

BCIT RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION

SPRING & SUMMER NEWS LETTER 2016

www.bcitra.ca

Telephone 604-451-6716

WHY WE EXIST

To provide a contact point for continuing relationship among the employees who have retired from BCIT

To support the BCIT endowment fund from dues and other contributions to provide a way to give back to the students of BCIT.

BCITRA ENDOWMENT FUND

BCIT Retirees' have committed to supporting BCIT students by sponsoring an endowment fund. The fund was established in 2000 and has provided approximately \$1900 per year on average for needy students. Contributions are made annually to the fund. Our last contribution boosted the fund to over \$53000. The bursary for the year 2015 was paid to a student in Electrical Engineering.

In 2008 we donated \$1000.00 to Children's Hospital Building Fund.

Contributions are primarily made from the \$10.00 dues that you pay each year. If you pay \$25 dollars a tax receipt can be issued by the Foundation. Secondary sources are funds raised at social events and royalties from organizations that members get services from such as travel medical insurance. It is also possible for members to contribute additional funds for this purpose.

SPRING LUNCHEON



The spring luncheon was held at the Delta Town & Country Inn on April 10th. The food was first class. There was a great variety of hot and cold food. The only problem was finding your way into the place because of all the new roads in the area. A good time was had by everyone.

Gordon Farrell the incoming president accepting the gavel from outgoing president Bob Wagner.

SPRING & FALL LUNCHEONS

The BCITRA board has looked for suitable buffet that does not break the bank. Most buffets are \$35 dollars and up. Add taxes and gratuities to the amount and the costs are steep. Most venues charge around \$200 dollars for a separate room, add this to the above price and the cost is out of sight. The Executive Inn in Burnaby has a reasonably priced buffet but we are in the main dining room which makes it uncomfortable to hold our 50/50 draw and to make any speeches. It has worked to a degree and we could go back there if we had a larger number of people. The Delta Town & Country Inn has a separate room that is available at no extra cost. The cost of the buffet was \$27.00. This included taxes and gratuities. This venue it would seemed to be too far out in the country for most people. If you have any ideas where to have a Sunday Buffet, please contact us at admin@bcitra.ca or Lynda Bennett-Retei at lbennett4277@gmail.com

COMING THIS FALL

FALL LUNCHEON

We are planning a fall luncheon the last part of November or the first part of December. This will depend on availability and where it is held.

COSCO SEMINARS

We are planning two seminars this fall. The topics will be Diabetes on Sept. 28 and Chair Yoga on Oct. 26.

Please watch for a flyer and registration information.

SEMINARS LAST FALL & SPRING

Navigating the Health Care System

Advance Directives

Falls Prevention

Memory and Aging

COSCO has a large number of seminars available. You can give us your ideas of what you would like presented. Go to COSCO website at <http://coscobc.org/index.php/cosco-workshops>. Or our website bcitra.ca and follow the links.

ON GOING

GENEALOGY (FAMILY HISTORY)

Family History is held on the first Wednesday of most months at 7:00pm at the BCITRA office. SE 40 Room 112A. Not held in June, July, August and Dec.

Please contact Alan Barnard at 604 299 7155 or alan_barnard@telus.net for more information.

YOUR INPUT NEEDED

We need your help to find activities that would be enjoyed by a large number of members. If you have any ideas of what we could organize please let the Board know at admin@bcitra.ca.

We are looking for ideas such one day tours, wine and cheese get together or any other social events.

OUR PARTNERS

JOHNSON / MEDOC TRAVEL INSURANCE. 1-866-606-3362 OR Johnson.ca/MEDOC

PITMAR TOURS 604-596-9670 OR www.pitmartours.com

LEAVENWORTH XMAS LIGHTING

Interested in seeing the famous Leavenworth, WA Christmas lighting show? Pitmar Tours has a tour on Dec. 9 – 11 2016. For more information, go to pitmartours.com. Say you are with BCITRA and the Association will receive a percentage.

BCIT 50th Anniversary Book

A link for the 50th Anniversary Book

www.bcit.ca/50/

INDIAN ARM BOAT TOUR

The Association has an opportunity for a picnic and trip up Indian Arm on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 or Thursday September 15, 2016 from 10:00 am – 4:00pm.

The trip would be from Rocky Point in Port Moody up to Wigwam Inn at head of Indian Arm.

There is amazing scenery and wildlife along the way.

We would need a minimum of 20 people to keep the cost within reason. The eco-tour boat can handle up to 40 people. The more people will lower the cost. The cost would be \$50.00/person with 20 people. Bring your own lunch and have picnic at Wigwam Inn.

We need to know if people are interested in this outing.

Contact the Association at admin@bcitra.ca if you are interested by no later than June 30th. We would need payment by July 15th so we can book the tour. Refunds if the trip does not go or more than 20 people attend.

This tour will not go ahead if the numbers are not there.

See a spectacular area in our backyard



Be a **Savvy** Senior

There is a wealth of information at www.bcli.org/be-savvy. There is a video and at the bottom of the page there are links to pages about Telemarketing and Text Message Scams; Mail Scams etc.

Yes, you can be taken advantage of. Be smart and get the correct information.

Would you like to receive your information from the Association by email and save some trees let us know at admin@bcitra.ca.

ONE OF THE TRIPS THAT BCITRA ORGANIZED



THE KREMLIN

As told by **Murray Sharp**

BCITRA RUSSIAN TRIP, JUNE-JULY 2014

In December (of '13), six of our group booked an early summer trip to "The Heart of Russia" with Pitmar Tours of Surrey, the company that rebates to our endowment fund when we book their tours. In association with Collette Tours of New York, the 13 day tour was composed of about 4 days in Moscow, 5 days on a riverboat, the Alexander Pushkin, touring the Volga-Svir-Neva river system to St. Petersburg, where we spent about 3 more days. After the Sochi Olympics and Putin's shenanigans in the Crimea and the Ukraine, most of us would have gladly cancelled, but, held to our contract, we had a generally interesting and fun time.

There was a contingent of about 25 from BC, assembled by Pitmar. We were joined by groups from the Calgary area, France, and Spain for the Riverboat portion. It was quite an eye opener as to what the Russians have managed to do since Glasnost, literally pulling themselves up by their bootstraps. Gone were the ubiquitous smoking, polluting Ladas, replaced by modern world class SUVs and sedans. We saw an interesting juxtaposition of architecture between their heritage buildings, those (mostly uninspired) of the communist era, and the post communist era of new and renovated structures. In Moscow we were toured to such highlights as the Kremlin, Red Square (Red means "beautiful", not communist!), the infamous Gum department store (Goom), now a high priced shopping

mall featuring shops of the world's top merchandisers. The only affordable place to shop was the ice cream stands! We also had a tour of the Kremlin complex, its Armoury Museum and viewed a military parade.

At 12 million, Moscow, is the largest city in Europe, and its needs for water in the 1930s inspired Stalin to create a grand waterway of dams, locks, and diversions that literally link the Baltic to the Black Sea. It created the diversion of the Volga into the Moscow river to provide more water for the city's needs, though by the colour of the water in the Volga, one might wonder why! The secondary objective was to generate electrical power, though these installations (all rather lowhead facilities) contribute relatively little of the country's needs today. It also flooded vast regions of the country to the north of Moscow, where several huge man-made lakes drowned various old towns and religious sites. In Uglich we visited the "Church of the Blood" where the first of the Romanoffs is said to have murdered the last of the previous dynasty, a 10 year old prince. At a nearby church we were treated to an impressive a-cappella presentation by a local male choir which had the ladies swooning. Soon after, back on board, we passed a tall church spire sticking out of the river or lake, all that was left of an ancient monastery drowned by the flooding.

In most cases, there was no compensation for anyone's losses. The communist way! We went ashore in the small town of Goritsy, where an engineer, foreseeing the coming deluge, worked with the townsfolk to dismantle their mostly log homes and move them, stick by stick to a higher site, so today there are all these ancient log cabins, all set on concrete foundations crumbling from the effects of severe winter weather. Even when we were crossing lakes so vast that we could not see a shoreline, the ships were limited to traveling in relatively narrow channels, defined by buoys or cairns. It seems that the average depth of these vast manmade lakes was about 17 ft.! On board we were entertained with cultural activities and lessons in Russian, making Blinis, a traditional tea ceremony, tasting Vodka (that was fun!) and concerts.

huge old building under renovation near St. Petersburg, our guide referred to it as another of Putin's dachas. And their attitude about the Crimea seemed to be a shrug and the acknowledgement that it had always been part of Russia, anyway! The same notion seemed to apply to eastern Ukraine, which had also been assigned to that country when Stalin (who was not a Russian) arbitrarily redrew boundaries 80 years ago, adding to what had formerly been a rather small country. It is pretty clear that the truth of what was happening there was being hidden by Putin's propaganda machine. Only now when we are hearing of returning Russian soldiers spilling the beans, is an inkling of the truth likely to reach the populace.



CATHERINE the GREAT'S PALACE

Of course, the highlight of the trip was St. Petersburg, with its Hermitage Museum, and the restored palaces of Peter and Catherine the Great. These were first mined by the early communists for their gold and then bombed and hacked up by the Nazis for firewood during the long siege of Stalingrad during WW II. Fortunately, many of the valuable items were whisked away before the siege, and someone was smart enough to take pictures of many of the architectural features as well so that when they came to restore these national treasures to their former glory, they had records and some of the original art and treasures. St. Petersburg is not a typical Russian city, having been built by Peter the Great to the plans created by famous European architects of the day, making it such a beautiful place -- at least in the summer, when we got to see it! The attitudes towards Putin and some of his antics was interesting as well. When we passed a