 3. Let's stay active.*
- 4. For more information contact Larry Martin at (250) 497-7881 or [fs-lemartin@shaw.ca](mailto:fs-lemartin@shaw.ca)*







## **Season's Greetings from Osoyoos**

**Fellow BCGREA Retirees; in this the festive season we give thanks to all our friends and relatives. This has been a trying year for all of us, especially for those member families whose loved ones we have lost. We must also give prayers to those who have been affected by both the summer wildfires and the recent floods.**

**From all of us here in Osoyoos, we wish you and your families a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.**

**Paul Perkins  
2nd Vice Chair/Osoyoos Area Director**



They say every piece of chocolate you eat shortens your life by two minutes. I did the math. Seems I died in 1573.

# OSOYOOS NEIGHBORHOODS WATCH



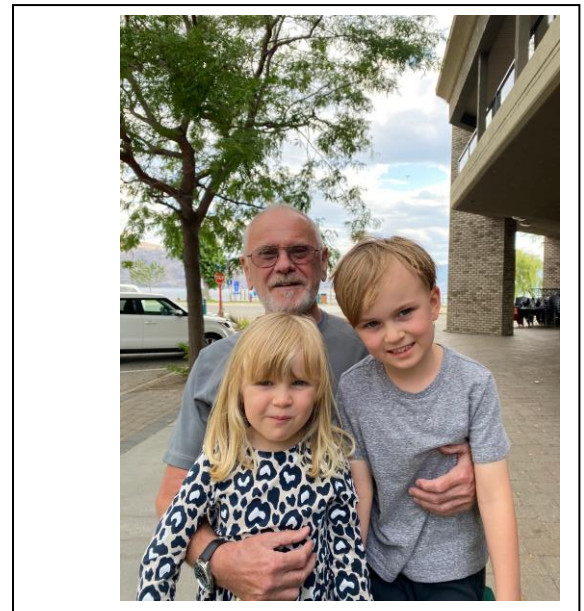
Due to very limited happenings this past year, our financials are very strong.

Our Bank Balance as of October 31, 2021 stands  
at \$ 4,042.09

I will update this monthly for your information.

Imre Horvath

Treasurer



He always knew he was a little different, but he let his light shine regardless of what others said.....BE MORE RUDOLPH!



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Here are a couple of lovely winter soup recipes submitted by Jean McLeod, our Secretary:

#### HAMBURGER SOUP

1-1 ½ lbs hamburger  
1 medium onion, coarsely chopped  
1 large can stewed tomatoes  
1 can of beef consome or equivalent beef broth  
3 cans water (use can from tomatoes)  
3 carrots, peeled and cut in medium chunks  
3 stalks celery, cut in medium chunks  
Rosemary, thyme and/or sage to taste  
Salt and pepper

Brown hamburger and onions in frying pan. Transfer to a large soup pot. Add tomatoes, broth, seasonings and water. Bring to a boil and simmer for about a half hour. Add vegetables and simmer for an additional 15-20 minutes—until the vegetables are tender.

Add 1 cup cooked macaroni.

Serve with fresh buns....





## ROASTED SWEET POTATO SOUP WITH ORANGE AND GINGER

6 cups peeled, cubed yams or sweet potatoes (about 3 large)

1 ½ cups coarsely chopped onions

1 tbsp. olive oil

1 tsp minced garlic

5 cups reduced sodium vegetable or chicken broth

1 Tbsp each grated orange zest and gingerroot

1 whole clove

½ tsp. each ground cumin and salt

¼ tsp. ground pepper

6 Tbsp. light (5%) sour cream

Minced fresh cilantro for garnish (optional)

-Spray a shallow roasting pan with cooking spray. Add yams, onions, olive oil and garlic. Stir well. Roast uncovered, at 425F for 25 minutes. Stir once, halfway through cooking time.

-Transfer mixture to a soup pot. Add broth, orange zest, gingerroot, clove, cumin, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer, covered, for 10 minutes.

-Working in batches carefully transfer soup to a blender, or use an immersible blender to puree until smooth.

-Serve with a swirl of sour cream in the center and garnished with the fresh cilantro, if desired.

With the number of disasters we have experienced this year, we thought this article from the Province of B.C. website might be helpful:

To prepare yourself in case of a disaster, you should have two different kits:

1.) If you are asked to stay at home, you should have the following kit ready so that you are self sufficient:

## Emergency kit supply list

Put supplies in one or 2 containers, such as plastic bins or duffel bags. Store them in an area of your home that's easy to get to, such as a hall closet, spare room or garage.

- Non-perishable food: minimum three-day to one-week supply, with a manual can opener
- Water: four litres per person, per day for drinking and sanitation
- Phone charger, battery bank or inverter
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight
- Extra batteries
- First-aid kit and medications
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
- Copy of your emergency plan
- Copies of important documents, such as insurance papers and identification
- Cash in small bills
- Garbage bags and moist towelettes for personal sanitation
- Seasonal clothing, sturdy footwear and emergency blanket
- Dust masks
- Whistle
- [Help/OK Sign \(PDF\)](#): Display the appropriate side outward in your window during a disaster.



2.) If you are asked to leave your home immediately you need to have the following:

## Make a grab-and-go bag

A grab-and-go bag is a small emergency kit that's easy to take with you, in case you need to leave right away. It's a good idea to make grab-and-go bags for your home, workplace and vehicle.

Include:

- Food (ready to eat) and water
- Phone charger and battery bank
- Small battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Small first-aid kit and personal medications
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
- Copy of your emergency plan
- Copies of important documents, such as insurance papers and identification
- Cash in small bills
- Local map with your family meeting place identified
- Seasonal clothing and an emergency blanket
- Pen and notepad
- Whistle

**BOTH LISTS SHOULD INCLUDE:** A 'PAPER' LIST OF IMPORTANT FAMILY/FRIENDS CONTACT INFORMATION. DO NOT RELY ON THE LIST IN YOUR CELL PHONE.



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Frances Monro

Our membership at present is 210 of which 75 (36%) are Life Members. We have 4 Honorary Members.

This year we have learned of the deaths of the following members:

Willem (Bill) deKlerk from Grand Forks – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Clifford Wayne Harrop from Williams Lake – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Douglas Keith Chanin of Penticton – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020

John (Jack) Thomas Lay from Mission – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Denis C. Shalman of Penticton – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Richard C. Van Blerk of Penticton – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021

John Hugh Gibson of Penticton – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Arthur Miller Docherty of Oliver – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (his wife, Marlene, also died 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

Greg McGowan of Summerland – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

William (Bill) Michael Kelley – 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021

A couple of members have moved out of our area:

Both Janet Dekezel and Elaine Lay have moved to the Mission area.

And we have welcomed six new members into our fold. We hope that we will have the opportunity to introduce them when meetings resume – hopefully in 2022.

Wishing all our members a meaningful and joy-filled Christmas season and a New Year that sees us able to live a more “normal” life again.

