



The Victoria - Fred Whitehouse Branch Report

Winter 2009

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

With the exception of the Annual Spring Luncheon at McMorran's, our regular meetings are now being held at the Trafalgar-Pro Patria Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, 411 Gorge Road East. The number 11 bus transits Gorge Road. Call BCTtransit at 250-382-6161 for more information.

We meet upstairs in the David Slater Auditorium at 10:00 AM.

NOTE – The Legion has extended a welcome to our members to use their snack bar and lounge for lunch after our meetings.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party for 2009 will be held on Tuesday, December 8. The agenda will be a short business meeting from 10:00 to 10:30 followed by entertainment by the Gypsy Rovers and a sing-a-long from 10:45 to 11:30. Then door prize draws until lunch is served at approximately noon. Members are welcome to bring their favorite sweets if they wish. There will be many door prizes to be won

SPEAKERS

In January we have a repeat speaker back by popular demand. Joy McKerr, is a consultant Lifestyle Changes. Joy's topic will be the "next step" – moving seniors into extended care.

For March we will have a representative from Revenue Canada – our annual update on income tax changes and shortcuts. There is no meeting in February.

The speaker for June is in doubt at this time as we have yet to decide whether or not to cancel the June meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Over the last year or more, Victoria branch executive has been concerned that there is a growing trend to concentrate authority with the National Board of Directors (NBOD) with a very diminished (if any) consultation with branches on decisions made that affect FSNA as a whole. There have been many examples of this trend; the change of our National logo being just one. Victoria, as well as the four other branches in our region, has made a concerted effort to be heard on this very important subject.

Prior to attending Congress '09 in June, branches in our region consulted on a number of occasions to coalesce our ideas regarding the 31 resolutions to be debated. We felt that it would show greater if the region was united in its opinion on the resolutions.

It was arranged that all BC presidents meet the day before the start of Congress to try and put together a Provincial policy to further strengthen our position. One might say we were somewhat successful. NBOD has recently sent out *draft* by-laws for national perusal. The draft copy will be available in the near future for perusal by the members. Considerable time and effort has been put into stating our position in making observations on this *draft*. Time will tell as to the extent of our success. It should be noted that every branch is subject to the National by-laws. Individual branches may have their own by-laws that address subjects not covered by the National by-laws.

Considering the above, the committee of Richard Acton, Richard Savard, George Philip and your president was formed to draft by-laws for the Victoria Branch. As well as new by-laws, it was realized that it would be beneficial to have "Terms of Reference" for each of the Director's duties. Richard Acton has been taking the Director's duties and formatting them to be appended to our new by-laws. These by-laws must be offered to the membership at large for approval.

You will be further advised.

Diane McIntyre – Branch President

VICTORIA HOSPICE

Our branch contributes extensively to the Victoria Hospice. You might be wondering what the hospice is all about – Read on to some of the FAST FACTS ABOUT VICTORIA HOSPICE (latest report 2009).

There is not enough space for all they do but a full report may be seen online at www.victoriahospice.org.

The Executive Director of the Victoria Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation for Vancouver Island, Saskia Ages presented information and a brief account about the work of the Victoria hospice. She indicated that forty cents of every dollar for their work comes from the public. In the next year it will be fifty-eight cents per dollar.

Since 1980, Victoria Hospice has provided:

Expert physical care to minimize pain and other distressing symptoms

Palliative Response Team -- 24-hour crisis consultation and treatment at home

In-Patient Unit -- beds for people needing more complex care

Counselling and Emotional Care -- for both dying patients and their families

Spiritual Support -- for people of all faiths, cultures and beliefs

Bereavement -- follow-up for one year following the death of a loved one

Trained Volunteer support -- and companionship (almost 500 trained volunteers)

Medical consultation to other facilities (nursing homes, hospitals)

Respite care -- for symptom management and to give at-home caregivers a break

Palliative care – courses and publications for professionals, caregivers & volunteers

About 40% of the 840 patients under our care last year were able to die at home in familiar surroundings thanks to our partnership with the Vancouver Island Health Authority's Home & Community Nursing care

About 77% of Victoria Hospice patients are diagnosed with cancer. A 37% increase in cancer cases is predicted for the next decade. Other diagnoses include circularity, neurological, AIDS, respiratory and other chronic and progressive diseases

Average length of stay on the Victoria Hospice 17-bed palliative care in-patient unit

at the Royal Jubilee Hospital last year was;
9 days (in the seven acute-care beds)
20 days (in the nine extended care beds)
7 days (in the one respite care bed)

On any given day, almost 350 people are registered with Victoria Hospice. Only 17 of these people are staying in our palliative care In-Patient Unit at the Royal Jubilee Hospital

VICTORIA BRANCH EXECUTIVE

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