

ON GUARD



Victoria - Fred Whitehouse Branch Report

CHANGE OF VENUE AND TIME FOR MEETINGS

Fall 2007

In the Summer 2007 report, feedback from members was requested on proposed changes to the general meeting schedule and location. As a result, and following further discussion, branch directors have approved a new location and schedule for general meetings.

The following changes will occur starting with the January 8, 2008 meeting:

Location: The Trafalgar – Pro Patria Branch # 292 of the Royal Canadian Legion at 411 Gorge Road East, Victoria, BC (telephone 250-384-7814). The #11 bus transits Gorge Road. Call BC Transit at 382-6161 for more information.

Schedule: Meetings will be held at **10:00 AM** on the second Tuesday of the months of January, March, June, October and December. The annual Spring Luncheon will continue to be held at McMorrans Restaurant on the second Tuesday of May. That event will be advertised separately, as in the past, in the Spring report. The Christmas party will be held at the new location, although starting at 10:00 AM. The schedule for 2008 meetings follows:

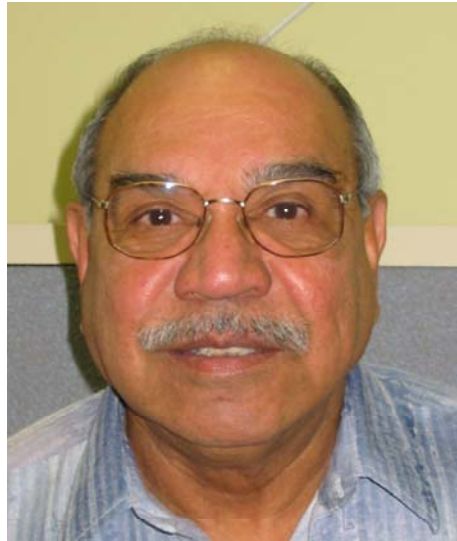
- **January 8, 2008** **10:00 AM** (elections for the Executive and a guest speaker)
- **March 11, 2008** **10:00 AM** (Annual General Meeting and a guest speaker)
- **May 13, 2008** **12:30 PM** (Annual Spring Luncheon at McMorrans)
- **June 10, 2008** **10:00 AM** (regular meeting with a guest speaker)
- **October 14, 2008** **10:00 AM** (regular meeting with a guest speaker)
- **December 09, 2008** **10:00 AM** (Annual Christmas Party).

Keynote speakers will continue to be a feature of meetings held in January, March, June and October. Remaining 2007 meetings will continue on the old schedule at the Silver Threads venue.

Branch Directors approved these changes to encourage better meeting attendance. The Legion facilities are considerably larger (the meeting room will accommodate 200+) and should prove to be more comfortable and quieter. FSNA members will have the option to use Legion facilities for lunch (in the snack bar or lounge) following meetings if they wish. Substantial ‘no cost’ parking is readily available, as is “at the door” bus service. The schedule of 6 meetings versus the present 10 will reduce the workload preparing for meetings and arranging for speakers. Rental costs are reasonable (\$135 per meeting).

Please note also that our business address will remain unchanged (i.e. Silver Threads) and board meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of the month at that location.

GENNO PEREIRA – NEW BRANCH TREASURER



I migrated to Canada in June 1977. I joined CORRECTIONS CANADA, in May 1978, as a Correctional Officer at Matsqui Institution, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

Was promoted as a Living Unit Officer, Kent Institution, Agassiz BC, in December 1978. Since construction was not completed, was sent to Mission Institution, at Mission BC. Joined Kent Institution in April 1979 and acted as Living Unit Development Officer. I was involved in three riots: two at Kent and one at Matsqui, which gave me a different insight of dealing with inmates and the prison system.

Was promoted as the Accountant, Matsqui Institution, in October 1980 and as Assistant Warden (Finance), Williamhead Institution, Victoria BC in April 1982. Was redesignated to Chief Finance and Comptroller during my tenure, and retired in 2002.

I was involved in all aspects of Finance, Planning, Budgets, Accounting and day to day operations of the financial aspects of the Institution, the Inmate Trust Fund, and managerial advice to Senior Management.

Prior to coming to Canada I worked with the Indian Oil Corporation, Mumbai, India, in various capacities. The last position I held was as Supply and Distribution Officer, which involved planning production, importing and moving petroleum products to various areas in India by road, rail and sea.

I have been married to Blanche for 27 years. We met when we worked for the Indian Oil Company in India. She worked for the Immigration Office in Victoria, before retirement.

I used to play cricket, soccer, tennis, field hockey, badminton and table tennis, but had to give it all up because of bad health.

I am an avid reader, and gardener. Like to travel and walk to keep healthy.

MEETING SPEAKERS

November 13, 2007 – Richard is arranging for a speaker from the Victoria Police Department to speak about personal safety on the streets and in the home.

December 11, 2007 – Xmas Party (regular time: 1:30 PM) at **St. Aidan's United Church, 3703 St. Aidan's St.** The following map shows bus stops indicated as “X” and St. Aidan's is marked with a star. BC Transit should be contacted at 382-6161 for individual bus route schedules. Parking is available for those driving. This venue provides a large space for our group. There will be entertainment, door prizes and refreshments (any munchies such as cake, cookies, loaves & squares that you may wish to bring along will be more than appreciated).



January 08, 2008 – Happy New Year! Welcome to the new Pro Patria Legion venue.

Meetings (2007) are held at the Silver Threads Centre, 1728 Douglas St. (across from the old Bay store) on the second Tuesday of every month at 1:30 PM (except for the months of July and August when no meetings are held). Parking is available at the city parkade on Fisgard Street. A one-hour free parking pass is available from the FSNA Reception Desk at the meeting. The former Bay Parkade is also available but is privately operated (no free hour coupon!).

PSHCP COVERAGE – COMMON-LAW SPOUSES AND PARTNERS

Situation :

A member and his common-law spouse are no longer together. In fact, he has a new common-law partner and wishes her to be covered under the PSHCP.

Answer: (source: FSNA National Office)

A common-law spouse or partner must have lived in a conjugal manner (meaning in the same residence) with the pensioner for at least one year before the common-law partner is covered under the plan. In this particular example, the member must get in contact with the pension office and inform that the ex-common law spouse is no longer with him, therefore must be removed from his PSHCP coverage. The member should change his plan coverage from “family” to “single”. He must also state that he started a common-law relationship in a conjugal manner with somebody else and state the name of this new spouse and the date of the start of this common-law relationship. Evidence of same address normally has to be provided to the pension office. Approximately three months before the first anniversary of the new common-law relationship, the member should contact the pension office and change his coverage from “single” to “family” so that the new partner may be covered under the plan on the date of the first anniversary of this new common-law relationship.

If the member informs the pension office that the first relationship ended, let say, six months ago and that the relationship with the new partner started right after, the pension office will verify if any reimbursement payment were made for prescription drugs and/or services for the ex-common law spouse after the of the common-law splitting date. Sun Life will ask that the member reimburse the amount paid to the member for any such payment.

DECEASED MEMBERS

If members become aware of the death of another Branch member, it would be appreciated if they would advise our voice mail line (385-3393). Although we do check the obituaries in the Times Colonist regularly, some deaths are not reported in that newspaper.

Executive of the Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch of FSNA

- President** **Tom Stark** (LTCL, MEDOC, pensions) 721-3917
Past Pres. **Diane McIntyre** (PSHCP, PDSP); long distance – 250-743-6084; *elhefe@telus.net*
- 1st VP** **Susan Williams** 656-9176; *susworld@shaw.ca*
- 2cnd VP** **Neil Bright** (PSHCP, PDSP, branch report) 478-0459; *thebrightsare@shaw.ca*
- Treasurer** **Genno Pereira** 727-0391; *blangno@shaw.ca*
- Secretary** **Joan Landsky** 388-5090

DIRECTORS

- Richard Acton** (LTCL, MEDOC, inside speakers) 479-1799; *richmarj@shaw.ca*
- Bill Rowbotham** (outside spkrs) 370-2567; *drumbeg@pacificcoast.net*
- Val Kolsun** (archives) 370-9106; *jchomyn@shaw.ca*
- Owen Robertson** (reception & facilities) 474-3869;
- Howie Logan** (publicity) 477-6102
- George Philip** (Director-at-Large; past Treasurer) 477-3170
- Inez Walker** (Director at Large)
- Ray Webber** (Membership/Information Coordination) 385-3393; *mcmewsvic@shaw.ca*