

South Interior Power Pioneers

News Update

February 2023

Valentines Day – the very beginning.

Possibly some of the customs of Valentines Day originated from the ancient Roman pagan festival of *Lupercalia* held each year on February 15 (the ides of February). It was a bloody, violent and sexually charged celebration awash with animal sacrifice, random matchmaking and coupling in the hopes of warding off evil spirits and infertility. *Lupercalia*, has been traced back as far as the 6th century B.C. and is believed to honour the legendary she-wolf that raised the twins Romulus and Remus who founded Rome as well as to please the Roman fertility god *Lupercus*.

The festival begins with the sacrifice of one or more male goats and a dog performed by a group of Roman priests called *Luperci*. Afterwards, the foreheads of two naked priests are smeared with the animals' blood using the sacrificial knife. The blood is then removed with a piece of milk-soaked wool while the priests laugh hysterically. Thereupon the feast begins.

When the feast is over, the *Luperci* cut strips of hide (thongs) from the sacrificed goats and soaked them in blood. Then they ran naked — or nearly naked — whipping any woman within striking distance of the thong.

During the festivities women would anxiously line up to place their names into a vase. Then bachelors would randomly choose a name from the vase who would accompany them for the duration of the festival. Often, the couples stayed together until the following year's festival. Many fell in love and married.

By the end of the 5th century, the Romans had fully embraced Christianity. It became commonplace to name the days of the year after saints and events important to the church. So it came to be the Pope proclaimed February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day in honour of the patron saint for beekeepers, epileptics, married couples, and much more. To this day, historians cannot agree on exactly who the saint was only that he had very little to do with love and romance. Some historians suggest that the holiday was intended to be a Christian replacement of the now outlawed *Lupercalia* festival.

It wasn't until the 14th century that Valentine's Day morphed into a celebration of romantic love, mainly thanks to the works of English poets Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare. By the mid-18th century, it became commonplace for lovers to exchange flowers, small tokens and hand-made cards called Valentines.

In 19th century, the industrial revolution helped make printed Valentines the hot new thing. Then in 1913, Hallmark Cards began mass-producing Valentines, and the world hasn't been the same since.



February Lunch

Thirty-five members plus one guest enjoyed our Valentine-themed lunch. Tables set with white and red linens had chocolate heart placed at each setting - thank you Donna! Schubert Centre volunteers served us home-style Salisbury steak smothered in gravy and accompanied with a generous dollop of mashed potatoes with a medley of steamed vegetables. Self-serve coffee and Valentine tarts adorned the dessert table.



*Schubert Centre volunteers
Esther (l) & Irene (r).*



Leigh Pearson

Guest Speaker

Leigh Pearson of Vernon Search and Rescue gave a very interesting presentation on the role of the organization in our area. Currently they have a total of 60 volunteer members with 35 on active duty that handle an average 85 calls per year. They expect to open a new facility on Silver Star Road with the grand opening hopefully in April. The local SARS now has GPS capability, which allows them to locate and track an individual through their cell phone.

...and the winners are!

Flo Ryan and Hank Hildebrandt each won \$27.00.

The chocolate treat door prize went to Stew Wallach.





President's Report – by Fred Wernicke

Breaking news! The schedule has changed and the BC Hydro Safety Rodeo will be held in Vernon this year. We need to mobilize our volunteers to represent our Power Pioneers at this event.

I am hoping to have a RCMP member as a future guest speaker at our luncheon.

Welcome to newcomers Robin and Renee Fedorick for their first luncheon.



Vice President's Report – by Stew Wallach

Once again I will be leading the task of organizing volunteers for the upcoming BC Hydro Safety Rodeo. Please contact me if you have a favourite job you would like sign up for.



Membership Report – by Donna Wallach

There are no changes to the membership count:

- 146 Regular members
- 2 Gold/Lifetime members
- 2 Branch Honorary members
- 1 Donor member
- 151 Total members

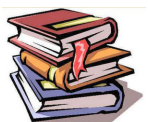


Treasurer's Report – by Forbes Niemi

January was a very successful month for us, although we began with a rather low bank balance. This is mainly because we hadn't yet received the Provincial subsidy for our

Christmas Party. Nevertheless there was enough wiggle room to easily handle the cash flow for the month's operations, which netted a modest income. Eventually the Provincial subsidy was received and the closing bank balance returned to a comfortable level.

| Financial statement for month of JANUARY | |
|--|-----------|
| Opening Bank Balance | \$1824.91 |
| Income received | |
| Membership Dues | \$20.00 |
| Luncheon Sales (34) | \$680.00 |
| 50/50 net proceeds | \$30.00 |
| Other Income (donation) | \$20.00 |
| | ----- |
| Total Income | \$750.00 |
| Expenses | |
| Luncheon Costs | -\$606.90 |
| | ----- |
| Total Expenses | -\$606.90 |
| | ----- |
| Net Income | \$143.10 |
| A/R Received** | \$2397.01 |
| Closing Bank Balance | \$4365.02 |
| ** Head Office subsidy of 2022 Christmas Party received. | |



Literacy Program – by Debbie Raymer

I am pleased to report that Malcom Grant donated seven books in good condition that are appropriate for high school aged children. So we are off to a good start for 2023.



Volunteer Points – by Steve Harrison

Our 2022 Volunteer Points program has closed with 102 participants submitting volunteer hours for a total of 14,692 hours! This means we should receive \$2,040.00 from Provincial HQ for distribution to deserving local charities.



Caring Crafts – by Donna Wallach

The new coordinator at VJH tells me there is a current need for preemie bonnets. I have spoken with our prime knitter Vivian who has agreed to focus on them.



Care Cards – by Flo Ryan

A *Get Well* card was sent to Rita Makasoff

A *Happy Birthday* card was circulated for signatures at the luncheon for Tom Flensburg who turns 99 on March 31.

If you know of someone deserving a Get Well, Condolence or Congratulations Card please contact Flo Ryan at 250-542-6919 or email fvryan@shaw.ca

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