

Vancouver Island Oxford & Cambridge Society

FALL 2020



A Message to VIOCS Members

We at VIOCS have been busy in this time of limited opportunities, so this newsletter will bring you up to date on what we have been doing, what we see happening in the future, and how you can help.

Importantly, our planning reflects the input provided by sixty steadfast members who responded to the survey sent out on our behalf by the Oxford and Cambridge Alumni Offices. We heartily thank our members for that. And we say to the remaining 240 individuals whose Vancouver Island contact information is safely guarded by our new membership secretary, Fei Gao (Darwin 2011), "Hey, we'd love to hear from you, too!" Seriously, we appreciate all comments sent to "admin@VIOCS.ca" and encourage those who did not complete the survey to contact us directly with your recommendations on how to galvanize our VIOCS collegiality, both during and after these times of Covid restrictions.

The surveys provided us with 24 new members, mostly young, and we anticipate their involvement will enliven our community of alumni. Responding members ranged from 25 to 90 years, and the questions regarding employment or industry revealed we are a bright and talented lot.

A third of you offered to share your expertise with VIOCS, and thus we are delighted that your generosity will help us address several of the top requests for events noted on the surveys. Aside from our annual Boat Race Party, always a splendid occasion that gathers between 40 and 70 members, you have indicated that your top four events are as follows:

- 1) Informal drinks receptions;
- 2) Lectures with refreshments;
- 3) Walking tours;
- 4) Academic speakers.

For now, you may have to provide your own tittle, but we'll provide the talks and occasions to chat. In the next several weeks we will be compiling a roster of online ZOOM webinars featuring our local Vancouver Island Oxbridge alumni. You are likely familiar with Zoom if you have grandchildren and/or are employed. If not, we will acquaint you with the free download that will allow you to participate in online events.

We can be thankful for many reasons that we live in Canada and particularly for our residence on Vancouver Island, where walking is pleasant regardless of the season.

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We are assembling a list of walking tours that will bring together small groups of outdoor enthusiasts while heeding Dr. Bonnie Henry's Covid protocols. Please send in your suggestions for these outings.

Finally, as promised, we want to respond to your expressed desire for the vitality of VIOCS to flourish in this changing world. So here is something you can do. We have some ongoing annual costs (c. \$500.00) that we need your help to cover: the domain name for our email, Zoom cost for the webinar host (only) platform, as well as for the website hosting. Consequently, we are asking for a \$10.00 donation from each of you. Our Treasurer, James Tirrul-Jones (St. Edmund's 1979), spoke with Island Savings and established a means for you to E-transfer your donation directly into our dedicated VIOCS account, "admin@VIOCS.ca." If you prefer to sign cheques, James will happily receive and deposit your cheque (made out to VIOCS and sent to James Tirrul-Jones at 2-444 Michigan Street, Victoria, BC., V8V1R5). Our ability to continue providing you with VIOCS events depends on your financial support.

On behalf of VIOCS, I am grateful for your support of our universities and our alumni society.

Warmest regards,

Dorothy Kennedy (Exeter 1997)
President, VIOCS
15 October 2020

2020 Executive Committee
President: Dr. Dorothy Kennedy
Treasurer: James Tirrul-Jones
Membership Secretary: Fei Gao
Tech Support: Dr. Peter Evans
Member at Large: vacant



Photo courtesy of Louise England