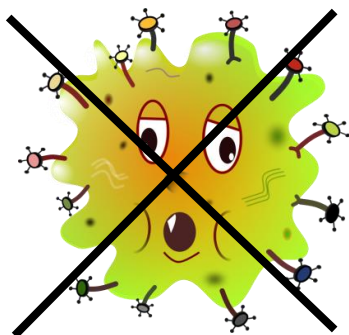




The PenGuIN

Newsletter of the Peninsula and Gulf Islands Branch #2500 of the BCGREA
May, 2022



WE ARE BACK !

For two years you have been so patient, but, now we are back. We held our first face-to-face (masks optional) meeting, since my last report to you in our January newsletter, in March.

FROM THE CHAIR

We have been active Our meetings continue to be both entertaining and informative. . . .

At our March meeting Joanne Barnard from the Victoria Genealogical Society spoke about how basic genealogical resources including local sources are used to paint a detailed story.

Our April meeting coincided with the Provincial Directors' meeting (a separate report from Al Coccola is included in this newsletter). Our guest speaker was Tom MacLean from 'Trip Merchant'. He is one of the BCGREA's Corporate Partners and had lots to offer our members.

At our May meeting we were treated to a very interesting presentation by Sara Neely from "The Victoria Foundation" on the history and goals of the foundation. We also held our annual election of officers for the Branch Executive. The following members were elected by acclamation.

Chair - John MacLucas
Vice Chair - Mark Poire
Secretary - Carolyn Hole
Treasurer - Kathy Ford

Membership - Gloria MacLucas
Refreshments - Ellen Woods
Entertainment - Carol Aston
Directors at Large - Mike Woods, Elizabeth Wong



Mark Poire and myself represented our Branch at the **55+ Fair** held at the Pearkes Arena on April 11th.

Keep informed with the information offered on the BCGREA WEB SITE [www:bcgrea.ca](http://www.bcgrea.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

Special Note:

Come and join us for our 'Year-end Celebration' on Wednesday, June 22nd (details on back page of newsletter)

Report on the Director's Meeting held in Prince George on April 26th & 27th of this year.

The 26th featured meetings from the various sub groups.

The main meeting on the 27th started with Dr. Richard Brown (CDR Business Diagnostics) who spoke on the General Survey of the members of the BCGREA. This was an expensive project that had a 37% response rate and yielded some important insights. The majority of respondents want information and representation on Pension issues. Newsletters are also very important. A large number want member branches to be able to donate to charitable organizations. Branches are seen as important for social interactions. The Provincial body is seen as having a responsibility for advocacy.

There are a lot of things happening in the coming year and the Treasurers budget reflects that. The 2023 budget is calling for overspending of approximately \$110,000. This will still leave us with a half million dollars in reserves. Some of the items we are spending money on include:

- Sending out an information letter to all retirees, not including BCGREA members, on the benefits of membership. This will go to about 45,000 people and will be at our cost. Probably around \$45,000.
- As part of the 75 birthday celebrations every BCGREA household will receive a commemorative wall calendar. Cost about \$32,000
- Additional contractor support for the database and website. Hopefully you are all aware of the ongoing improvements to the website.

The R & R committee has a number of projects underway, including a marketing page, grant funding for branch R & R initiatives, and plans for a new branch in the Western Communities.

The president's message stated that because of the survey we have a better sense of what the membership values and wants. We have improved our communications ability, revitalized the Pen, and have a solid relationship with the Pension Corp. The leadership team is committed to finding ways to improve. Comments, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome.

Submitted by Al Coccola

RECIPES

From the kitchen of Ellen Woods



HERMITS

- 1 c. butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 c. brown sugar, packed
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 c. flour
- 1 tsp. each of baking powder and baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. allspice
- 1 c. raisins
- 1 c. chopped dates
- 2/3 c. of nuts - walnuts, pecans

Cream butter and sugar together. Beat in eggs 1 at a time. Add vanilla. Put in the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Drop onto a greased cookie sheet or a non-stick one, by heaping teaspoonfuls.

Bake at 375 degrees for 6-8 minutes.

Makes about 4 1/2 dozen.

BROWN SUGAR COOKIES

- 1 c. butter or margarine
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/8 tsp. salt

Cream butter and sugar together well. Beat in egg and vanilla.

Stir flour, baking soda and salt together and add to creamed mixture. Drop by teaspoonful on greased or non-stick cookie sheet.

Bake 350 degrees for 6-8 minutes.

Makes 4 dozen.



ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!

To Celebrate our Year End!!

We're having a luncheon for our members
and guests at:



St. Elizabeth Church, Hospitality Room, 10030 3rd Street, Sidney

Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022

Doors open 12:30

Lunch – 1:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10.00 per member

Tickets for guests \$15.00

Tickets will not be available at the event

We will be presenting several “Life” member certificates

*Order your tickets today by sending a cheque
or money order payable to BCGREA to:*

**Kathy Ford, Treasurer, Branch #2500, BCGREA
2402 Twinview Drive,
Victoria, B.C. V8Z 7E9 or,
e-transfer to bcgrea2500@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 14th. THEY WILL BE HELD FOR YOU AT THE DOOR
there will be no ticket sales on the day of the luncheon***