



The PenGUIN

Newsletter of the Peninsula and Gulf Islands Branch #2500 of the BCGREA
May, 2023



FROM THE CHAIR

We have been cautiously returning to a “New Normal” for our Branch activities. Our meetings continue to be both entertaining and informative. . . .

At our September meeting Leah and Steve, from the Victoria Photography Club presented pictures of birds, pointing out various aspects of photography, such as light, framing the subject, and patience needed to capture the images



At our October meeting we were treated to a presentation by Brianna Stewart, from Victoria’s Food Eco-District. She described what the District is and how to use small burlap and plastic containers for patios and small spaces to grow food, such as vegetables. She had samples of the containers on display. Members were interested in how to grow food in such containers, so she gave an overview.

Unfortunately, there was no one from our Branch able to attend the Annual General Meeting of the BCGREA in October. We were, however, able to send delegates to the special workshop in November to deal with recommendations for changes to the Constitution & By-Laws. A huge ‘thank you’ to Bill and Sheena Heuman for attending on our behalf.

An informative presentation at our November meeting was given by Lynda Philippsen who spoke about ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, and her journey in learning and practicing ikebana.



On Wednesday, December 7th an “Afternoon Tea” with a Christmas theme, door prizes, and entertainment by the Gypsy Rovers was held. This was greatly enjoyed by those members attending.

At our January meeting the speaker was Lance Vaillancourt, from Canada Revenue Agency Outreach. He spoke about taxes for seniors. He covered a number of topics, including common types of income, common tax credits, service and tools in ‘My Account’, and scams. Attendees had a variety of questions, which made for a lively discussion.

At our February meeting we welcomed back, Steve and Leah, from the Victoria Photography Club. They presented pictures from their trip to Africa, discussing photography aspects and the animals and birds.

At our March meeting the speaker was Tzena Russell, from Service Canada. She spoke about OAS and GIS, for members and spouses; provided tips for dealing with Service Canada and Canada Revenue Agency, including consent to communicate with these agencies on behalf of another person and power of attorney; and scams. Members had numerous questions which made for another lively discussion as in January.

At our April meeting Leni White and Ben Finkelberg, along with an important four-pawed representative, informed our members of the activities of "Vision Mate" and volunteer opportunities within the BC/Yukon CNIB.

It is important to note that the 75th Anniversary campaign to encourage new membership was a great success. Over all, membership provincially was increased by 46%. Our Branch membership was increased by 70%. (we will not receive the benefit of dues paid until 2024, as the offering was dues free for 2023).

Keep informed with other BCGREA happenings on the web-site bcgre.ca

Our branch is looking forward to another exciting year of activities and education.

GET INVOLVED! Come to our meetings and hear all about it. . .

John MacLucas



OUR ELECTION FOR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE IS HAPPENING AT OUR MAY MEETING!

A couple of hours per month is all that is required to help with planning future activities, celebrations, speakers and monthly meetings.

BE PART OF THE DYNAMIC TEAM OF DECISION MAKERS . . .

LET YOUR NAME STAND FOR POSITIONS ON OUR EXECUTIVE. NOMINATIONS MAY BE MADE THROUGH THE NOMINATING CHAIR – **John MacLucas (250) 656-3374 or johnrsanta@shaw.ca**

Report on the Special General Meeting & Director's Workshop held in Tsawwassen on April 25 & 26

Elizabeth and Don Wong and I attended this meeting on behalf of the Branch #2500 members. Progress was made through the various workshops to improve our By-Laws, and, Policies and Procedures. These will be finalized at the AGM in October.

The main purpose of the meeting was to ensure that we comply with the latest conditions of the "Societies Act". I encourage all members to go to the BCGREA web-site and read the entire proceedings of this special meeting. Some of the most important aspects are as follows:

We are to be a "Member-funded Society"

- The name of the society is the British Columbia Government Retired Employees Association. . . The purpose of the Association is:
- To promote and safeguard the interests and the welfare of its members
- To promote the interests of seniors as defined by the Seniors Advocate Act

- To advocate for the protection and enhancement of our Public Service Pension benefits for the benefit of current and future retirees
- To communicate to members on the activities of the Association and matters of common interest
- To be non-partisan.

If the organization accumulates funds from year to year resulting in an accumulated balance in excess of what is reasonably required to carry out its non-profit activities, profit will be deemed by CRA to be one of the purposes and the tax exemption will be lost.

We currently enjoy a tax exemption from Canada Revenue as a not-for-profit organization. To maintain this status some changes are being made. Each Branch will have to work up an annual budget requirement.

Each Branch will send the Provincial Treasurer a copy of its February month-end bank statement.

- The Treasurer will compare this bank balance with the Branch's February month-end membership count.
 - Branches with a bank balance of less than \$10 per member will receive funding to raise their cash to \$10 per member.
 - Branches with a bank balance that exceeds \$10 per member will receive no additional funding for the year.

If a Branch at any time has funding requirements beyond their available cash, the Directors can consider providing additional funds.

Special Notice!



We are planning a spectacular year-end celebration:
BCGREA Branch #2500 "Tail-gate Party"



Wednesday, June 28, 2023 - - - 1:30 p.m.

at

St. Elizabeth Church - 10030 3rd Street, Sidney

Hamburgers, Salads, etc. (provided) - - - please bring your own chair

Tickets are required - Members \$5.00/ non-members \$15.00

(if the weather is bad, we will cook outside and eat inside)

Tickets will not be available at the event

Tickets will be available at our May meeting or:

Order your tickets today by sending a cheque or money order payable to BCGREA to: Kathy Ford, Treasurer, Branch #2500, BCGREA 2402 Twin View Drive, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 7E9 or, e-transfer to bcgreas2500@gmail.com (please include all names of ticket holders). Call Kathy at 250-652-0031 if you have any questions

TICKETS must be purchased by June 15th. THEY WILL BE HELD FOR YOU AT THE DOOR

RECIPES

From the kitchen of Ellen Woods



PEANUT BUTTER STREUSEL BARS

2/3c. smooth peanut butter	1/2c. butter
1c. brown sugar	1 egg
1tsp. vanilla	1 1/4c. flour
1/2tsp. baking soda	1/2tsp. salt
1 1/2c. rolled oats	1/4c. liquid honey
1 c. chocolate chips	

Cream peanut butter, butter and sugar together. Beat in egg and vanilla.

Combine flour, baking soda and salt.

Blend thoroughly into creamed mixture. Stir in the rolled oats. Reserve 1/4 of mixture for the top; set aside.

Press remaining mixture into a greased 9X13 pan. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven and drizzle honey over cooked crust then crumble reserved mixture over the top.

Sprinkle chocolate chips on top; return to the oven and bake for 15 - 18 minutes or until browned.

Cool then cut into squares.

TROPICAL DELIGHT

1/4c. cold water
1c. strong hot coffee
1/3c. sugar
1tbsp. cocoa
1/4tsp. salt
1c. dates, sliced
1/4c. walnuts, chopped
1/2c. whipped cream
1/2tsp. vanilla
1 envelope Knox gelatin

Pour cold water in a medium bowl and sprinkle the gelatin on top.

Add sugar, salt, cocoa and hot coffee, stir until dissolved.

Cool in fridge and when it begins to stiffen, add date and nuts.

Fold in the whipped cream and vanilla.

Chill until firm.

Unmould and serve with whipped cream.

Serves 4

