

## Mainlanders and Islanders keep the energy strong



June was a busy month for the BC Branch. First, we took advantage of a recital by "Britain's Favourite Baritone" Sir Thomas Allen at the University of British Columbia's Chan Centre for the Performing Arts on June 13. We were pleased to be invited to set up an information table in the lobby and branch director Pat Moir and I were kept busy giving out literature and answering many questions about British pensions.

Just a few days later, over the weekend of June 16-17, our branch was pleased to welcome CABP's national chairman Brian Lechem and vice-chairman Sheila Telford to our two annual meetings, the first in Vancouver and the second in Sidney on Vancouver Island. Brian brought us up-to-date on the activities and achievements of the organization and Sheila gave a presentation on the rules and regulations of the British pension system. Branch treasurer Leslie Harrington reviewed our fiscal information for the past year and the slate of directors for the coming year was unanimously elected: Bernard Jackson (president), Leslie Harrington (treasurer), Pat Moir (committee secretary, assistant treasurer and office manager), Sheila Scott (meetings organizer), Chris Duff (director) and Ian Andexser (Vancouver Island director).

Prior to each of the meetings, Brian Lechem hosted a light lunch for our dedicated volunteers including Alan McFarlane, Robert Atkins, Mike Gray, Stephen Lamb, Jim Lodge, David Masters, Alan May, Ken Small, Don Stevens, Geoff Vale, Fred Whittaker, David Whitten, Elizabeth Williams, Betty Short and David Bass.

The following weekend, we headed off to the BC Highland Games in Coquitlam. There, our information booth proved very popular, with people lining up to talk to us. Many thanks to all the volunteers who joined me at the booth, signing up new members and giving out information: Pat Moir, Alan King, Leslie Harrington, Len and June Compton, Stephen Tighe, Chris Duff, Alf and Ellen Kerr, and Brenda and Frank Dudfield – and particular thanks to Alf for his excellent and eye-catching signs, so essential to our success.