

The Golden Gang Gazette

Vancouver Municipal & Regional Retiree's Association

545 West 10th Avenue

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June 2025

Summer Meeting/Social

Happy to announce that we have secured the venue for our June meeting/social. The Board of the Victoria Drive Community Hall has generously offered us the use of the lower hall again. They have been very kind in allowing us the use of the hall in the past. We will be hosting the meeting in the hall located at 2026 East 43rd Ave. on June 20th from 12:00 to 2:00. As per past practice and to ensure enough food please rsvp to Donna Davies at deedee4@telus.net as soon as possible. The executive will be meeting on June 14th, and it would be very helpful to have an idea of the number of folks we need to plan for.

If you are newly retired and have not had an opportunity to attend any of our functions this is a relaxed event that you are welcome to attend and to bring your partner/spouse/friend. The cost is ten dollars for lunch, but if you are only attending the meeting portion of the event there is no charge.

Change in Meeting

Schedule I want to remind members that as of the resolution that was passed at the April Annual General Meeting we will no longer be meeting at Bonsor Recreational Complex but will instead be holding two meetings/socials per year. We found that the meetings were not particularly well attended but the social functions had good attendance. This change will, hopefully, allow us to continue to provide the information that many of you value as well as enjoying a social time.

Senior's Week June 1-7 is Senior's week and there are lots of opportunities to celebrate the rich energy and enthusiasm that seniors bring to many events. We can enhance the understanding of what we have to offer society and what we have accomplished by participating in intergenerational activities. Check for Seniors week activities with your local community centres.

CONTEST WINNERS

Derby Draw Winner:

Jackpot Winner:

Pot of Gold Winner

Door Prize



You must be in attendance or logged into the meeting in order to win and your dues must be up to date

Membership Meeting

Victoria Drive

Community Hall

2026 East 43rd Ave.

June 20, 2025

11:00 am

Executive Meeting

June 12, 11:30 White Spot Restaurant. Market Crossing off Marine Way. Please forward any agenda items to an executive member. Contact info on back page.



I'm excited to be able to get back to the garden. It certainly needed some work. I have a new bird house and bird bath and now have some very welcome visitors. I am also very pleased with the decisions that were made at the April Annual General meeting. It is clear to me that many members, while interested in the information provided at meetings are at least as much interested in the social component. The new structure of two meetings/socials will allow us to focus more on the social aspects and I'm excited about working with the Executive to accomplish this end.

BOOK EXCHANGE - I would encourage members to bring any gently used, fairly new, pocketbooks to the meeting to participate in our book exchange. We have reinstituted the book exchange and it went well during our fall meeting.

NEW MEMBERS/VOLUNTEERS We continue our ongoing efforts to recruit new members/volunteers. We are most anxious to recruit newer/younger members/volunteers to assist with the production of the newsletter, assistance with Zoom meetings and recruiting and scheduling guest speakers. If you or anyone you know might be interested in helping, please let us know. There are only two meetings/socials a year, so the workload is not onerous. The Golden Gang Gazette which will be posted two a year now is another opportunity to participate or volunteer.

Municipal Pension Retiree's Association (MPRA) I know that many of you have already joined the association but for those of you who have not yet, I would encourage you to think about joining. There is considerable information available on the website or you are welcome to attend a local meeting prior to joining.

Delta meeting, June 3, 10:00 - noon am at Sungod Arena, 7815-112 St. Delta

Tri-Cities meeting June 9, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Ricky Restaurant 100 Schoolhouse St

Vancouver meeting June 13, 10:15 – 12:15 at Vancouver Unitarian Church Fireside room 949 West 49th Ave. at Oak

North Vancouver meeting June 18 10:00 am till noon at Capilano Mall 2nd floor Community Room

Langley meeting June 23, 1:00 – 3:00 pm Timms Community Centre 20399 Douglas Crescent

Burnaby meeting June 27, 10:30- 12:30 BC Society of Model Engineers 120 North Willington

Surrey Meeting June 25, 12:30 -2:30 Location to be announced

Richmond meeting June 20, 10:00 am – noon Location to be announced.

For information on the Richmond and Surrey meeting locations you can log into the mpra.ca website and check on the calendar closer to the meeting date.

If you are interested in attending, and you would, like I can arrange for someone at the meeting to greet you and do some introductions. Please let me know.elizabethmcgee@shaw.ca

Dating in Later Life

As we age many of us have lost our partners and given time, we may be feeling that dipping our toes into the dating pool would be something we are interested in. Gone are the days when we would meet people at school dances etc. The dating game has changed, and it can be very challenging and confusing knowing where to start. Even the idea of starting to search for someone to spend time with can be confusing and anxiety producing. It's important to know that you are not alone in these feelings. While it will take some courage to seek out a new partner it can result in the creation of a new and exciting time in your life. Online dating is so mainstream for many younger folks that they have no hesitation in utilizing this method of meeting folks. For those of us older folks online dating, which screens such issues as age, interests, and abilities can help us avoid the sometimes-awkward dates of the past. While the internet can be problematic there are several reputable sites available. Meeting with someone for the first time at a social function where there are other folks can add an element of comfort and safety that you might want to consider.

Deferring Property Taxes

Tax season is once again upon us, and I wanted to remind folks of the option of deferring your home taxes. Homeowners who are 55 or older, or a surviving spouse of someone 55 or over or a person with disabilities, can defer their municipal taxes in order to utilize that money in other areas of their life. The current interest rate is 3.45% and is in effect until September 30. The interest rates are determined on December 15th and June 15th of each year. It is important to note that this is simple interest not compounded interest which is another great feature of this program. You will be charged a \$60 administrative fee when you first apply for the referral and for every following year a renewal fee of \$10. The program requires that you maintain a minimum of 25% equity of the homes value. There is more information and an application form on the B.C. Government website, or you call 1-250-387-0555 or toll free 1-888-355-2700

Driving safety tips

It never hurts to remind ourselves about some basic safety tips. Keep your vehicle locked at all times even when driving, use well-lit streets whenever possible, route plan ahead if you are travelling to an unfamiliar destination, have your keys in your hand as you approach your parked vehicle to reduce the amount of time to enter your care, and always look inside your car before entering to ensure that no one is in the back seat.

Seniors Centres

There are senior's centres in most areas of the lower mainland and again I would suggest that if you have not explored these venues that you do so. They provide a wealth of activities and opportunities for social interaction, which is very important as we age.

I'm highlighting Century House, located at 620 8th Street in New Westminster, and adjacent to Moody Park. I will be volunteering at an upcoming event which you might want to attend.

55 + Dance. Enjoy door prizes, group dances, coffee and treats. Next dance is June 20 from 6-8 pm. You can register by calling Century House 604-519-1066. This is a fun event, and the staff create a very entertaining environment whether you are dancing or observing. I hope to see you at the event.

2019-2020

Executive Board

Table Officers

President

Betty McGee

604-520-5610

elizabethmcgee@shaw.ca

Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

Dianna Smith

604-278-3910

Dianna.smith@shaw.ca

Secretary

Irene McCorkindale

604-421-3524

jimandirene@telus.net

Members at Large

Social Committee

Donna Davies

604-431-5575

deedee4@telus.net

Good and Welfare

Pam McFadyen

604-431-0179

afpr@shaw.ca

Refreshment Committee

Vacant

Telephone Committee

Pam McFayden

VMRRA Representative to COSCO

Betty McGee

Speaker Booking

Vacant

Member at Large General

Vacant

Remembering

Opinions, viewpoints, and accuracy of facts submitted by members is the responsibility of the writer and not of the Editor, Executive, or the Membership of the VMRRA.



Dues Remittance Form

I enclose my annual dues of \$10.00 per year for _____ years and _____ as a donation.

Total enclosed \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Former Employer _____

Optional Next of Kin _____

Please mail to: Dianna Smith c/o #1012-6631 Minoru Blvd.

Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1Z1

Cheques should be made payable to VMRRA