

ON GUARD

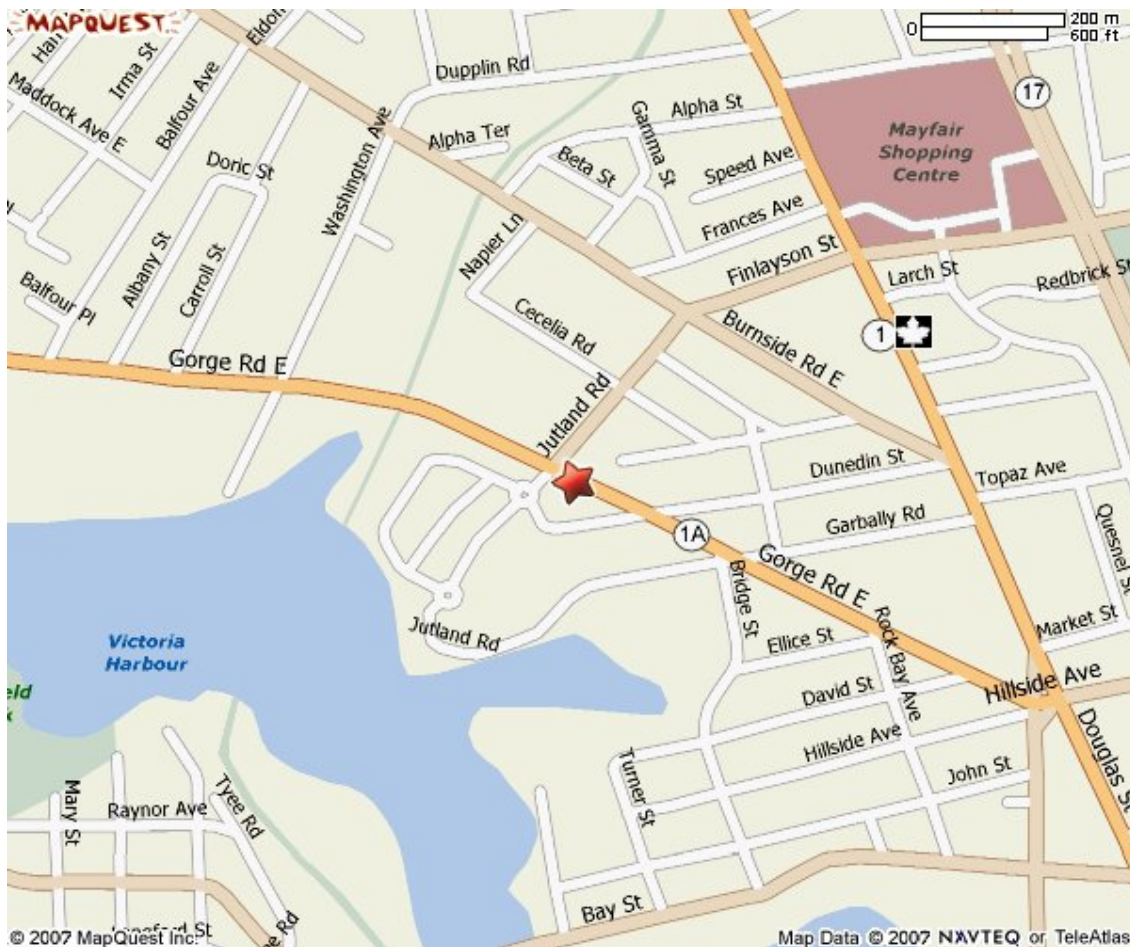


Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch Report



WINTER 2007 - IMPORTANT NOTICE Change of Meeting: Venue and Time

A reminder that, starting with the January 8, 2008 meeting, we will be at our new location and time:
**The Trafalgar-Pro Patria Branch # 292 of the Royal Canadian Legion, 411 Gorge Road East,
Victoria, BC, at 10:00 AM. The #11 bus transits Gorge Road. A map of the location follows:**



January 08, 2008 – Our guest will be professional speaker Linda Schaumleffel advising on how to maintain peak mental performance as we age. **Nominations** and elections for branch directors and executive will be held. Lunch will be available for purchase at the Legion following the meeting.

March 11, 2008 – As in previous years, we plan to have a Canada Revenue Agency speaker present.

MEETINGS WITH LOCAL MP'S

27 August 2007 - Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources and MP for Saanich – Gulf Islands, met with FSNA Victoria-Fred Whitehouse representatives Tom Stark, Richard Acton, Bill Rowbotham and Genno Pereira.

20 September 2007 – Dr. Keith Martin, MP for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, met with Tom Stark, Bill Rowbotham, Genno Pereira and Neil Bright.

Subjects discussed included:

- Bill C-133, the 1982 Compensation Restraint Act which unilaterally limited superannuation indexing for two years;
- Bill C-78, the pension surplus issue;
- the government's decision to eliminate the convenience of appointments for clients wishing to meet with CPP/OAS officials (clients are now handled on a "first come, first served" basis);
- concern that a private firm is conducting CPP audits on behalf of client pensioners to identify accounting oversights which should be the responsibility of the department itself;
- FSNA's efforts to have full survivor benefits apply on re-marriage after retirement (age 60 in the case of CF and RCMP pensioners); and
- on-going problems with health care and particularly access to treatment within a reasonable timeframe.

One immediate outcome was Dr. Martin's assurance that anyone, for example recently bereaved, wishing an appointment with the local CPP/OAS branch could contact his office and suitable arrangements would be made.

Public Service Health Care Reminder

The Administrator must receive a claim within 12 months following the calendar year in which the expense is incurred. Claims for expenses incurred in 2006 must therefore be submitted prior to December 31, 2007.

Executive of the Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch of FSNA (as of Oct 09 2007)

President Tom Stark (LTCl, MEDOC, pensions) 721-3917

Past Pres. Diane McIntyre (PSHCP, PDSP, Lost Contacts); long distance – 250-743-6084; elhefe@telus.net

1st VP Susan Williams 656-9176;

susworld@shaw.ca

2nd VP Neil Bright (PSHCP, PDSP, branch report, WMS) 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@shaw.ca

Val Kolsun (archives) 370-9106;

jchomyn@shaw.ca

Owen Robertson (reception/facilities) 474-3869;

Howie Logan (publicity) 477-6102

Ray Webber (WMS Membership/Information Coordination) 385-3393; mcmews@shaw.ca

George Philip (Director-at-Large; past Treasurer) 477-3170

Inez Walker (Director at Large)

Jim Anderson (Director-at-Large designate)

APPLES AND COOKIES

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Christian elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A teacher had made a note, and posted it on the apple tray. It said, "Take only one, God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note by the cookies that said, "Take all you want, God is watching the apples!"

NOTICE TO MEMBERS WHO PAY THEIR 2008 DUES DIRECTLY TO THE BRANCH

(who don't have their dues deducted directly from pension cheque)

We welcome and need your continued membership. Membership cards for members who pay dues by cheque to the Branch are dated to expire 31 Dec of each membership year. Membership dues for 2008 are therefore payable by 01 January 2008. Dues unpaid by 31 March 2008 will, unfortunately, result in membership cancellation.

FSNA does not invoice individual members by mail. Volunteer resources are not sufficient to permit separate billing to each member. This is therefore the only written notice that "cheque paying" (to the branch) members will receive. If you are not certain about your dues status, please call our voice mail line at 385-3393 as soon as possible or e-mail thebrightsare@shaw.ca.

Members paying by DDS, please ignore this notice. Your membership renewal date is 31 March of each succeeding year to permit FSNA National Office sufficient time to mail out your statement of dues paid along with your new membership cards, usually by end of February each year. Your membership never lapses.

Those paying by cheque to the Branch please consider that if your membership lapses, you will jeopardize your MEDOC travel insurance if you have enrolled in that plan. Loss of your membership will weaken FSNA's ability to represent the voice of superannuates to politicians and government authorities. You will no longer receive the "ON GUARD" publication which keeps you informed on the status of topics of vital interest to superannuates such as the Bill C-78 court challenge (pension surplus) and other items of importance. Personal assistance to survivors in time of bereavement will not be readily available from our Branch volunteers.

WE NEED YOU AND YOU NEED A HEALTHY ORGANIZATION TO REPRESENT YOU IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS!

Please use the renewal form that follows or (much better!) sign up for Dues Deductions at Source (pay your dues with a small monthly deduction from your pension - \$2.85 for single membership; \$3.70 for double membership effective January, 2008). The DDS sign-up form is on page 4.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
 (only for members who pay the Branch directly - those on DDS please disregard!)

Name _____

Pension Type (circle one):
PSSA CFSA RCMP JUDGES

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Amount enclosed: _____ (Single \$34.20; Dual \$44.40 per annum). Please make cheque payable to FSNA, Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch c/o Silver Threads, 1728 Douglas St.. Victoria BC, V8W 2G7. New members - please contact Bill Rowbotham at 370-2567 or by e-mail at drumbeg@shaw.ca

SEASON'S GREETINGS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS!





Deduction of Dues at Source*

Branch: Victoria-Fred Whitehouse

Dear member: This method of payment cuts down the workload of our volunteers and saves you the bother of remembering to mail a membership renewal cheque each year. Please send this application form directly to the **National Office at: FSNA, 1052 St Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, ON, K1K 3B4; ATTN: Francine Demers.** Members whose dues are paid for the current year will see their deductions start ASAP in the next membership year with no disruption to their membership.

Dues Deduction Authorization

You are requested to complete this authorization to enjoy the convenience of having your dues deducted directly from your pension payment each month. **Annual FSNA renewals are automatic.**

I authorize Public Works and Government Services Canada to deduct FSNA dues from my pension payments and to remit those dues to FSNA. I understand that I may revoke this authorization at any time by notifying FSNA.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Pension Number: _____ FSNA Member Number: _____
(NUMBER ISSUED BY PENSION SOURCE INDICATED BELOW)

Pension Source: (CHECK ONLY ONE SUPERANNUATION PLAN) (DDS NOT AVAILABLE ON JUDGES' PLAN)

- Canadian Forces; Public Service; RCMP Police;

AND

- It is a retirement pension OR It is a survivor's allowance

FSNA Membership Category:

- Single (\$2.85 per month) OR Double (\$3.70 per month)

Name: _____ First Name: _____
(PRINT NAME EXACTLY AS SHOWN ON PENSION STATEMENT)

Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's first name: _____

Address: _____) _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

This information is being collected to enable deduction of membership dues from your pension payments or survivor's allowance*. This information will not be shared with anyone other than your pension office.

Contact: **FSNA, Victoria-Fred Whitehouse Branch**, c/o Silver Threads, 1728 Douglas St., Victoria, BC V8W 2G7 or phone our voice-mail line #(250) 385-3393 if there are any questions relating to the above.

*DDS METHOD OF PAYMENT NOT APPLICABLE TO RCMP SURVIVORS, FEDERALLY APPOINTED JUDGES, OR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.