



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

September 16, 2025

At 1:00 pm Al Coccoia welcomed everyone to **Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall, Langford 50 & Up Club, 2637 Sunderland Road in Langford, BC.** There were 17 people in attendance.

Al introduced members of the branch executive and George Bowden, the chair of the Victoria branch.

Al acknowledged the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities on which we live.

Al introduced Murray Jacobs, a member of the Langford branch, and also the Secretary/Treasurer of the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC (FFSBC). Murray introduced our guest speakers from FFSBC - Andrew Wilson, the President and CEO, and Sue Pollard, project manager. Andrew gave a very engaging presentation on the formation of the Freshwater Fisheries Society in 2003 when it was carved out of the Ministry of Environment Fish Hatchery program. The non-profit Society is funded entirely by the proceeds of the freshwater fishing licenses. It operates six major fish hatcheries and plays a role in research, conservation and education, improving angler access, and stocking several lakes in BC. The society has formed a number of partnerships across the province and Sue Pollard spoke about some of highly successful initiatives that the society oversees.

Al thanked our guest speakers and presented them with BCGREA mugs and thank-you cards.

There was a short moment of silence, in respect for those members struggling with health or personal issues.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy was not present to give the report but Al noted that the branch's finances are in good standing.

Membership Report (Valeska Campbell): Holding steady with 306 members.

Face Book Report (Sharon Stewart): There are 101 members on Face Book, which is 1/3 of our membership.

Report on Hike (Dale Chandler): The next hike is scheduled for Monday September 29th at 1pm at Francis-King Regional Park. There is an easy boardwalk trail that takes about 15 minutes as well as more challenging dirt trails. We will meet in the parking lot and people can decide what trails they would like to follow. We will gather for refreshments afterwards at the picnic tables in the parking lot area.

Coming Events (Colleen Coccola):

Sep 29th - hike at Francis King Regional Park.

Oct. 1st - Chemainus Theatre lunch buffet and show. 12 people are attending.

Nov. 4th - For our bi-monthly social gathering, we will have a ZOOM presentation by the Alzheimer's Society of B.C. More information will be sent out by email.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$20. Gordon Dobbie's name was selected, but unfortunately he was not present.

Our next in-person social gathering will be our Christmas luncheon in December.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary