



BGREA Branch 900 Meeting - April 16, 2025 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Auditorium

Maurice Davidson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:30. 27 members and guests were present.

Frances introduced the guest speaker—Shelley Hall from the Community Policing Section of the Penticton RCMP Detachment—for the second half of the presentation on Personal Safety and Scams.

Once again, the information presented was very interesting. Some of the points covered were:

Electronic devices: Computers/laptops/cell phones:

--What happens on-line can have off-line consequences. What information, and how you input it can have long term consequences.

Do not leave your address and bank information on sites when on-line shopping, delete it at the end of your transaction, then re-enter it the next time you shop on that site.

Consider having a separate credit card (with a low limit) for on-line shopping.

Pay pal is more secure method of payment—but still do not leave personal information on that site.

--Social media: (Example Facebook, Instagram)

Keep your settings private. Do not share anything.

Consider setting up an account that does not include your name.

The RCMP can assist in ensuring you have privacy settings on your account.

When you answer 'survey' questions on Facebook, the answers you give can be analyzed to search for your password. Never do surveys that ask for personal information—even if it sounds harmless—like what is your favorite holiday spots. Fraudsters use algorithms to determine passwords.

--Passwords: Use an acronym for a phrase rather than a word. (Rather than: “Retirement is the best job 2014” use: 20RITBJ14!) Using your pet’s name is not suggested—like I did for years! The more keystrokes in a password, the harder it is for the algorithms to determine your password.

Don’t use the same password for all sites—change them often.

Use a Password Book to help you remember what passwords you have entered for sites—keep it in a secure place.

--General Information:

Don’t keep information on your laptop—example: CRA submissions. Download documents such as this to a USB drive.

Don’t give anyone access to your computer.

No one is going to phone and tell you that they are calling to warn you that they are a security agent for a company (i.e.: Microsoft) and they have just noticed you have a virus on your computer and they will help you make your computer secure again.

Mail Theft:

Is still prevalent. Thieves are looking for paperwork that can be used for identity fraud as well as gift cards and cheques. Empty your mailbox daily. Consider having banking documents delivered electronically.

Garbage:

Locally, reports have been made to the RCMP that thieves are going through garbage bins to locate information to assist them in identity fraud. "Cross-shred" any document that contains your name address or any other pertinent information. Put shredded material in different bags—not in the same garbage bag. (Or put water on them and make paper mache). Always peel off or black out information on prescription bottles before throwing them out.

Wallets/Purses:

Unless travelling overseas, only carry minimal information in your wallet/purse. (Do not habitually carry your passport, SIN, birth certificate—store these in a safe place.) Utilize a crossbody purse/pack or put your wallet in your front pocket. Keep your purse on your person—do not put it in your shopping cart while shopping. In the past, some banks have promoted foil-lined pockets to carry credit cards in—removing the chance of a fraudster's ability to 'read' and store information from the card. (Not something that has been reported to the local detachment recently.)

ATM Fraud:

Try to utilize ATMs at bank facilities, rather than the stand-alone machines in public places. Financial institutions take care to ensure these machines have not been compromised. Beware of 'shoulder surfers' or other people trying to distract you. "Apple pay" and "Google Pay" are more secure methods of payment than using "tap" on credit/debit cards.

Vehicle Break-ins:

Black out your address on insurance papers that are in your vehicle. Do not leave your garage fob in your vehicle. Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle—or anything that would tempting to thieves—change, chargers for electronics, sunglasses, etc.

Catalytic Converters:

Currently there is a program that is in the final organizing stages where the VIN# of your vehicle can be engraved on the catalytic converter—making it traceable. Once in place, the local RCMP detachment will be publicizing how you can arrange to have this done.

Reporting a Crime:

RCMP: Criminal matter, an emergency, and public safety is at risk.
Bylaw: Municipal regulations. Now available 6am-10pm/7 days a week.

Calling the RCMP:

- 1.) 911: You require immediate assistance.
- 2.) Non-emergency line: 250-492-4300. No immediate danger to a person. Leave a message with concern.
- 3.) On-line Crime Reporting: <http://report.rcmp.ca>

A crime with no suspect; a non-emergency crime, where the suspect is not on the scene; reporting a serious crime after a lengthy delay; non-emergency incidents in progress; on-going crime, not in-progress; suspicious circumstances that may indicate an on-going criminal activity. This platform captures events happening the community and is utilized for staffing, etc.

No crime is too small to report by this method.

- 4.) There are many community programs operating in the Okanagan: Example: Project 529—to prevent bike theft, and Crime Stoppers to name a couple.

The information we were given over the two meetings by the RCMP is very important for maintaining our safety in 2025. If you were unable to attend and hear the presentation, consider attending a presentation by Jo-Ann and Shelley should you get the opportunity at future venue.

After a quick coffee/chat break, **Maurice called the business portion of the meeting** to order at 11:45 am.

Treasurer's Report: Imre reported that the only expense this month was a \$200.00 damage deposit cheque that was required to continue with the rental of the church auditorium. Moved by Roark Timko and Beth McGifford that the report be accepted. Carried.

Membership Report: In his absence, Bill submitted a typed report—attached.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Thank you to Beth McGifford who has volunteered to shadow the treasurer's position. **Still needed:** a volunteer to take on the branch chair role in October, 2025.

Spring Outing: Tour of the Summerland Trout Hatchery is planned for May 21, 2025 at 10:30 am; followed by a no-host lunch at the Summerland Legion (at approx. 12:15).

RSVP to Darcy by **May 12, 2025** at: 250-493-8234 or beedarcy@hotmail.com

If you would like to carpool (Parking is limited at the hatchery), contact Darcy or Maurice for more information. Darcy: 250-493-8234 / Maurice: 250-493-1538

Good of the Order: none

Health and Wellness: Sympathy card sent to Ken Charlish who lost his daughter last month.

60/40 Draw: Winner of \$39.60 was Beth McGifford; Winner of \$26.40 was Jean McLeod.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, April 28, 2025: Federal Election

Monday, April 28, 2025: National Day of Mourning for persons killed on the job. Ceremony at the McLaren Arena Park, Penticton at 11:00 am.

Wednesday, April 30, 2025: BCGREA provincial AGM.

Wednesday, May 21, 2025: **Branch 900 Spring Outing** to Summerland Trout Hatchery followed by lunch at the Summerland Legion. **See above for details and RSVP Info.**

Have a safe summer everyone!

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.



South Okanagan Similkameen (Penticton)
Branch 900

BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEETING April 16, 2025

VALID FROM March 16, 2025 TO April 12, 2025

Current Membership

Members	Shared Couple	Total
249	29	278 (Previous 279)
Life 20+ Years	Honorary	Associate
62	3	0

Membership Changes

New	Resigned	Deceased	Transferred
0	0	0	1

Membership Communities

Osoyoos	Oliver	Okanagan Falls	Kaleden
20	23	9	10
Penticton	Naramata	Summerland	Keremeos
135	3	42	18
Princeton	Peachland	Other BC	Outside BC
2	2	10	4

Details

Description	Total	Opened	Delivered	Blocked	Bounce
Minutes (Prev Meet) BR900Mar2025Minutes	193	138	52	0	3
Notice BR900Apr2025Notice	193	122	68	0	3

Members without email addresses	31
Invalid Emails	3

Notes: