



British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association
Western Communities Branch 2700

November 7, 2023

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

Al Coccoła acknowledged the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations communities on which we live. New attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

Al introduced the guest speaker, Tianna Dupuis, who is the FireSmart Coordinator for the city of Langford.

Tianna's presentation 'Firesmart Begins at Home' highlighted things that owners can do to protect their homes and properties from burning in the event of a wildfire. There is a rebate program offered by the City of Langford which will pay 50% of expenses, up to \$1000, for actions taken to reduce fire risks (this must be preceded by a Firesmart risk assessment).

Al thanked Tianna 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.

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

Special Presentation to Honoured Member: Charles La Vertu was recognized as an 'honoured member' at the recent provincial AGM after being nominated by the branch. 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. Unfortunately Charles was not present at the AGM so Al accepted the pin and plaques on his behalf. Al then arranged for Brian Green (President) and Johanna Morrow (Treasurer) from the Provincial Executive to attend today's meeting to present these items to Charles.

Treasurer's Report (Tammy Welch): There is a bank balance of \$2,086.19 as of October 26th. Tammy reported that the fiscal year/end has been moved from June 30th to December 31st.

Membership Report (Valeska Campbell): We have 311 members. Our numbers have plateaued since the summer.

Face Book Report (Sharon Stewart): There are 50 members on Face Book. Sharon is putting together our first branch newsletter which will be sent out before Christmas.

Report on Hike to Sooke & back (Dale Chandler): Stage 3 of the hike will start from Brittany Park on Brittany Road to either Luxton Fairgrounds (1/2 hour) or Luxton Road (3/4 hour) and back.

Christmas Luncheon: A turkey dinner is being provided by Poncho's catering along with vegetarian/vegan and gluten free options. There will be door prizes, music, games and a presentation by Toastmasters. Tickets are now available from Tammy Welch - members \$30, guests \$38. Payment can be made by e-transfer to treasurer.branch2700@bcgre.ca. The names of the guests should also be sent to this email address. Tammy will confirm the tickets by email.

Up-Coming Activities:

- ❖ **Stage III Hike to Sooke & back** - November 20th at 1 pm.
- ❖ **Christmas Luncheon** - December 5th at 12 noon.

Attendance Incentive Draw: The amount of the draw was \$50. Robert Beaupre'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 \$60.

Door Prize: There was a draw for a large umbrella that was donated by Prosperity Planning. The winning ticket belonged to Manjeet Bains.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45.

Minutes recorded by Colleen Coccola, Secretary