

# BC GOVERNMENT RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

## LANGLEY/SURREY BRANCH 2100

APRIL 15, 2024 1:00-3:00 PM Royal Canadian Legion, 17567 57 Avenue, Surrey

### Minutes

**Call to Order/Introductions: 1:01 pm**

**Adoption of Agenda: M/S/C**

**Adoption of Minutes from March 18, 2024 M/S/C**

**Speakers:** Angelika Hedley and Laurie Maitland.

*'All the things you didn't think to ask about the behind the scenes of gardening'*

- Be sure you have a tetanus shot at least every 10 years. Lockjaw is still prevalent.
- Essential tools: Trowel, secateur, water meter. One has an acid meter built in.
- Choose the plants, both vegetables and flowers, according to your taste
- Know your soil and sunshine patterns. 6 – 8 hours of sunshine is required for the best growth. Even deep shade plants require 2-4 hours of sun.
- 6 weeks to warm up the soil; do not plant heat loving plants until the end of April
- Soil is 45% coarse sand/clay; 25% water; 25% air; 5% organic matter that feed organisms.
- Don't need to lime to counter the acidity, unless swampy, or under rhododendron, azalea
- Tums for tomatoes, to prevent blossom end rot. One Tums crushed at planting. Or egg shells
- Bad bug: aphids
- Good bug: ladybird beetle (can buy larvae at garden centres)
- Utilize West Coast Seeds catalogue for information and planting guide
- September – use leaves as mulch
- Soil preparation – disturb minimally, do not turn over the whole garden. Just clear off the mulch to plant seeds and plants. Just cut weed leaves off at the soil. To remove weed roots, use a dandelion hook.
- Hay contains seeds; straw does not.
- To develop new beds, use a lasagne method. Layer cardboard, newspaper, sod upside down, newspaper, mulch, and soil. Can also just put the cardboard directly on the grass and add the soil
- Bark mulch – not use cedar
- Can you use grass clippings as a mulch? Yes, but forms a dense mat. Can use as a preventative for growth against a wall.
- How to get rid of horse tail? Dig with a dandelion fork; or add a rich fertilizer because it doesn't like rich soil
- Don't plant when the temperature goes below 10 degrees overnight
- When choosing plants for baskets, choose ones from a warmer zone because there is no latent heat retained in hanging baskets
- Use companion plants and layering techniques to increase the number of plants per area, increase variety, and reduce the need for weeding

## Reports:

**President:** Wilf Broderick

- Directors meeting April 23 - some agenda items:
  - President and one other branch member to be delegates to the AGM
  - Codify procedure for the establishment of new branches

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Robin Rutherford – no report

**Secretary:** Carol Paulson – no report

**Treasurer:** Lu Gaudet – opening balance \$7606.06; closing \$7189.00

**Membership:** Janice Leonard – 708 members, 3 new, 2 moved/transferred, 1 deceased, 8 life members, 3 first timers

**Merchandising:** Janice Leonard – samples were at the meeting. New items: ball caps and cinch bags

**Findjoo:** if you have not received the newsletter, or meeting notices, contact Janice

**Newsletter:** Janice Leonard – submissions are welcome; the next issue is planned for the end of April

**Phoning:** Chris Roberts – no report

**Good and Welfare:** Surrindar Angl, via Janice – 2 cards mailed

**Walking Group:** Benita Antonio, via Janice. We have named our group “Outdoor Ramblers”. The next walk is June 1 at the Surrey Glades Garden

**Convenor:** Christine Sereda – estimations for food is just right. Choices are good. Absolutely need RSVPs to ensure that enough refreshments will be available.

**Guest Speaker Committee:** Darryl Walker – May 13 – Earl Earl on exercises

June - social

September

October

November - Teresa, a kinesiologist

December - social

January

**COSCO:** Wilf reports that COSCO has received a bequest that will help financing. President Leslie Gaudet will be attending the UN conference on seniors.

**Old Business:** nil

**Branch bylaw update:** Wilf – under review in preparation for the Annual Meeting in October. Branch guidelines cannot be developed until then.

**New Business:** Green Shield is on strike; so they are difficult to access.

There have been lots of anecdotal concerns about Green Shield coverage and service. We recommended that each person document their experiences and provide them to Wilf at next meeting. The exec will then develop a report to present to the provincial table officers, who can forward our concerns, via our member, to the Pension Board.

Guest speaker committee – is it possible to arrange a speaker from Green Shield?

**Draws:** for merchandise, won by 3 attendees

**Registration:** Marina Stevens

Total: 33 members and 4 guests

**Member Donation:** \$26.55

**Adjournment:** M 3:10 pm

**Next Meeting:** May 13, 2024. Note: this is the second Monday not the 3<sup>rd</sup>.