



**University  
of Victoria**

**WELCOME TO OUR  
NEW MEMBERS**

**GORDANA LAZAREVICH,**  
School of Music

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Dr. Lionel Adey**

A long time member of the UVRA and Professor of English Literature, Lionel passed away on September 17, 2009. As well as his involvement in university life Lionel added his voice to the Victoria Choral Society and the Orion Male Choir.

**Dr. Alan Austin**

Alan taught in the Biology Department from the early 60s to the 90s. He continued his involvement at UVic with the UVRA attending many events over the years. A longtime advocate of sustainable life in our community and on our earth, Alan passed away on September 29, 2009.

**Dr. Harry Foster**

Harry taught at UVic in the Department of Geography from 1968 and retired in 2008 as Professor Emeritus. Harry passed away on August 15, 2009 succumbing to cancer, the disease that he had helped so many to understand.

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**Volume 04/09**

**Nov/Dec 2009 Newsletter**

**Editorial**

It is that time of year again when the bustle of shopping, baking, decorating, and preparing for the advent of the Christmas season seems to consume our lives. It is interesting to note that the custom of sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840 when the first 'Penny Post' public postal deliveries began. Helped by the new railway system, the public postal service was the 19th century's communication revolution, just as email is for us today. As printing methods improved, Christmas cards were produced in large numbers from about 1860. They became even more popular in Britain when a card could be posted in an unsealed envelope for one half-penny - half the price of an ordinary letter. As well, the earliest account of a Christmas tree was in a Finnish home in 1829 when a nobleman had 8 of them indoors. In Poland, Christmas Eve is a time of family gatherings, but it is also a night of magic, when animals are said to talk in a human voice and people have the power to tell the future. The main Polish Christmas dinner consists of 12 courses! (the mere thought of it makes one want to undo their belt.)

Although we also celebrate Christmas in much the same way as England, Scottish people have their big celebrations on New Year's Eve. For the uninitiated, this celebration is called Hogmanay - a time for reflection on the year past complete with resolutions for the year to come with plenty of spirits on hand at midnight to welcome the New Year. It is at this time we review the year and think of friends and family, past and present. This year was "Homecoming Year" in Scotland sparked to commemorate the life of our national bard, Robert Burns. To quote him:

*"We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
for auld lang syne"*

*All the very best to you and yours in 2010.  
Sláinte! Elizabeth Coey*

**President,** Isobel Dawson

**Vice-President,** John Schofield

**Secretary,** Wendy Leyland

**Treasurer,** Colin Butterfield

**Past President,** Lyle Robertson

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**Communications,** Judy Cryderman

**Membership**

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**http://web.uvic.ca/retirees**



## UVRA Trip to Galiano Island

On a beautiful day in October, the UVRA group ferried to Galiano Island where we were warmly greeted by Dr. Paul LeBond (retired professor from UBC) our guide for the day. We visited the museum, had a stop at the magnificent Bluffs before descending on Professor Kennedy's home for a lunch on the deck overlooking the point. We could not have asked for more perfect weather to enjoy the view and gardens. Doctor Kennedy collects some 60,000 gallons of water for gardening; her agility, stamina, and her warm hospitality are remarkable. Afternoon found us in a cosmic wonderland called "Stoneworld" a natural art installation. Amongst grazing sheep, Steve Ocsko, retired UBC Professor, artisan, visionary (he claims to just love moving boulders around) has created a park reminiscent of Stonehenge.

Magnificent rock formations, carefully assembled and situated around an open range park makes for a spiritual experience and a must see for anyone visiting Galiano.

As we sailed homeward in a perfect sunset we were accompanied by a whale pod, at times swimming so close to us that the ferry had to stop and let them pass. The trip was very interesting and if you have not been to Galiano Island lately there are some amazing sights. Here are some sample pictures from Elizabeth Coey below with more available on the website under

## UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN REPORT 2009

In today's economic climate the various agencies supported by the United Way need our help more than ever. The UVic Campaign, under Campaign Chair Norah McRae, is close to meeting its target of \$275,000. As of November 27, the total stood at \$252,392, 92% of the goal, with 542 donors. To those of you still planning to contribute, the sooner you send in your donation the sooner we will know