



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

September 26, 2023

At 1:00 pm Al Coccola welcomed everyone to **Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall, Langford 50 & Up Club, 2637 Sunderland Road in Langford, BC.** There were 13 members in attendance.

Al Coccola acknowledged the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities on which we live. This was followed by a moment of silence for our members who are dealing with personal and health issues. Al announced the passing of Richard Berry on May 22nd.

Colleen Coccola introduced the guest speaker, Constable Webb who works in Community Policing in the Westshore RCMP detachment in Langford.

Constable Webb gave a presentation on 'Fraud Awareness'. She talked about several different types of fraud, how to protect yourself, and what to do if you are a victim.

Colleen thanked Constable Webb for the informative talk and presented her with a handmade thank-you card and a BCGREA mug and pen to show our appreciation.

There was a break for refreshments, followed by a short business meeting.

New attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Special Resolution: Al made a motion to nominate Charles La Vertu to be recognized as an 'honoured member' of BCGREA. This distinction is given to members who have made a significant contribution to the organization. Charles has been a photographer for BCGREA for 15 years, has worked on the provincial communication committee and was a major player in the production of the marketing videos about BCGREA and our partners. The motion was seconded by Tammy and passed unanimously. Al will forward the recommendation to the provincial secretary for consideration at the AGM or next provincial meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy Welch reported that there is a bank balance of \$2,244.49.

Membership Report: In Valeska Campbell's absence, Al reported that we have 310 members.

Face Book Report: Sharon Stewart reported that we now have 48 members on Face Book.

Report on Stage I Hike to Sooke & back: Dale Chandler reported that 7 people participated in the hike on September 20th. The weather was good and the group split into 2 based on walking pace. The total return distance from the parking lot at Aitkens Road to Sooke Road near Denny's was approximately 4.3 km.

Up-Coming Activities:

- ❖ **Stage II Hike to Sooke & back** - October 11th at 1 pm. More information to follow.
- ❖ **Provincial AGM** - October 17-18 in Tsawwassen.

- ❖ **Next Social Gathering** - November 7th 1pm. Guest speaker is the Assistant Chief Marshall from the Langford Fire Hall. He will talk about 'Emergency Preparedness'.
- ❖ **Christmas Luncheon** - December 5th. To be catered by Ponchos. Next meeting we will have tickets available. More information to follow.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$40. David Gymer's name was selected, but unfortunately he was not present to claim the prize. \$10 will be added to the pot and the amount to be won at the next meeting will be \$50.

Charles La Vertu suggested that we send out meeting reminders closer to the date in hopes of increasing attendance.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary