

**BCGREA Branch 900 Meeting--March 19, 2025**  
**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Auditorium**

The meeting was called to order by Maurice Davidson. 33 members were present.

Frances Monro introduced our speakers Jo-Ann Ruppenthal and Shelley Hall from South Okanagan Similkameen Community Policing—for part 1 of a 2-part series on frauds and scams.

Those present took in a very informative presentation on various financial scams that are currently operational nationally, as well as locally by various means. Some of the most common are:

***Door to door solicitation for charities:*** A lanyard and name tag does not mean the solicitation is legitimate. Most charities do not have door-to-door solicitation these days.

***Phone scams:*** Caller ID will list a local number, but the number has been 'spoofed'. Do not answer your phone unless you know the number on the call display. AI can pick up your voice and copy it to be used in other scams. To be safest, do not personalize your answering machine message.

***Social media/e-mails:*** Do not open any links.

***E-mail scams:*** Previously, scam emails contained spelling and grammar mistakes. AI is now being utilized to draft messages, and are written at university level English.

***Facebook Marketplace:*** Do not e-transfer funds to hold a purchase. Deal with 'cash only'.

***Grandparents' Scam:*** This scam has been widely operational within the Okanagan. Currently the callers are providing a courier to pick up funds that they indicate are needed to assist grandchildren who are in trouble. Remember—if you do connect with a caller that insists on secrecy and time sensitive action on your part—it's probably a scam. Check with a trusted friend/family member before doing anything.

***Purchasing Gift Cards:*** 'Scammers' are stealing gift cards at local stores. (The cards that are in a rack—before they are loaded.) They photocopy the bar codes of other cards in their possession; then return the gift card to the merchandiser to sell. The merchandiser does not realize that the gift card has been altered and loads the card. However, instead of loading the card that you just purchased, the money has gone to the gift card that is in the scammer's possession. If purchasing gift cards, run your fingers over the bar code at the back. It should be smooth—nothing raised.

***CRA and Pay BC:*** Do not email or call asking for money or to use gift cards to pay outstanding debts.

***On-Line Business Searches:*** There are many 'scam businesses' advertising on the web. Just because they are listed and give contact information does not mean that the business is legitimate. Before entering into a contract, or providing deposits for work, do your homework and determine that the business is above board.

**Remember: It's not "If" you should get scammed nowadays, it's "When". Do not be embarrassed to talk to a trusted friend/family member, or reach out to the RCMP if you think you are a victim of a scam.**

**Attachment:** Reporting a Scam

The Penticton RCMP Detachment utilizes a non-emergency call on-line platform. Types of calls to report via this method: <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.

**Next month:** More information on scams, including how to protect yourself if scammers access your computer.

Due to the interesting presentation from Jo-Anne and Shelley, the business portion of the meeting was condensed.

**Membership Report:** In the absence of Bill Myers, Maurice reported that we currently have 279 members. (One member transferred out, and one resigned.) Moved by Lou DiLorenzo and seconded by Imre Horvath that the report be accepted. Carried.

**Financial Report:** Imre Horvath reported that we received \$1,890.48 from the Provincial office as the Branch's portion of the yearly dues paid. Current bank balance is \$2,777.67. Moved by Judy Barillaro and seconded by Bruce Shepherd that the report be accepted. Carried.

**Old Business:** nothing to report

**New Business:**

--Income Tax time: assistance available at the Senior Center as well as Community Volunteer Income Tax Program at 246 Martin St. (next to Pasta Factory) (For those who qualify.)

**Good of the order:** Nothing to report

**Health & Wellness:** Penticton Horseshoe Pitching Club is looking for new members. Call Larry Martin at (250) 462-0391.

**60/40 Draw:** Winner of \$41.50 was Judy Sutherland  
Winner of \$27.50 was Stu Crossan

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at the same time and place.  
Part 2 of the Frauds and Scams presentation.



## BCGREA BRANCH 900 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEETING March 19, 2025

VALID FROM February 16, 2025 TO March 15, 2025

### Current Membership

Members	Shared Couple	Total
<b>249</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>279</b> (Previous 281)
Life 20+ Years	Honorary	Associate
<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

### Membership Changes

New	Resigned	Deceased	Transferred
<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

### Membership Communities (includes shared couples)

Osoyoos	Oliver	Okanagan Falls	Kaleden
<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Penticton	Naramata	Summerland	Keremeos
<b>136</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>18</b>
Princeton	Peachland	Other BC	Outside BC
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

## Details

Description	Total	Opened	Delivered	Blocked	Bounce
Minutes (Prev Meet) BR900Feb2025Minutes	193	143	47	0	3
Notice BR900Mar2025Notice	193	132	58	0	3

Members without email addresses	<b>32</b>
Invalid Emails (list of members attached)	<b>4</b>

## Transferred

Dunbar, John TRANSFER OUT to Branch 2600

## Resigned

Henriksen, William L (Bill)      billhenriksen@gmail.com      250-770-1771 Penticton

## Members that may have invalid emails [based on last campaign bounce]

ToName	ToEmail	TypeDisplay	Campaign	StatusDisplay
Ruth E Manning	rufusmanning@shaw.ca	Mass email	BR900Mar2025Notice	Bounced
Stan John Killeen	swkilleen@shaw.ca	Mass email	BR900Mar2025Notice	Bounced
Ken Charlish	kcharlish@aim.com	Mass email	BR900Mar2025Notice	Bounced

## Notes:

Resigned and Transfer are effective to Feb 28, 2025. This accounts for the 2 members drop in Branch 900

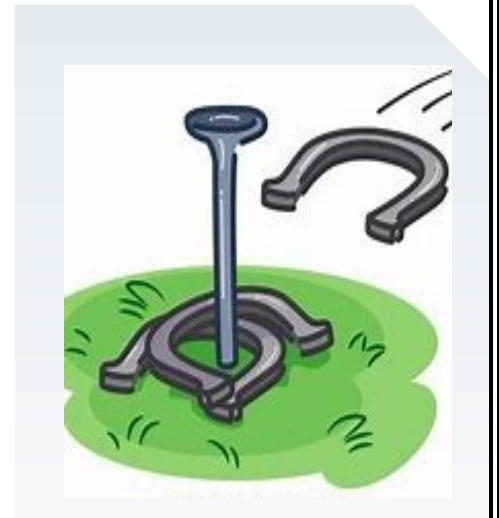
# PENTICTON HORSESHOE PITCHING CLUB

Is looking for **new members** for its  
2025 season.

Young or old - All ages are welcome!

Cost of membership is **\$35** - making  
horseshoe pitching

the cheapest recreation in Penticton



Pitch horseshoes for **exercise**, to  
**socialize** and have **fun**

or

pitch to **compete** at

Regional Horseshoe Pitching

Tournaments in BC

For more information, email or call:

**Larry** at: [fs-lemartin@shaw.ca](mailto:fs-lemartin@shaw.ca) or 250 462-0391

**Dale** at: [dale.stengel@gmail.com](mailto:dale.stengel@gmail.com) or 250-490-3310