

## July Secretary's Report

Greetings to you all.

I hope you are all having as good a summer as possible, given the various issues with which we are having to contend, ranging from wildfires and poor air quality, to heat domes and England losing on penalties (again).

On a more positive side, however, the province is starting to open up and a semblance of normality is returning. To shoot off at an irrelevant tangent for the moment, what is happening to the English language? Is "normalcy" the same as normality (and whilst we are at it, when did being obliged to do something morph into being obligated to do something)? Perhaps this is a generation thing; my children roll their eyes when I sound off on this topic (and don't even get me started on the absolute necessity of using apostrophes in text messages!!)

But I digress.

I am happy to report that the VOCS Summer Picnic will be held at Spanish Banks on Monday August 30th, kicking off at 6:30pm. For those interested in attending, please email me at [vanoxbridge@gmail.com](mailto:vanoxbridge@gmail.com), and I will send you joining details and add your name to the list of attendees.

As with last year, this event is weather dependent, and (also as with last year) we are obliged to observe the following COVID related requirements:

Attendees to please bring their own seats / blankets.

As we are still not allowed to share, attendees are to bring their own food and drink.

Although it is not required for attendees to be masked, can all attendees please observe social distancing rules.

Last year's event was great fun, and I look forward to meeting a huge crowd of you. Under existing COVID regulations, I believe we are limited to 5,000 attendees!! Given that we only have just over 320 members, I doubt crowd limits will concern us, but it would be good to see a large turnout for this.

Our cousins at Vancouver Island Oxford & Cambridge Soc (VIOCS) are holding a potluck BBQ at lunchtime on August 7th at 2592 Mill Bay Road in Mill Bay. Kick off is at 11:30am, for lunch at 12 noon. If you are able to attend, please reply to [admin@VIOCS.ca](mailto:admin@VIOCS.ca), and please also bring with you a salad or dessert.

Finally, one of our members has sent to me an article published in the Lucy Cavendish-University of Cambridge newsletter concerning her research and memories of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. To read the article, please click here: <https://www.lucy.cam.ac.uk/blog/once-upon-time-memories-hrh-prince-phillip-duke-edinburgh>.

I look forward to hearing from you

Simon Taylor