



The Royal Society of St George

**The Royal Society Of St. George
British Columbia Branch**

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

**"Representing the English Community
in British Columbia, Canada"**

"Your English Club in B.C."

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The Independent Immigration Aid Association

March - April 2013

**Message from the
President:**

The subject of Britain's place in the World and the role the English's play once they leave England is a subject under discussion in this issue of the Dragon Fire. The English usually have a lower profile when it comes to celebrations than many of the other Celtic organizations. It in some ways may be a plus and in other ways should we get caught up in the rah, rah attitude of other countries.

I know my editor, because of his marketing background, has some strong feelings about the role the English should play in the community. He attends both our functions and the Welsh, Scottish & Irish events throughout the year.

We would welcome your comments both to the Dragon Fire and to the directors directly on how we can take our place in the world. We have taken a role of welcoming newcomers to Canada and helping them fit into their new home. Is that enough?

**Dragon
Fire**



It has come to my attention that our satellite membership on Vancouver Island are working with the Cornish Society on Vancouver Island towards strengthening both of our club memberships. It was also brought to my attention that the Welsh also plan to work with the Cornish Association on programs and events to increase the visibility of their respective Societies. We congratulate Carole Roberts as President of the Cornish Society and we look forward to meeting with them in the near future.

**Dan Brown,
President**



**Today I saw the flag of England,
fluttering from a mast,
It waved in recognition,
to the glories of the past,
It beckoned to the future,
and seemed to say aloud,
If you should be an Englishman,
look up my son, be proud.
Let hope still be your anvil,
and courage be your forge
And come what may, let men still say,
Cry "God for Elizabeth,
England and St. George"!**

<http://www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com/>

Dragon Fire

The Official Newsletter of
The Royal Society of St. George,
British Columbia Branch
Recipients of the Canadian 2008 Citation
for Citizenship Award

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Royal Society of St. George Executive:

- Dan Brown - President
e mail: stgeorge@telus.net
- Roger Dawson - Vice President
- Gil Richarson - Treasurer

Directors-at-Large:

- Steve McVittie
- Bob Davies
- Denise Wheater
- Carole Clark
- Arline McFarlane
- Julian Mattock
- Tom Moses
- Laura Moses

IIAA, our registered charity:

- Carole Clarke
- Bob Davies

**PLEASE HELP
US TO KEEP
YOUR DATA
UP TO DATE**



Address Up Dates & Changes Needed:

If you changed your address,
phone number, or
email address during 2011 or 2012,
St. George needs to know.

**Please inform Peter Howard at
peterh@pacificcoast.net or
604-931-5120.**

Cheers!

Membership Dues

Important Reminder to Renew

We ask you to continue to support the English in Canada, to enable us to help newcomers from Britain, and ensure that the English have a voice on important issues. If you haven't renewed your family membership for 2013 already, please do so.

You will want to continue to receive the Dragon Fire and notices of events. This applies to all RSSG members (unless you joined in November or after). You may send in your cheque for \$30 payable to the RSSG. Alternatively, you may pass your dues to an RSSG director at one of our gatherings scheduled in March or April.

Our address is: RSSG, 5639 Dunbar Street, Vancouver BC, V6N 1W5.
Cheers!

Call for Cricket!

Scott Anderson informs us that the West Vancouver Cricket Club is based at Hugo Ray Park and play in the British Columbia Mainland Cricket League with players from ages 7/8 through to veterans of over 70 years of age. They have a fully equipped clubhouse with liquor license and two grounds at our disposal. They have teams registered in the most competitive league, the lowest development league, the midweek over 40s and they are one of three clubs with a women's team.



Website is

www.westvancouvercricketclub.ca/.

English business interests poorly served overseas!

Today I have had this reminder that it isn't just here in England that English interests are treated as second best by our political masters!

Hi Robin,

I hope you are well?

I am currently living overseas (Dubai) and wanted to share with you some experiences I have had recently here in Dubai that in my opinion clearly show the intent of our Celtic cousins and the way we (the English) appear to be being left behind.

Firstly there is a very good radio show here called Dubaieye, this is an alternative to the normal run of the mill radio shows with their light hearted approach and play lists. Dubaieye and in particular a breakfast slot they have called the The Business Breakfast covers the regions (and to a lesser degree) business world. I often listen to this show whilst making the hour and a half journey over to Abu Dhabi and have now on a couple of occasions sat listening to presentations and interviews with a couple of Scottish bodies (apparently of a governmental type) who are over here to investigate and encourage business connections with the UAE Government and Scotland.

Whilst I encourage all elements of the UK to continue to grow their business/exports in all global markets what irked me was the fact that this was not a 'British' representation in any sense at all but 100% Scottish, in fact I think they must have mentioned 'Scotland' even more times than it was during the film Braveheart!

So this intrigued me that here are governmental (I assume) bodies coming overseas and possibly at the UK Tax Payers cost purely and very deliberately promoting Scotland as an independent body, would the English be allowed to do this?

I guess the reason why I am actually writing to you on this issue was that yesterday

I experienced an even worse example of this when I attended the Dubai held Gulfood

Exhibition.

Gulfood is a huge exhibiton for the food and drinks industry and is now believed to be one of the largest of its kind in the world. I was lucky enough to be invited there by a friend whom was exhibiting there.

Whilst he was busy I set off to have a look at the various stands around the exhibition. After passing numerous 'areas' where countries like Brazil, Argentina, Turkey, etc were displaying their products I saw the end of a block showing the Union Jack titled 'Great Britain'. Unfortunately but sadly not surprising when I got there the 'British' stands were actually only two or three very small and forlorn (in comparison) stands of 'English' products. However venturing right next door I came across the huge and very impressive stand for Scotland, very independent, very big (and no doubts very costly) and very Scottish not British. Venturing even further I then came across stands which were again much bigger than the 'British' one for both Wales and Northern Ireland!! After much searching I disappointedly realized that the small 'Great Britain' stands were the 'English' ones, there was no English stand (complete with St George's) like there was for our Celtic Cousins.

Now I have no problem with the UK either staying together or going their separate ways however I fail to understand why we the English appear to be unable to promote ourselves in such a large way as our Celtic cousins appear to be doing, why are we stuck under the banner of Great Britain whilst they are able to promote themselves individually on an international basis?

Anyway, rant over, it really made my blood boil and thought you may be interested to know that the imbalance currently existing in UK political and national affairs is not just restricted to the land mass called Great Britain.

Keep up the good work!

Kind Regards



Editors Note:

Re: the article British Interests Abroad.

I have stated repeatedly that for some reason the English take a very low profile in Canada and other countries. As Pogo said "we have met the enemy and he is us". Why do the English take such a low profile? We need to promote our organization.

The Scots celebrate Robbie Burn's Day. There are at least thirty to forty Burn's suppers that I am aware of that celebrate their Scottish culture and heritage. The Delta Police Pipe Band holds two nights for 1,400 guests alone. There is the B.C. Highland Games that draws thousands out each year.

The Welsh for St. David's Day hold a three day event with readings and socials. Concluding with a supper for a hundred plus guests at the Welsh Hall. In Calgary the Welsh flag flies at City Hall for the St. David weekend. While at their St. David supper this year I heard messages of greetings and best wishes read from over 30 sister Welsh societies, the Mayor of the City of Vancouver, the Premier of B.C. and the Welsh Government.

The Irish celebrate St. Patrick's day with numerous parties, Celtic Fest events and a St. Patrick Parade that draws tens of thousands to downtown Vancouver to celebrate their culture and heritage. There is a month long celebration in White Rock by the Irish for the month of March.

The English should make Gala plans for a St. George's Day celebration? We need to use free community announcements, the Celtic Connection, the local newspapers and radio stations to get our message out. We need to be proud of our heritage. We need to share it with the World. The English have made great contributions over the years and the world should be made aware that they are still making major contributions in science, medicine, music, fashion and world events.

I notice it even more in my stores. When it is Robbie Burn's Day or St. David's Day or St. Patrick's Day customers buy flags, pins, decals and food products from their home country that will assist in promoting their heritage and cultural celebrations. You rarely see any visible signs of England except by the Soccer fans that get the car flags and other regalia when a world cup is played.

We have a British Consulate and his staff that should be invited to all the English sponsored events. Prince Charles and Camilla took the time to attend St. David's Welsh events in Wales and I would hope the Consulate could do the same here for the British. As an importer of British Products I find it disappointing that I have never seen any support given to small businesses by the Consulate's office here in Vancouver. When and how do we show we are proud of our English Heritage and Ancestry?

Upcoming Events: Pub Lunches on The Island

The Mid-Island Group is planning a gathering on March 23. Watch for the announcement. Mark your calendar!

Third Annual St. George's Day Celebration in Cowichan Bay.

Malcolm and Dini Pinteau will host this delightful event at their house and the Bay Pub on Saturday, April 20. This gathering has received lots of praise! All members and friends from the Island and the Mainland are invited.

St. George's Day Lunch in Vancouver

The Vancouver Group will hold its annual St. George's Day lunch at the Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton

Club on Sunday, April 21. It will be a gala event with entertainment. All members and friends from the Mainland and Island are invited.

European Festival 2013 in Burnaby

The RSSG will have a booth at this special festival. The English were well received last year, being the only representatives from the British Isles. Scheduled at Swangard Stadium on May 25 and 26. We have the tickets!

NOTE:

For future up-coming events could I please have more information such as dates, times and contact information for events.

Editor

Recent Events

Twenty members and two guests of the Mid-Island Group gathered at the Crow and Gate in Nanaimo for lunch in January. We had a 50/50 draw won by Pam Thorp and enjoyed a quiz produced by Irene Drage. Thanks to Reg Wilson for the photos and to Ken Chatterton for the organization of this fine event.

The RSSG's Annual General Meeting was held at Cheers Restaurant in North Vancouver at the end of January. It was a pleasant lunch attended by 20 members who enjoyed the special raffle organized by Tom and Laura Moses and a 50/50 draw carried out by Len Compton. We also managed to get some business done. Thanks to Denise Wheeler for organizing the event and to Alan Jones for the pictures.

The Mid-Island Group had a very interactive group of 18 members and 2 guests at February's get together which consisted of a Sunday Brunch at the Longwood Station in Nanaimo. Ken



Chatterton had printed off some amusing "trueisims" for the UK in the 1950 which created no end of laughter and discussion. Reg Wilson as always was on hand with camera at the ready to snap every embarrassing pose, why is it some of us are looking the wrong way or making an odd expression when that flash goes off. The party finally broke up at around 2:00 o'clock and everyone headed home, thinking "OK, the diet starts TOMORROW!" Thanks to Ken Chatterton for organizing this event.

A gathering at the Four Mile Restaurant in February was attended by seven St. Georgians of the South-Island Group and seven members of the British Expats of Vancouver Island meet-up list. We enjoyed each other's company and had an opportunity to visit with RSSG's president, Dan Brown. We raised our glasses to "More Downton Abbey, less horsemeat!"



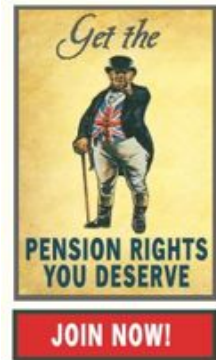
Pins and Journals

We've received a shipment of the Royal Society of St. George's attractive magazine, "St. George for England," along with lapel pins that display the shield of St. George and the inscription, "Royal Society of St. George." If you would like the April issue of the journal or the pin, please contact stgeorge@telus.net. Information on them may be found at the website in England, which is www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com.

An Introduction to CAPB

The Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (CAPB) is a not-for-profit volunteer-driven organization with one primary purpose: to obtain indexation of the British State Pension for all our members and for all expatriate British pensioners. More than one-half of expatriate pensions are frozen while the remainder increase with annual up-ratings, each recipient's country of residence being the determining factor. This being despite the fact that all British workers paid in to the State Pension equally with mandatory deductions.

The majority of "frozen" pensioners, over 80 percent, live in Commonwealth countries, predominantly Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. Since 2002, CAPB has united with partner organizations in those Commonwealth countries to form the





International Consortium of British Pensioners. Together, we are intensifying our political advocacy activities in order to influence UK Government pension policy makers and the hearts and minds of UK residents.

Some people may qualify for a minimal pension after only one year of working in the old country before emigrating. (This is thanks to the new rules affecting those reaching pensionable age after 5th April 2010.) And for some pensioners, there are opportunities to increase their pension by making additional contributions. All this information, and more, is available to CABP members.

By joining the CABP (just \$20 per year) you lend your support to our efforts. We also help members with subjects such as: eligibility, increasing and claiming a UK State Pension, claiming travel benefits, survivor and bereavement benefits, and publish "Justice" our quarterly magazine that keeps you up-to-date on many subjects dealing with pensions.

To apply for membership call 1-800-760-6633, or on the internet go to: www.britishpensions.bc.ca.

It could be the best investment you will ever Submitted for the March-April 2013 Dragon Fire Newsletter by Sheila Scott, Director, CABP and an Royal Society of St. George member. Contact sheilascott4@hotmail.com phone: 604-521-6256.

Bob's Corner: Changing Canada's Immigration Policy

Members of the RSSG who were members of the Canadian Association of Immigration Reform (CAIR) should take satisfaction in their activities to redirect Canadian immigration policies. About ten years ago, those members promoted greater numbers of independent immigrants. Their

objective was to see an increase in the prevailing 3% of skilled people from the UK among the 260,000 immigrants per year coming to Canada. Forty-five years ago, that 3% was 80% before the closure of Canadian immigration offices in Britain. At that time, Canada was number two in productivity compared to number twelve as listed in the industrial nations of the world.

The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, has introduced legislation that was passed by the House of Commons and the Senate. Several bills make major shifts to increase the number of trade and professional skills of landed immigrants. These were the same objectives of CAIR. They will allow Canada to compete with Australia and New Zealand. Those two smaller countries welcome over 100,000 skilled people per year from the UK compared to Canada's receipt of only 9,000.

Minister Kenney recently visited Ireland - the first immigration minister to visit Europe in 40 years. He brought about an agreement between our federal and provincial governments, along with the cooperation of trade unions and professional associations, that will result in fast-tracking of needed essential skills from Ireland. Further, an official Irish settlement office has been established in Ottawa.

Our RSSG and IIAA have applied for government grants to to revitalize the English Welcome but without success. Despite lack of adequate funds, we used our volunteer help to assist 300 British folks (about 200 families) with their settlement in Canada. This outstanding achievement earned us a "Citation for Citizenship" award for our settlement efforts in 2009. We are the only group that welcomes the English to B.C. In contrast, the Province of Quebec has 141 ethnic immigrant organizations.

Minister Kenney is also concerned with the high unemployment of recent unskilled immigrants, which is now double the national level of 7.1% and four times the level of some professional groups. If these rates could be lowered, our overall unemployment would

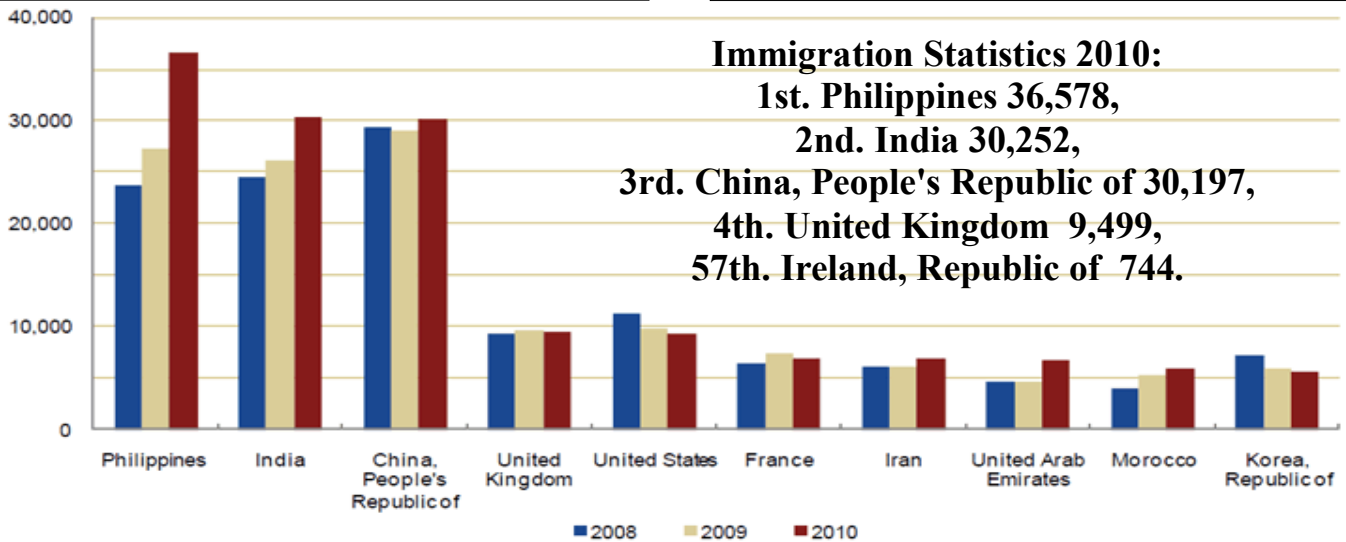
decline. In the words of Minister Kenney, such immigrants are on "survival wages." Clearly, we need to aim for more skilled immigrants to increase our living standards in Canada.

We can only hope that an eventual increase in skilled immigrants will help us move up the ladder of productivity compared to other industrialized nations. That boost should assist our annual economic growth rate of 1.9%,

especially as we conclude trade agreements with the European Union, an enormous market of \$600 billion of goods and services.

As an English fraternal organization, we in the Royal Society of St. George should take this opportunity to assist in the settlement of immigrants from Britain in the best interests of our beloved Canada.

Bob Davies.






THE

CELTIC

TREASURE CHEST



A Proper English Breakfast
 White & Black Pudding, British Style Sausages & Bacon, Heinz Beans

Candies, Chocolates, Sweets, Biscuits,

IMPERIAL LEATHER
 British Country & Soccer Souvenirs: Flags, Sew-on Badges, Mugs, Pins etc.

IN OUR DELI:
 Clotted Cream, English & Irish Cheeses, Meat Pies, Sausage Rolls, Pork Pies, Scotch Pies, Melton Mowbray, Kippers, Haddock, Cornish Pasty's,



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AngloINFO Vancouver's local business and service directory, is a classified directory, which means businesses are organized by category.



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(4,374 local listings!)

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- Entertainment & Arts
- Family Life & Living in Vancouver
- Financial & Legal
- Food & Drink
- Health, Fitness & Beauty
- House & Home Improvements
- Property & Real Estate
- Shopping & Style
- Sport & Leisure
- Travel & Tourism
- Community Life: Vancouver
- Cars, Bikes & Driving
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E-mail: rdawson@dawsonlawyers.com
Fax: 604 722 8339

MEET UP GROUPS

<http://www.meetup.com/BCBRITISH/>

<http://www.meetup.com/British-Expats-of-Langley-and-area/>

<http://www.meetup.com/British-Expats-of-Vancouver-Island/>

<http://www.meetup.com/Ridge-Meadows-Brits/>

<http://www.meetup.com/BritishExpat/>

For further information contact
info@meetup.com;

**Abbreviated Minutes of the RSSG AGM
Held on January 27, 2013**

The RSSG held its AGM in North Vancouver on January 27.

As interim treasurer, Dan Brown reported that the end-of-year balance was \$4,874 compared to \$2,575 in 2011. Expenses were less and membership income was \$2,145 compared to \$500 in 2011 as a result of the conversion of free trial members into supporting members. Year-end adjustments will be on the credit side.

Regarding memberships, Peter Howard reported that for 2012, memberships (families) were: Vancouver 63, Tri-Cities 30, Vancouver Island 51, and Fraser Valley 16. The total was 160, with 80 paid and 80 free trial. For 2013 thus far, paid memberships are Vancouver 11, Vancouver Island 17, Tri-Cities 13, and Fraser Valley 2, a total of 43. Requests for renewals have gone out and will continue.

Regarding meet-up lists, Roger Dawson reported the enrolments (individuals) as follows (from inception to present):

Vancouver from 30 to 132, Langley from low to 126, Vancouver Island from 27 to 67, Ridge-Meadows from 0 to 47, and Okanagan from 0 to 17. Total now stands at 389, some of whom are recent arrivals from the UK. These persons are not usually members of RSSG but constitute a pool of persons with who we want to strengthen our relationship. The RSSG maintains the groups through Lee Clarke.

Check out this website

<http://www.stgeorgesday.com/>

**Our Heritage and our Culture
Isn't it great to be British**

Dan Brown acknowledged St. Georgians who served in 2012.

Here are some:

Jayne Boyer Organizer of two Diamond Jubilee Events and Pre-Christmas Dinner

Ken Chatterton Organizer of one event per month for Mid-Island Group

Malcolm Pinteau Organizer of St. George's Day Lunch and Treasurer for 2011 and 2012

Steve McVittie (supreme Editor of Dragon Fire)

Roger Dawson (VP, all purpose help, EuroFest organizer, inter alia)

Peter Howard (membership, EuroFest)

Other Executive: Carole Clarke (hosting, helping), Bob Davies (English Welcome, immigration), Arline MacFarlane (mailing Dragon Fire), Denise Wheater (organizer of events), Tom & Laura Moses (magazines & pins), Stuart Eastwood (South-Island Group)

Associates: Dorothy Evers, Richard Toporowski, Julian Mattock, Lee Clark, Len Compton, Basil Fox, Denise Kilner, Yvonne Kowal, Julian Mattock, Alan Jones as photographer

Several others who helped out on the Mainland and The Island.

Dan Brown was also thanked by Roger Dawson for his multiple contributions to the RSSGBC.

Aims of the RSSG.:

Dan Brown reminded us that the main purposes of the RSSGBC were:

bring the English together for enjoyable events,

assist newcomers from Britain as they settle in B.C., and

assert our voice for the English on immigration, multiculturalism, and

bilingualism.

Plans for 2013 include:

Continue to hold events; add smaller and more frequent ones such as pub lunches

Link to new British Consul General: Rupert Potter from Bahrain. Roger Dawson is checking

Monarchist League revival: Robert Finch, Dominion Chair; Richard Toporoski is checking

English Welcome: attracting more people, message from one who was a police officer in the UK

A discussion about a possible province-wide event followed. The Welsh Society wishes to start pub nights at its Cambrian Hall close to Main Street and 17th Avenue.

Dorothy Evers declared the following persons elected as directors by acclamation:

Steve McVittie, Tom & Laura Moses, Bob Davies, Roger Dawson, Carole Clarke, Julian Mattock, Dan Brown, Arline MacFarlane, Denise Wheeler,

Officers: Dan Brown as President, and Roger Dawson as Vice-President, Dan Brown as Interim Treasurer

Dorothy Evers affirmed the following persons appointed as Associates:

Ken Chatterton, Basil Fox, Lee Clark, Dorothy Evers, Peter Howard, Alan Jones

Thanks to all who participated in the AGM, especially to Denise Wheeler for organizing the event, to Len Compton for the 50-50, to Tom and Laura Moses for organizing the raffle, to Steve & Lil McVittie for contributing to the raffle, and to Dorothy Evers for serving as the Nominating Committee of One.

**Abbreviated Minutes of the IAA AGM
Held on January 27, 2013**

The Independent Immigrant Aid Association, our registered charity, welcomes donations to support our efforts to welcome newcomers from Britain (and especially, England). In particular, we need all the skilled tradespeople we can get! Bob Davies indicated that the kind of reforms adopted in the recent past have favoured immigration from Britain. They are more competitive with Australia and favour Canada's labour market needs, attracting more skilled and professional workers. We should have a greater opportunity to assist with the settlement of immigrants from Britain. The initiatives by the Irish government and the Irish associations to aid Irish immigrants to Canada were noted.

The following officers and directors were elected: Dan Brown as President, Roger Dawson as Vice-President, Dan Brown as Interim Treasurer, Bob Davies as director, Peter Howard as director, and Carole Clarke as director.

Monarchist League Revival in Vancouver?

Most St. Georgians are supporters of the Monarchy. The Monarchist League of Canada is invariably in the news when media attention turns to the Monarchy or just to the royals. Your RSSG has received a notice that the League may establish or re-establish its branch in Vancouver.



Donations to IAA, Our Registered Charity

It's the time of year when we all consider what we have given to worthy causes and if we can make an extra effort before the possibility of receiving another tax receipt for 2012 is closed. Well, we hope you contemplate making a donation to IAA this year. The Independent Immigration Aid Association is the way we assist our Royal Society of St. George to welcome new immigrants from Britain.

Your donation this year will help us reach out to British immigrants who are newly arrived in BC so that they are made aware of the RSSG and the welcome they will receive when they make contact with us. Our British immigrants are often highly skilled and acutely needed in Canada. Although they speak our language, they face a big change in their lives, uprooting families, selling homes, and coming to BC with never enough knowledge about the cities in which they plan to settle.

While their circumstances are different from those of use who came to Canada many years ago, our recent newcomers still share the immigrants' experience of making sacrifices and they cling to the hope of a better future for their children. Please help us help them and send a donation, payable to IAA, if you can.

The address is IAA, 5639 Dunbar Street, Vancouver, BC, V6N 1W9.

This issue of the Dragon Fire has been a little more controversial than previous issues

Have your say.

We would love to hear what you think
Send your letter by mail or email to
Dan Brown @ stgeorge@telus.net

Make St George's Day a Public Holiday

**The Royal Society of St. George
is petitioning to have
St. George Day a Public Holiday**

The Petition

I support the view that a Public Holiday on St George's Day would be a great opportunity for all English people regardless of colour or religion to recognize what binds them together instead of concentrating on differences; realize that there is growing demand in England for a day of national celebration; note that Northern Ireland has had a Bank Holiday on St Patrick's Day since 1903, the Scottish Parliament has introduced a voluntary Bank Holiday on St Andrew's Day and the Welsh Assembly agrees that St David's Day should be a holiday; I further note that there is a danger that England could be left behind without an opportunity to celebrate its rich culture and heritage; and support a Public Holiday being held in England on 23 April.

<http://www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com/>

The Royal Commonwealth Society Mainland of British Columbia Branch

will hold their annual

**Commonwealth Day Celebration
Sunday, March 10, 2013
Marpole Oakridge Community Centre
990 W. 59th Avenue, Vancouver
2:00 PM**

Please contact the Royal Commonwealth Society
Mainland of British Columbia Branch at
604 683-3201 or Shawn Wade
at rcsbcmmain@gmail.com for further details