



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

May 6, 2025

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 20 people in attendance including four guests.

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.

Unfortunately, the guest speaker Jane Dewing from 'Changing Places' was not there at 1pm. Al rearranged the schedule and held the business part of the meeting first while waiting for the speaker.

Treasurer's Report: The current bank balance is \$2,278.43.

Membership Report (Valeska Campbell): Our current membership is 293.

Face Book Report (Sharon Stewart): We have reached 100 members on Face Book. Larry Martin from the South Okanagan-Similkameen branch is the 100th person and joined up after a discussion with Sharon Stewart at the AGM. Larry will receive a prize consisting of a notebook and pen. Sharon declined her prize as the person who 'referred' him.

Report on Hike (Dale Chandler): The next hike is scheduled for May 28th at 1pm at the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre where we will walk along the chip trail behind the building. We will meet by the Juan de Fuca Library and walk for about an hour, followed by coffee and refreshments. A car will be parked at the Q centre for anyone who does not want to walk back up the hill.

Coming Events (Colleen Coccola):

May 13th - 55+ Lifestyle Show at Pearkes Arena 9am - 3pm. The branch will have a table and display about the BCGREA. An information sheet on the show along with a free pass was available for any interested members.

May 28th - hike at Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre

June 3rd - Year end luncheon, Gilbert Cade Memorial Hall, 12pm. Copies of the menu were provided. Cost is \$30/member and \$36/guest. Catered by Poncho's. Tickets are available through the Treasurer, Tammy Welch.

June 18th - hike at Royal Roads. Meet-up location to be determined.

Oct. 1st - Chemainus Theatre lunch buffet and show. Approximately \$103. People were asked to put their names on a sign-up sheet if they were interested in attending. We want to know if there is enough interest to warrant buying a block of tickets (minimum 10) to get a discount on the buffet. Need to know by May 17th as tickets sell out well in advance.

At this point in the meeting, it was obvious that the guest speaker was not going to show. Helen suggested that we have a discussion on the advantages and pitfalls of downsizing. Two of her guests, who are in the process of downsizing, offered to talk about it. We rearranged chairs to form a round table and a lively discussion ensued. Several people talked about their experiences and the associated challenges.

Next Social Event: Tuesday, June 3rd luncheon.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$100. Geoffrey Amy's name was selected, but unfortunately he was not present.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20 pm.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary