

Victoria Women's Newcomers Club

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Newsletter – December 2011

It is hard to believe that we are so quickly approaching our Festive Season luncheon! Although we traditionally do not have a formal speaker, we are very excited to be welcoming a musical performer to our event this year. Come out and celebrate the holidays with special entertainment provided by one of Victoria's finest jazz vocalist, Carol Sokoloff. Carol is a multi-talented singer, songwriter, published author, poet and teacher. We are having a full luncheon in December, including hot entrees, so we will need to charge members \$25 to cover our costs. We will also be using some of our savings to supplement the additional charges. It is nice to splurge on a bigger meal occasionally!

This month the *Inquiring Minds* insert provides some information on our Christmas charity project. This enthusiastic small group has been very successful tapping into community resources to support their ambitious project. For some details, see below. A member of the activity group will bring us a final report at our December meeting. Thank you for your generosity!

I encourage you to take in as many of the festive activities as possible in and around the Victoria area. Details are available at the following web-link:
<http://www.tourismvictoria.com/EventCalendar.aspx#Results> Although some members are away for the holidays, many of us will still be around. Be sure to stay connected during the season.

If you missed our last luncheon, be sure to check on the range of activities available. New groups are continuing to be formed every month. As always, if you have an idea for a new activity, please connect with our Activity Coordinators, Pam Thompson and Agnes Amundrud.

Take care, Kathy Schaffer 778-430-1892 kathyschaffer@shaw.ca

Inquiring Minds Want to Know... What is the Christmas Charity Project?

Victoria Women's Newcomers Club has a long tradition of participating in a Christmas Charity Project. The size of the organizing group and the level of involvement varies from year to year but members are always given the opportunity to contribute financially. As we did last year, we provided a sign-up sheet for a short-term activity group. The enthusiastic volunteers were asked to select a worthy charity and provide the opportunity for the general membership to participate.

This year, the group decided to support the Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation who in turn support six care facilities. Their aim was to supply a Festive gift for 102 residents who are at or below the poverty line and who do not have family support. They collected monetary and item specific donations from our members and then set out to enlist support from many of our retail outlets. Their fund-raising was so effective that they were able to make an additional contribution to the creation of Snoezelen rooms to assist residents with certain disorders. Congratulations to all who participated and supported this event!

NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON

**December 14^h, 2011 at Cedar Hill Golf Club
1400 Derby Rd @ 11:30 a.m.**

Festive Season Social

Special Luncheon \$25.00 for members, \$30 for non-members and guest



New members and guests always welcome. To make your reservations email v1newcomersluncheon@gmail.com. At our luncheon, if possible, please pay at the door by cheque. The price for the special December luncheon is \$25.00 for members, \$30 for non-members and guests. We are required to provide the facility with the number of lunch attendees on the Monday prior to the luncheon. (December 12). If you must cancel your reservation please email v1newcomersluncheon@gmail.com. If you fail to cancel by this deadline, please send the Treasurer a cheque to your to cover the cost of your reservation.

NEWCOMERS NEWS

November 2011 Luncheon Speaker



Carole Valkenier, underwater photographer

The Christmas Entertainment



Carole Sokoloff, Singer

Come out and celebrate the holidays with special entertainment provided by one of Victoria's finest jazz vocalist Carol Sokoloff. Carol is a multi-talented singer, song writer, published author, poet and teacher.

ACTIVITIES REPORT

It's hard to believe that we are already heading into the last month for 2011, and that Christmas is just around the corner. What an active and productive fall it has been for our Newcomer activity groups. We currently have 28 groups up and running. Thank you to all the many volunteer conveners, as well as all the enthusiastic participants, who are making our club so successful. Being a part of the many activities is such a great way to meet others who are also new to Victoria and who are looking to connect with others while exploring their new home. Many lifelong friendships begin right here in our Newcomer groups.

Our Christmas charity fundraiser for the Victoria Eldercare Society was also a huge success this fall as we exceeded the goals set out by our hard working and dedicated committee. A big round of applause goes to these gals for organizing this fundraiser. It was fun to see them at the luncheons with their Santa hats and enthusiasm for this project. Also, we would like to thank all of our members for your very generous contributions and support. It's good to know that we can give back to our wonderful community by bringing some Christmas cheer to some of our senior citizens.

Our restaurant lunch group received a terrific response for the luncheon at the legislative building in December. 30 members signed up for this event and we had to split the group into two groups, plus add a waiting list. Obviously this is a popular special event as we enter the Christmas season. Conveners are reminded to take pictures at the various events and send them to us to include in our monthly newsletters.

We look forward to many more shared experiences in our various groups as we head into 2012. As always, if you have ideas for an interesting activity in which you'd like to participate, please bring it to our attention. Also, be sure to seek out the many wonderful activities occurring in and around Victoria at this time of year. There are many Christmas markets, the decorated trees at the Empress, the gingerbread houses at the Laurel Pointe Inn, the beautiful lights at Butchart gardens and the Truck parade, just to mention a few. Victoria definitely does not go into hibernation in the winter. There is always something to do!

With that we'd like to wish you the very best of the season, and we look forward to sharing many of our delightful activities with you in the coming year.

**Agnes Amundrud and Pam Thompson, your activity coordinators.
agnesamundrud@hotmail.com pthompson510@yahoo.ca**

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Dallas Road Walking Ladies Pub Night Cycling Group	2 Butchart Garden Walk	3 Couples Games Night 
4 Bridge 	5 Tennis	6 Coffee Social	7 The Walkers Tea group Bridge 	8 Dallas Road Walking & Social Group 	9 Knitting, Handiwork	3 Couples Friendly Dinner ¹ 
11 Bridge 	12 Mystery Book club	13 Restaurant Lunch Golf Movie night	14 Newcomers Lunch 	15 Dallas Road Walking Group Cycling Group	16	17
18 Bridge 	19 Tennis Butchart Garden Walk Couples Pub Night	20	21 The Walkers Bridge Coffee Social 	22 Dallas Road Walking & Social Group Thursday bookclub	23 Knitting, Handiwork	24
25  Merry Christmas	26 	27 Ladies evening pot luck	28 The Walkers Book club Bridge 	29 Dallas Road Walking & Social Group 	30	31 New Years Eve 

**From the September Survey: Our
“must do” activity or place to visit
when we have out of town visitors**

- **The Legislature Dining Room**
 - **Willows Beach**
 - **Beacon Hill Petting Zoo**
 - **Butchart Gardens especially the fireworks**
 - **Viewing the CD – Victoria Highlights by Dana Humphries**
 - **Thetis Lake**
 - **Youboon on Cowichan Lake**
 - **Circle Tour up the West Coast to Port Renfrew and across to Duncan**
 - **Chinatown**
 - **Tea at the Empress**
 - **Fish & chips at Fisherman’s Wharf**
 - **Lunch at the Oak Bay Marina**
 - **Day trip to Sidney**
 - **Beagle Pub in Cook St. village**
 - **Primastrada restaurant in Cook St. village**
 - **Butterfly Garden in Brentwood Bay**
 - **Ulla Restaurant on Fisgard St.**
 - **The Superior Café in James Bay**
 - **Whistler**
 - **Point-No-Point Resort for a meal & walk on their private beach (on the west coast past Sooke)**
 - **Downtown and Inner Harbour at night**
 - **Garden at the Governor General’s house**
 - **Maritime Museum of BC**
 - **Saba Thai restaurant in Sidney**
 - **Fan Tan alley**
 - **Willy’s Bakery near the Market Square**
 - **Dallas beaches**
 - **Drive up Mt Tolmie and Mt. Douglas**
 - **Esquimalt Lagoon**
 - **Belfy Theatre**
 - **Malahat drive look-outs**
 - **Harbour ferry ride or tour**
 - **Shaw Discovery Centre in Sidney**
 - **James Bay Tea room**
 - **Tofino**
 - **Matticks Farm**
 - **Esquimalt Naval Base**
 - **Fort Rodd Hill**
 - **Sax Point Park**
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