

QUARTERLY



WINTER • 2022

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHERE WE HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY LIES WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE LEKWUNGEN-SPEAKING PEOPLE, KNOWN AS THE ESQUIMALT, SONGHEES, AND WSÁNEĆ FIRST NATIONS

President's Message



How did you enjoy Victoria's white Christmas? A rare occasion, especially because it was accompanied by extremely frigid temperatures. Nevertheless, a few hardy members were out for a brisk walk on New Year's Day!

Given the current pandemic situation, many will be tempted to avoid group activities. **Rest assured that VENC is tailoring its activities to comply with public health guidelines. The brisk and leisurely walks remain our most popular activities. But if you are feeling isolated, do reach out to any other member in your neighbourhood, or who you have met at a past event.**

Winter is a good time for learning activities. University of Victoria has published their [Continuing Studies catalogue](https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/calendar) (https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/calendar). If you are interested in helping local restaurants to stay afloat, be sure to check out their special [Dine Around menus](https://www.tourismvictoria.com/eat-drink/dine-around/dine-around-restaurants) (https://www.tourismvictoria.com/eat-drink/dine-around/dine-around-restaurants).

Sincerely,

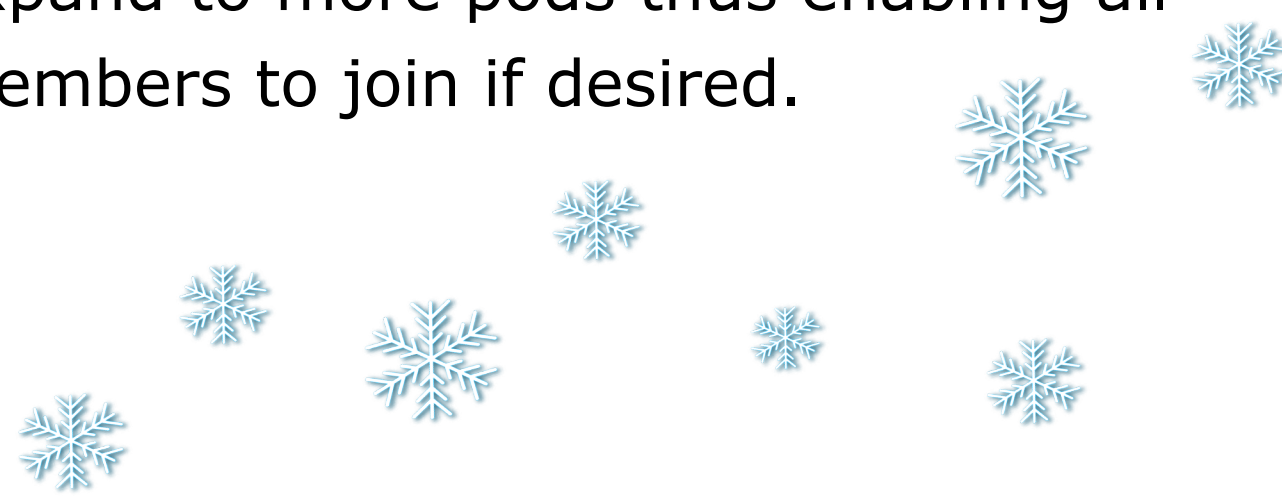
Laurie Davison
Acting President



Communication Pod Experiment

Recently, a few members in the James Bay neighbourhood have been experimenting with a "communication pod" for sharing urgent local information informally or asking advice about neighbourhood shops and services. The VENC website has an online forum, but that tool is intended for announcements or requests to all members. The pilot pod has been using WhatsApp to send ad hoc messages amongst members in the same neighbourhood. We are also looking into whether Facebook Messenger may be a better app to use going forward.

The experiment is continuing with one more pod in the Fernwood/Hillside/Jubilee/Oaklands/Quadra area. Once this 2nd pod has documented the formation steps, and gained some useful experiences, we will expand to more pods thus enabling all members to join if desired.



Nominating Committee has been formed

Although it is early days, the Nominating Committee has been struck, and is actively searching for interested candidates to **join the VENC Executive after the next AGM in June 2022.** Serving on the VENC Executive is a fulfilling way to share your talents and contribute to the smooth operation of the Club. If you have any interest in joining the Club Executive during the period of July 2022 through June 2023, please contact Laurie Davison, head of the Nominating Committee, for more information.

In Search of Photos and a Photo Editor



We've seen a few good photos posted to Evite after an activity takes place. That's a step in the right direction, but these are very hard to repurpose for the web site. If you have photos from a VENC gathering, please send the best ones to vencphotoeditor@gmail.com. **Remember to identify the activity group, location, and date!**

Most members enjoy seeing group photos taken during VENC activities. Please be aware that any photos taken during a VENC activity may be selected by the Photo Editor to appear on the web site, or used in a newsletter. **If you prefer not to see yourself on the web site or in a club publication, please remove yourself from the photo before it is taken.**

We are still searching for a member to monitor the Photo Editor email account, selecting the best photos for use on the web site. This is not an Executive role. If you enjoy taking photos of our beautiful surroundings, you can contribute some of your own shots to enhance the web site. Other details pertaining to this role are listed on the members web site under the About VENC tab (About VENC > Job Descriptions > Volunteer Support Roles). **Please contact the VENC Activity Group Liaison (VENCActivity@gmail.com) if you would like to help the Club by performing this fun job.**