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BC 04
Branch Update (#3)
March 2023



There may still be room...
Register by March 8th, 2023
Come to the Annual Meeting, stay for lunch, then...

Party Like it's 1963!



Celebrate Federal Retirees' sixty years!

With great food and special entertainment.
(Hint): *Are you ready to... "Turn back time?"*

Do you have a friend who is eligible to become a member?
Now is the time to bring that lucky person along!

Special "retro" recruitment price:
\$19.63 per person.

NOTICE OF MEETING
BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING
March 16th 2023
Newlands Golf & Country Club, Langley
Meeting 11:30 a.m. (doors open at 11:00 a.m.)

To conduct the Mandatory Business of the Branch:

- a) Approve the minutes of the 2022 Branch Annual Meeting;
- b) Receive the President's report;
- c) Receive the reviewed financial records for 2022;
- d) Receive the budget for the 2023 and financial forecast;
- e) Give the Board of Directors the authority to appoint a reviewer for 2023;
- f) Consider any proposals for amendment of the Branch bylaws, notice of which was included in the notice for the meeting.
- g) Conduct elections for the Branch board;
- h) Conduct other such business as may be properly brought before the meeting.

****Who is eligible? Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP Veterans, Federal Public Servants and their spouses, partners or survivors - anyone who receives or contributes to a federal superannuation pension. You do not have to be retired to be a member of Federal Retirees!**

Space is limited! Reserve by Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/60th-anniversary-party-like-its-1963-at-the-branch-annual-meeting-tickets-521312970127>

Burning questions

Q: *What is appropriate attire for the 'Party Like it's 1963' celebration?*



A: As diamonds are the gemstone associated with a 60th, this would be an occasion to flaunt your serious bling. Alternatively, some members have suggested they may wear clothes that were stylish in the 1960's. Hmm. Probably okay; things didn't really slide out of control until the '70's. (Or have we misremembered that?) But really, you don't have to come in costume. Business casual would be fine. Really.



Q: *Will there be a barbecue this year?*

A: Yes! That's the plan. The General Meeting and Barbecue will be back at **Peace Arch Park on Wednesday, July 19th**. It has been booked! Stay tuned for details.

Q: *How do I apply to volunteer for the Branch??*

A: Contact Ian or Bernd at nafrbc04@gmail.com or call Ian at (604) 753-7845. Bernd is accepting nominations for board positions. However, if you are not ready to commit, think about becoming a 'designated volunteer', someone we can call on to help now and then. 'Designated volunteers' have access to the wealth of information resources available on the Volunteer Information Portal, so you will be ready for a board position when you *do* feel the call.



Thank You!

As we prepared to celebrate Federal Retirees' diamond anniversary, we took a moment to write a 'thank you' note to our 'top sixty' longstanding members. Every member counts! Every member strengthens the voice of the Association.

So, a special 'thank you', not just to our 'top sixty', but to all who have stood 'On Guard' with the Association over the years.

To find our 'top sixty', we asked Steve to search the Association's database for the active memberships with the earliest "Join Dates". He found members whose stalwart support spans three and nearly four decades. There were two who have been members for an incredible 37 years, having joined FSNA – the Federal Superannuates National Association - in 1986. There were six who joined in 1987, one in 1989, sixteen in 1990, another six in 1991, nineteen in 1992, one in 1993, and nine in 1994. Even assuming early retirement, all these members are of a respectable age!

Respecting their privacy, we asked our longstanding members their permission to publish their names in the branch 'Update' and, to date, we have heard back from a good number, including

- **Hazel Buckley:** joined on January 31st, 1990;
- **Martha Fry:** an RCMP veteran, became a member on April 30th, 1990. (Martha plans to attend the party on March 16th, with longstanding friend, **Bernie Grinstead**, one of our members who took Pierre Trudeau's offer of a retirement package from the Air Force in 1971—before the Fraser Valley West Branch was established in 1978.)
- **George Davies:** joined on June 2nd, 1992. (George volunteered and served as Branch President 1999-2002 and as a Regional Director for a number of years.)
- **Derek Hudson:** an RCMP veteran, joined on July 16th, 1992. (We are pleased to note that Derek and **Claire** - also a member - plan to join us on March 16th!)
- **Eduardus (Ed) Naaykens:** an RCMP veteran, and his wife **Nicole**, also joined on July 16th, 1992.
- **Jack and Dolores Grant:** joined on July 19th, 1992. (Jack volunteered and served as Branch President 2003-2005.)
- **Dave Inwood:** retired Public Service; joined on July 19th, 1992.
- (July 19th, 1992 was a big day for us!) **Robert Orcutt** also joined that day. He retired from a 31-year career as an Air Traffic Controller on 1988.
- **Gaston and Huguette Du Paul:** familiar faces at Branch events, have been members since August 11th, 1992. (We look forward to seeing them on the 16th.)
- **Earl Mohns:** retired from the Armed Forces; he and **Marian** joined the Branch on August 26th, 1992.
- **Ken Norman:** retired Public Service and Armed Forces; joined on October 20th, 1993.
- **Donald Lockhart:** retired Public Service and Armed Forces, has been a member since August 2nd, 1994.
- **William Polly:** retired Public Service and Armed Forces; he and **Rose Marie**, joined on November 6th, 1994.
- **George and Patricia McAffer** joined on November 7, 1994. George is an Armed Forces veteran.
- **Kenneth Casson:** retired Armed Forces, joined on November 8th, 1994. We send our condolences to Mr. Casson on the recent passing of his wife, **Ann Elizabeth Lawson**.

Thank you all, for your service to Canada and your years of support. We wish you and your families, all the best!



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First of its kind in Canada Surrey’s \$312M Legion Veterans Village Grand Opening

You got a preview of this incredible development from Rowena Rizzotti’s presentation at our Christmas meeting.

The following is from Tom Zytaruk’s report in the Delta News-Leader:

“More than 400 dignitaries, including representatives from all levels of government, were invited Wednesday (February 8th) to tour the \$312-million Legion Veterans Village project to get a first-hand look at the Centre of Clinical Excellence for veterans, first responders and their families.

“Rowena Rizzotti, project lead, called its grand opening the culmination of eight years of “dedication, passion and fortitude” committed to the “betterment of how we serve our veterans, first responders and their families and the challenges they face as a result of their service to this country.”

“The Village is at the corner of City Parkway and 106 Avenue. Developed by the BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, Whalley Legion Branch 229 and the Lark Group, it consists of a 20-storey building containing the new 10,500 square-foot Whalley Legion Branch 229, as well as 91 affordable housing units and 171 market housing units in the first phase of overall development, and of course, the Centre of Clinical Excellence operated by Veterans and First Responders Health (VFRH).”

“The VFRH is an “integrated group” of family physicians, nurse practitioners and other care providers connected through Welmind – a “digital healthcare partner enabling streamlined, co-ordinated care. “This will be the first of its kind in this country,” Rizzotti said. “A fully integrated continuum of care for veterans and first responders, and families, in their health and wellness needs.”



Rowena Rizzoitti presides at the Grand Opening. Notables in attendance included MP Randeep Sarai, Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke, and to her left, Captain Trevor Greene, whose service and determination were the inspiration for this project.



NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed bylaw amendment: “Reserve funds”; for decision, at the Branch Annual Meeting, March 16th, 2023

Funds held in reserve for Defense of Benefits (to underwrite the cost of legal challenges and information campaigns) are held and managed centrally by the national Association. Reserves held by the branches ostensibly for the same purpose may be subject to scrutiny by the Canada Revenue Agency and bring into question the Association’s not-for-profit status.

Therefore, it is proposed **to delete from the Branch bylaws, the current subsection 9.6 and paragraphs 9.6.1 and 9.6.2 as follows:**

9.6 Defense of Benefits Emergency Reserve Fund

The Branch may establish and maintain a reserve fund, known as the Defense of Benefits Reserve Fund, withdrawals from which may be made only to support initiatives to promote or protect significant pension or health benefits.

9.6.1 Maximum Amount

The maximum amount to be held in the Defense of Benefits Reserve may be set at a Branch Annual Meeting by a proposal receiving a majority (50%+1) of the votes cast.

9.6.2 The Branch board may authorize the withdrawal from the reserve up to a limit set by a vote at a general meeting. Withdrawals over that limit must be authorized at a Branch Annual, Special or General meeting, by a proposal receiving a majority (50%+1) of the votes cast.

And substitute a new subsection 9.6, worded as follows:

9.6 Reserve funds

The branch may establish and maintain reserve funds in accordance with the Association’s regulations. The branch board has the authority to create, change or remove such reserves and must present a report on the status of all branch reserves at each annual general meeting as part of the presentation of the branch’s financial statements.



“Meet and chat” in White Rock

People who have worked for the federal government, either in uniform or in the public service, have had an insider’s view of the incredible variety of services the ‘feds’ provide to the Canadian public every day.

“Meet and chat” sessions are informal coffee meetings that provide an opportunity to swap stories (no fact-checking) and to learn a little bit about the Federal Retiree seated next to you, who may have been a teacher or a doctor or a nurse, or a court reporter, a customs officer, an engineer, a scientist, soldier, food inspector, a lawyer, a gardener, a police officer, a cook, maybe even a ‘federally-appointed judge’. You never know. He or she may also turn out to be a neighbour.



We tested the endemic-pandemic waters with a ‘Meet and Chat’ session on November 16th, to see if members were ready to resume in-person meetings. On that happy occasion, a dozen members turned out for a lively and informative couple of hours. So, we thought we would do it again.

Join hosts **Karin and Sten Christiansen**
to ‘**Meet and Chat**’
on Thursday, April 15th,
1—3 p.m.

At the Centre for Active Living,
1475 Anderson Street
(Next to the Centennial Arena).

(Note: Pay Parking in effect: this is White Rock)

If you know a potential member—whether they’re still in service, recently-retired, or long-retired but just ‘forgot’ to join—bring that lucky person along!

Coffee, tea and cookies (!!!) will be provided. The Branch has many members in South Surrey / White Rock, so we hope for a good turnout. But all members—and potential members - are welcome, of course.

RSVP by April 13th, please to Ian at nafrbc04@gmail.com or 604-753-7845, so we know how many cookies to bake. Also, **Mark your calendars** for May 11th, and June 15th,

Health Benefits Officer (HBO)

Should you need any assistance getting information on the Public Service Health Care Plan, the Pensioners Dental Service Plan, or dealing with pension contact centers (Veterans Affairs Canada, RCMP Pension, etc.)

please contact our Health Benefits Officer:

Glen (Rocky) Rockwell at 604-496-4426

or email at grockwell@shaw.ca

Keep in touch!

Call Steve—(604) 574-2929 to update your membership info

Contact Rocky if you have questions about your pension or benefits.

President	Ian Spence (604)753-7845
Vice President	Katherine Kettler (778) 995-6136
Secretary	Thelma Graham
Treasurer	Stuart Wilson
Membership Admin	Steve Sawchuk (604) 574-2939
Membership Marketing	Joy Hennen
Volunteer Engagement	Bernd Hirsekorn
Health & Benefits grockwell@shaw.ca	Glen (Rocky) Rockwell
Directors:	Ilene Fika
	Judy McLellan
	Sharon Riches

National Association of Federal Retirees
Fraser Valley West Branch
PO Box 34141, RPO Clover Square

Hasta la vista, Stuart

Our treasurer, Stuart Wilson, is turning in his abacus. We will miss him. Stuart joined Federal Retirees on August 14, 2006 and served as Branch President 2008-2011. He stayed with the board, always providing valuable guidance and assistance, in particular helping Bernd Hirsekorn puzzle through the creation and maintenance of the Branch web-site that preceded the current site hosted on www.federalretirees.ca. His parting gift to the Branch was to migrate a lot of the information from the ‘old’ website to the current site and make it easy to navigate. Stuart has done a great job watching our pennies and carrying out the Treasurer’s role over the past 2 years. However, he will not be attending the Branch Annual Meeting to deliver his final Treasurer’s report on March 16th as circumstances have called him away to a sunny beach in the Caribbean. That’s the way it goes, sometimes. Thanks for everything, Stuart! Have a great holiday. Don’t be a stranger.

All the best,
- Ian Spence