



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association  
Western Communities Branch 2700

February 6, 2024

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 15 members in attendance.

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

Colleen introduced the guest speaker, Mary-Anne Neal, who is an educational consultant and author of the award winning book 'Under the Midnight Sun: Journey with the Sahtu Dene'.

Mary-Anne gave an interesting presentation on the work she has been doing with the remote Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories.

Colleen thanked Mary-Anne for the informative talk and presented her with a handmade thank-you card and a gift certificate to show our appreciation.

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

Al called for a moment of silence for our members who are dealing with personal and health issues.

New attendees were asked to introduce themselves. There was one new member.

**Treasurer's Report (Tammy Welch):** The current bank balance is \$853.41. Tammy reported that the year/end (December 31<sup>st</sup>) financial review of our books went well. We will receive around \$2000 from Provincial for our portion of members' dues.

**Membership Report (Valeska Campbell):** We are holding steady at 314 members.

**Face Book Report (Al Coccola):** There are now 70 members on Face Book.

**Report on Hike to Sooke & back (Dale Chandler):** Stage 4 of the hike that was scheduled on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> had to be cancelled due to snow on the trail. It has been re-scheduled for Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and will start on the Galloping Goose Trail at Luxton Road. We will end at Glen Forest Way and Happy Valley Road or at Lindholm Road for those who wish to go a little further. New participants will need to sign a waiver.

**Merchandise Report (Al Coccola):** A new tab has been added to the main page of the BCGREA website for Merchandise. Iron-on patches of the BCGREA logo are now available. Al asked the members to let him know if there are items that they would like to have added to the inventory.

**Up-Coming Activities:**

- ❖ **Stage IV Hike to Sooke & back** - February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.
- ❖ **ZOOM Meeting** - March 7<sup>th</sup> at 1pm - Presentation on 'Healthy Eating for Seniors' by the Council of Senior Citizens Organization of BC (COSCO).
- ❖ **General Meeting** - April 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm - Presentation by RegenerateBC on Climate Change Solutions.

**Attendance Incentive Draw:** The amount of the draw was \$70. Joanne Young's name was selected, but unfortunately she 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 \$80.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary