



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."

Sponsor: Anglo INFO Vancouver

www.vancouver.angloinfo.com

The Independent Immigration Aid Association

JULY - AUGUST 2012

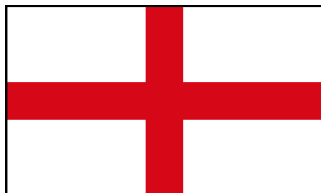
President's Remarks

On behalf of the executive I would like to congratulate all the satellite groups of the Royal Society of St. George. There are some very creative events that will do much to improve the visibility of the English presence in both B.C. and in Canada.

We no longer have to sit back and watch as other ethnic organizations celebrate their heritage and history. We should do what we can to publicize our events more to the general public. There are a lot of Brits out there that are not aware of The Royal Society of St. George and the work that we do when it comes to immigration.

I would suggest that we start to promote our events through the non-profit columns that are available in a lot of community papers and invite members of the legions and other English and British organizations to our events. Lets do what we can to improve our profile in the local communities and let them know that we are proud to be English.

Dan Brown.
President



**Dragon
Fire**



Upcoming Events

Mid-Island Group: Second Annual Last Night of the Proms Dinner, September 11, at Cottonwood Golf Course. Well received last year! Check announcements.

We are planning some small pub lunches when people return from their summer vacations in September. Other lunches will be announced spontaneously.

Vancouver Group: A special lunch commemorating Trafalgar Day and the War of 1812 will be held in mid-October in Vancouver and will be co-hosted by our Royal Society of St. George and the Royal Commonwealth Society. Lord Nelson and General Brock will be honoured. Watch for messages.

Fraser Valley Group: Brighton to London Rally, terminating at the Celtic Treasure Chest in White Rock on Sunday, November 4.

NOTE: Last year the O.E.C.C. expected 30 - 40 cars and over 75 pre-war old English Cars arrived. They are expecting over a 100 to participate this year

Tri-Cities Group: Christmas Dinner is scheduled on Saturday, November 24 at the Port Coquitlam Legion. Watch for announcements.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
and support these events**

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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IIAA, our registered charity:

Above RSSG directors and officers, plus
the following Directors-at-Large:

- Alan Hackett 604-926-7409
➤ afhackett@shaw.ca

Recent Events

Thirty-two St. Georgians and friends came together at Fibber Magee's Station Pub in July in Nanaimo. There was good food and enjoyable entertainment in the form of a quiz provided by **Irene Dragge**. **Dominic Thorpe** was not allowed to win. A special thanks to **Ken Chatterton** for his organization and continual recruitment of new members!

South-Island Group: Sunday brunch at the Penny Farthing in Victoria was arranged in July through the British Expats of Vancouver Island Meetup List.

The Fraser Valley Group gathered for a lunch at Dublin Crossing Pub in Surrey in August. The Irish welcomed us gladly. Thanks to **Denise Kilner** for hosting the event.

A full 27 members and guests of the Mid-Island Group attended the Medieval BBQ/Garden Party at RSSG members' **Don & Bernice Fawthorpe's** in Qualicum. Don & Bernice along with member John St. John (who are also members of a Medieval group on the island), had the property decorated totally in the theme of the day. RSSG members arrived dressed in assorted attire of knights, ladies, archers, monks and many religious dignitaries. We even had **Harry Weatherley** dressed in the regalia of a Bishop but we upgraded him to "Pope Harry". For those who arrived without costumes, the Fawthorpes and John St. John had an assortment of authentic costumes for them to wear.

On arrival, all were required to register with the **Ken the Tax Collector** and stocks were set up just in case anyone could not pay their taxes (entrance fee). All were asked in which camp they belonged (Lancaster or York) and luckily that split the attendees almost evenly. At approximately 1430 hrs. skirmishes commenced between couples from both camps in the form of games of croquet, lawn darts,

St. George and England Magazine

Due to membership interest the Executive has agreed to make available to our members the attractive magazine of the Royal Society of St. George in England. We will let you know how to obtain a sample copy and how to subscribe.

horseshoes and bocce ball. The non-combatants engaged in verbal jousting while partaking of their preferred beverages.

After fun and games on "Bosworth Field" which ended at approx. 1630 hrs. fittingly, the Lancastrian warriors won 7 skirmishes and York won 6. The couple who won the most skirmishes from Lancashire were **Jack & Lauren Marriott** with three wins. They were presented with a pair of brass goblets donated by **Bernice Fawthorpe**.

Everyone came in from the battle grounds and met at the main house for the BBQ, where medieval chef, **Julian Mattock** was at work preparing sustenance in the form of hamburgers and sausages for the war-weary participants. The repast consisted for hamburgers, sausages, (with all the trimmings) along with three kinds of salads and soft drinks followed by enough apple pie dessert for all. Everything was store-purchased except for one large salad made by **Lylia Mattock**. Lots of reminiscing and comaraderie followed. Finally, the war weary started to head back to their own villages nursing full stomachs, satisfied and happy at around 1900 hrs., a fantastic day.

Thanks go to all participants for taking the time to find costumes for the occasion--awesome!

However, and this is the big one, a very special thanks go to **Don & Bernice Fawthorpe**. They were the perfect hosts and their property was made to look ideal for the occasion with some help from John St. John. Organisation apart from the Fawthorpes fell to **Julian Mattock** and **Ken Chatterton**, including the shopping for the food, snacks, drinks, coolers, ice and so forth, plus its transportation to the site. Thanks also to **Basil Fox** and to **Reg Wilson** for their well-captured photos.

Well done, all!



THE DINER - Vancouver

Breakage at The Diner Restaurant in Vancouver

"The Diner" is an award-winning British restaurant that was established in Point Grey over 50 years ago. It is operated by Stella and Reg Surety who welcome Brits as if they were lost cousins. The RSSG has a wooden model of Tower Bridge on display in The Diner's window on West 10th Avenue.



At 2:00 am on August 31 someone threw a cinder block through The Diner's large front window, sending glass everywhere and smashing the display case for the RSSG's Tower Bridge model. The Vancouver police attended and they helped to clean up. A lamp from The Diner was stolen but nothing else. The model itself sustained some damage. A picture appears in this issue of the Dragon Fire.

The RSSG Rapid Response Team was called in, headed by VP Roger Dawson. He assessed the damage and came up with a plan. The team swiftly removed the fence protecting the model, disassembled the remaining parts of the case, moved the model and John Swindle's stand on which it sits, picked up the rest of the broken glass and debris, and then replaced the stand, model and fence. The boarded-up Diner could function well and a new window was scheduled for installation.

The Tower Bridge model's breakage consists mainly of one of the curved support links and the tops of the towers. There is reason to hope that Stella's business insurance will include coverage of the model's damage.

A special thanks to Roger for his leadership of the RSSG Rapid Response Team. I hope that those of us in the Vancouver Group will continue to patronize the Diner, especially in its time of distress. Tommy and Mark, who were shaken by the incident, were managing the restaurant while Stella and Reg were on vacation in England.

From **Doris Jones**, Member of the Vancouver Group: Glad that no one was hurt in this ordeal, being that it was in the wee hours. I can't understand senseless acts of violence, destruction of personal property and things like that - such a violation. We also know how fragile that piece of artwork is, and we hope that it can be fixed at some point. We hope Stella and Reg will not be too shaken up themselves with news of this. What a shame, they are such nice people.

From **Arline McFarlane**, Member of the Vancouver Group: The worst part is; that even if they catch the culprits, they may get just a "slap on the wrist". Kudos to Roger.

Bob's Corner on Immigration

A hearty thanks to those of you who participated in the recent online survey on immigration. It important that our voices are heard when the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is making decisions. Many of them are significant ones that will affect the future economic and cultural well being of Canada for the next several decades.

Some Facts from the Annual Report to Parliament on Immigration, 2011.

The federal skilled worker backlog would have been 800,000 with wait times exceeding seven years today. That would have been true if the Ministerial Instructions were not implemented in 2008. The backlog was reduced to about 300,000 in late 2011s. For those who applied since June 2010, wait times were 6 to 12 months.

The year 2010 saw admissions of 280,681 permanent residents to Canada, the highest in 50 years. The Economic Class number,

including Federal Skilled Workers, Federal Business, Canadian Experience Class, Live-in Caregivers, Quebec-selected, and Provincial and Territorial Nominees came to a total of 76,561. The rest consist of economic class spouses and dependents, family class, and protected persons, who totaled 204,120. The percentage who were screened for their employment and language skills was 27%. When their spouses and dependents, who totalled 110,352, are added to the persons screened, the economic class was 67% of immigrants to Canada in 2010.

New Website

Don't forget to visit our fully revised website at www.stgeorgebc.ca! You may also want to visit the Royal Society's website in England at www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com.

**Royal Society of
St. George Pins
from England**



We are ordering some attractive pins from the RSSG in England. A picture appears in this issue. Once they arrive, they will be made available for \$10 apiece at our events. For more information, please contact **Tom and Laura Moses** at tlmoses@hotmail.com.



Journal and Pins

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



Updates from the Executive and Directors' Meeting on August 30

The Executive and Directors noted the passing of **Alan Hackett**. He was a loyal supporter of IAA for many years and provided much information concerning immigration policy and immigration reform in Canada.

The RSSG's magazine, St. George for England, will be purchased in batches and sold to members and friends for \$10 per issue. When they become out of date, they will be sold for \$8 and reordered when the stock is depleted.

Membership in the RSSGBC is now 79 paid family memberships (consisting of 118 individuals), plus 90 free trial memberships until the end of 2012, for a total of about 210 as a conservative estimate. We hope that a fair fraction of the free trial members will continue as paid members in 2013.

The IAA bank balance is in need of support. Directors will work on ways to increase it using IAA's ability to issue tax receipts and in light of its charitable purpose to help British immigrants arriving in B.C.

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!

Royal Commonwealth Society

"Creating Diamonds to last Forever" The Royal Commonwealth Society Diamond Jubilee Project

Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Plaque Ceremony in Vancouver's Queen Elizabeth Park, Wednesday, October 10, 2012.

The Royal Commonwealth Society, Mainland of British Columbia Branch, has long been involved with the local community. To honour Her Majesty's 60 years of devoted service to Canada and the Commonwealth, the Branch has been engaged in a series of projects. The centrepiece will be the rededication of a tree and area around Jubilee Square (previously dedicated 10 years ago with great ceremony and fanfare) and to add at least one park bench to the site

Our goal is to raise enough funds to hold the dedication ceremony, to purchase the plaque and, with sufficient funds, to purchase and place the park bench on the site permanently. Besides applying for grants and raising money from our own members, we are also seeking contributions from YOU, the community.

As we are a registered charity, contributions to this project are tax deductible. Public acknowledgement can be given to people who make substantial contributions. Please contact us for further details

Shawn Wade, RCS - Chapter President,
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Christopher JK Richardson,
FCA - committee volunteer,
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Isn't it great to be British**