

## **BC BRANCH 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Branch President Bernard Jackson welcomed CABP's chairman, Sheila Telford, as the keynote speaker at the Annual meeting of the BC Branch on June 15 at the Surrey Central Library. Sheila's vibrant presentation on the constructive activity and progress that both CABP and the ICBP have made in the UK energized the room and the promotional videos that were aired earned a spontaneous round of applause.

Bernard acknowledged hardworking volunteers Alan King, Geraldine Tillson, Dave Dutton and Pat Moir and appealed for volunteers to step up and assist with CABP's work – we are all aging (Bernard himself is 90) and need more hands to help with the ongoing campaign for pension justice.

Several people offered to promote the cause locally through various associations they are involved with and Director Ian Andexser agreed to provide CABP business cards for handing out to potential new recruits.

A second meeting was held the next day on Vancouver Island in the seaside community of Oak Bay on the outskirts of Victoria. Thanks to the efforts of area representative Alan McFarlane, a sellout crowd of 122 people heartily acknowledged the work that is being done in the UK and in Canada and, once again, a round of applause erupted when the promotional videos were shown. Members were encouraged to act promptly in urging their former UK MPs to support the deletion of the pension freezing clause from the pensions reform bill under review in Britain, and to ask friends and relatives still resident there do the same. A healthy \$125 was collected for CABP's Action Fund and our rolls grew by 25 new memberships. Volunteers Alan May (former BC Branch VP), Jim Lodge, Betty Short (who took photos at the meeting), Don Stevens (from Salt Spring Island) and Dave Whitten were acknowledged, and Alan McFarlane gave a very helpful 'How to Claim Your Pension' workshop.