

# *South Interior Power Pioneers*

## News Update

March 2023

### Scamming 101 by The Fraud Squad. - editor



Cst. Terleski and Rachael Zubick

We were delighted to have RCMP Media Relations Officer Cst. Terleski and Community Safety Coordinator Rachael Zubick at our March luncheon to give a presentation on the state of the art of scamming. The dynamic duo had the audience spellbound for an hour as they tag-teamed with visual aids and handouts. Not only was it entertaining but very informative. They explained the many ways that scammers continue to operate nowadays and most importantly how to avoid becoming a victim.

For more information visit their web site:

<https://www.vernon.ca/homes-building/community-safety/community-safety-office>

### CALL CONTROL – *A Glimmer of Hope!* - editor

It's 4am Sunday. You're sound asleep and your phone starts ringing. Instinctively you answer only to realise it's a scam caller from Florida trying to steal your identity. By now you're wide-awake and in a bad mood for the rest of the day!

When you answer a ROBOCALL you may hear a pre-recorded message carefully crafted to solicit a response. Pressing 1 then connects you to a live agent and the scam begins in earnest. Sometimes there is no message but after a brief delay a live agent will accost you with a proposition. Either way – do not engage – hang up! Although the call may be from a legitimate pollster or such, more often than not it's a fraudster seeking information to rob you or steal your identity.

Did you know that Telus offers a free service to silently block computer generated phone calls a.k.a. ROBOCALLS? Just call Telus 1-888-811-2323 any day between 9AM – 7PM and ask your service representative to activate CALL CONTROL on your Home Phone.

Once activated, this is how it works:

CALL CONTROL tests all incoming calls before ever ringing your phone. To determine if it is a real live person the caller is asked to press a specific number key. ROBOCALL devices do not recognise voice commands so the request is not fulfilled in a timely manner and the call is blocked. But if the correct key-press is detected the caller is immediately connected and your phone rings.

CALL CONTROL has features to enhance the efficiency of its operation and reduce annoyances to a legitimate caller.



To begin with, the status of the last twenty-five incoming calls is automatically recorded in a call log. Subsequent calls already listed are immediately allowed or blocked according to previous call log history. Also you can manually store known phone numbers permanently in a separate ACCEPT or BLOCK list. This is particularly useful to accept callers with dementia or poor English skills.


Occasionally you need to disable CALL CONTROL. For example when you request a call-back if there is a long wait time on a corporate switchboard. You can simply press \*99 to turn CALL CONTROL ON or OFF.

To take advantage of CALL CONTROL you must:

- ✓ be a Telus land line customer;
- ✓ you must first request Telus to activate the feature;
- ✓ you must have on-line access to manage your profile.

Eventually ROBOCALL technology may circumvent CALL CONTROL, but until then enjoy your privacy.

**\*Celebration of Life\***  
**Peggy Balfour.**



Schubert Centre  
Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>  
2-4 PM



## Salute to Ukraine!

Forty-two members enjoyed our March luncheon that featured perogy casserole: - a Ukrainian style entrée of cheese-filled dumplings, chunks of sausage and shredded cabbage all drenched in a light cheese sauce and garnished with a few chopped raw vegetables. A dinner roll was served to start and we finished with a self-serve muffin at the coffee table. **Slava Ukraïni!**

## ...and the winners are!

Len Cebuliac won the door prize, a Tim Horton's Gift Card and a safety wrist band.

Dave King and Morris Alger each won \$33.00 in the 50/50 draw.



## Annual Golf Tournament – by Jim Clouston

Our annual golf tournament is booked for June 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 1:30PM at the Spallumcheen Golf Club. Play will take place on the nine-hole executive course. There will be a gala dinner in the evening at the clubhouse during which prizes will be awarded to deserving players. The cost has yet to be determined and depends somewhat on enrolment. For those who choose not to play golf, the dinner-only option is again available. Watch your Inbox for more details and expect a promotional phone call from Steve Harrison.



## Vice President's Report – by Stew Wallach

The Safety Rodeo planning is well under way. This is a fun event for BC Hydro employees and their families. Power Pioneers contribute to its success largely through the help of our volunteers. Soon every SIPP member will receive an email with a Volunteer Registration form attached. I urge you to volunteer as little as a three-hour shift. Check the form carefully and choose the most enjoyable activity. The work is not onerous, in fact can be quite enjoyable. Depending upon the time and duration of your shift you can be entitled to breakfast, lunch or dinner right on the premises. Deadline for volunteer registration is April 21<sup>st</sup> but don't leave it to the last minute and possibly miss out on this fun event. Remember to add your shift time to the Volunteer Hours Survey.



## Membership Report – by Donna Wallach

New members welcomed:

**Ruth & Terry Davies**

**Debbie Rinvold** (a.k.a. Albrecht)

**Peggy Balfour** passed away March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Tom Flensburg** will be 99 years old on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We sent him a birthday card signed by February lunch attendees. I received a thank you email from Tom:

*Thank you for the birthday card! It was appreciated. Great photos and kind thoughts to make my day. Please thank everyone for me - Tom”*

### Branch Member Summary

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



l > r: Heather Moore, Maureen Thompson, Barry Thompson, Linda Vlasveld

**Barry Thompson** is the winner of the 2022 Volunteer Hour Survey provincial draw worth \$1000 toward the charity of their choice. Barry and his wife Maureen picked **Lumby & District Health Services Society** as the preferred recipient. Accepting the donation in the photo are Executive Director, Heather Moore and Chairperson, Linda Vlasveld.

*The Lumby & District Health Services Society is currently raising money to purchase new X Ray equipment and the \$1000.00 will be going towards helping them meet this goal. To date approximately \$100,000.00 of the \$200,000.00 needed has been raised.*

*There are so many worthy charities and organizations it was difficult to make a choice but we wanted to keep the money in our community and felt the Lumby & District Health Services Society met the need.*

*Thank you from the Lumby & District Health Services Society and the Thompsons for this wonderful donation.*

*- Barry & Maureen Thompson*



## Treasurer's Report – by Forbes Niemi

In financial terms, February was a typical month. We continued in a holding pattern with 23% of our members attending the luncheon. With no extraordinary expenses we posted a nominal Net Income.



## Care Cards – by Flo Ryan

Get Well Soon cards sent to:

Rita Wernicke

Ray Denby.

Condolence card sent to the family of Peggy Balfour.

### Financial statement for month of FEBRUARY

Opening Bank Balance		\$4365.02
Income received		
Luncheon Sales (35)	\$700.00	
50/50 net proceeds	\$32.00	
	-----	
Total Income	\$732.00	
Expenses		
Luncheon Costs (36)	-\$642.60	
Promotional expense	-\$17.24	
	-----	
Total Expenses	-\$659.84	
	-----	
Net Income		\$72.16
Closing Bank Balance		\$4437.18

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](mailto:fvryan@shaw.ca)

## **St. Patrick's Day**

March 17 is when the Irish Catholics (and those who wish they were) honour the patron saint of Ireland. The *green theme* was already evident a few days in advance at our March 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon although no shenanigans or crusty limericks were reported.



***May you spend half an hour in heaven before the devil knows you're dead!*** – Irish proverb



*March 14<sup>th</sup> SIPP Luncheon at the Emerald Room, Schubert Center, Vernon.*

### **Editor**

Suggestions, comments or contributions are welcome.  
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