

Branch Ideas

**Collected from groups at the
2012 BCRTA Conference**

Recruitment and retention

- attend retirement dinners, talk to retirees
- visit schools in June to meet retirees
- invitation phone calls
- mailed invitations
- free or discount voucher for first luncheon
- discount on Christmas luncheon if join branch by set date
- promote benefits (Medoc, etc.) in personal letters
- regular newsletters (snail mail, email or via web)
- branch website (post event photos)
- submissions to BCTF local newsletter(s)
- Christmas poinsettias, hampers, 'shoeboxes', plates, teas for life members
- notes/cards to life members on Seniors' Day
- car pool list, rides for non-drivers
- cards, flowers in cases of illness, bereavement
- door prizes
- special birthday recognition: birthdays ending in "5" or "0"
- photo board/album at meetings
- phone tree, esp. for life members
- brochure emphasizing difference from BCTF
- "buddy" for those without computers

School opening day

- THWTB breakfast, brunch, picnic, barbecue, koffee klatch, wine & cheese

Luncheon venues and alternatives

- pot luck
- important to keep Christmas lunch even though costs increase
- weekly lunch (may attract small group) - light menu, low price
- box lunch at historic site
- picnic lunch at park, beach
- 'appie hour' at heritage building - members bring snacks, beverages
- summer barbecue
- meal at cooking school
- koffee klatches
- hotel, golf course, seniors' centre, hall with caterer
- wine & cheese in private home
- negotiate special pricing with restaurants for RTA lunches (seniors' discount)

Field trips

- sightseeing/historical sites tours
- mystery bus tour

- garden tour
- art studio tour (with 'appie hour')
- sightseeing boat ride, dinner afloat, sunset cruise

Sociable activities

- golf tournament
- special activities for executive: wine & cheese, lunch, pub night, games night
- wine tasting, scotch tasting, beer tasting, etc.
- group walks
- dart tournament
- RTA teams in community leagues
- RTA-member choir
- karaoke
- compile history/ies of local school/s, historical lists of teachers (by school)
- begin collection of old textbooks, lab equipment, shop tools, kitchen equipment
- scavenger hunt (on foot, by car), car rally
- join with other branches in lunches, tours, tournaments
- vintage clothing/costume/bridal show

Speakers / topics

- monthly morning workshops (by donation)
- wills and estate planning
- power of attorney and representation agreements
- scams (RCMP)
- driver training, refresher, testing
- investment ideas/cautions (financial planner)
- local author
- local gardening expert
- non-government organizations, charities
- hospice information
- income tax specialist
- mayor/councillor re "age-friendly city"
- pharmacist
- St John Ambulance - first aid, CPR
- members' travel stories
- overseas teaching stories
- Elder College
- student speech contest winners
- memory training
- museum archivist
- BCTF local president
- genalogy

Workshops and seminars

- utilize member expertise
- COSCO (coscobc.ca) - partner with other seniors' group?

Altruism, philanthropy, partnerships

- Christmas gifts - for children, seniors, women's shelter
- grant to high school band
- food bank donation box at meetings
- join with other groups: trail building/maintaining

Fund raising (for RR Smith Foundation, scholarships, etc.)

(Caution - some of these are technically illegal without a permit!)

- 50/50 draw
- draw for free lunch
- raffle mystery basket, bag or box
- donated gift draw
- silent auction
- wooden/cardboard model schoolhouse, with donation slot at top
- donation envelope on table
- book exchange: bring one, buy one for \$1.00 (leave comment page inside?)
- collect Canadian Tire money
- Get Co-op card in name of branch; members quote number at till - rebates to branch
- garage sale

Celebrations and entertainment

- high school jazz band/ensemble
- local musician(s), choirs
- belly dancer
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