

The Transmitter

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*Photo: Courtesy of Lutz Walsh, CBC PNA, Regina, SK
Moorish Castle, Sintra, Portugal, UNESCO World Heritage Site*

Lutz Walsh and his wife, Mireille Beaupré-Walsh, took an extended holiday in Europe in the autumn of 2018. Read their travel tips on page 6.

President's Report

Bob Forrow, CBC PNA Regional President, Edmonton, AB

It has been a busy year so far, and fascinating and informative to meet CBC retirees and CBC staff in Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon and Regina. I visited CBC Calgary in the early part of April and travelled to Regina and Saskatoon in the early part of May. Since then, I contacted Victoria Goodfellow-Nichols, Senior Manager Production Services, CBC Edmonton, and was invited to introduce myself to the Edmonton staff. Victoria was kind, resourceful and gave me some time from her busy schedule for a tour of the Edmonton CBC facility. After introducing myself to staff, several CBC senior staff had questions about retirement, the Pensioners National Association, the Special Assistance Fund and medical insurance after retirement.

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I was able to attend the monthly Tuesday IHOP breakfast in June in Edmonton with sixteen CBC retirees in attendance. Following that, there was the Spring Luncheon at the University of Alberta Faculty Club with fourteen CBC retirees attending. One of the door prizes was an umbrella donated by Jessica Chan, Manager of Communications, Marketing and Brand, CBC Edmonton. The umbrella was a good choice and a worthwhile gift on that rainy day. We also had a 50 / 50 Draw with the proceeds going to the Edmonton Food Bank. All of these luncheons and supper events were subsidized by the Regional PNA to the tune of \$10.00 for each PNA member attending in Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon and Edmonton.

Your Regional Executive has booked the University of Alberta Faculty Club in Edmonton for our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday September 18th and we hope to see many PNA members there. We'll greet you with coffee at 10:30 A.M., the meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M. and the meal will be at 12:00 Noon. The luncheon will be subsidized with money from the Regional PNA and each member attending the meeting will receive a ten-dollar bill to put towards the cost of the meal. You will be able to meet representatives from the PNA Chapters in Calgary and Regina/Saskatoon. David Macfarlane of Edmonton will speak on behalf of the EAP as Julia Sargeant has retired from the EAP. We are also excited to present the guest speaker, Alain Pineau from Ottawa. He is not only on our National Board of Directors, but also is the PNA representative on the CBC Pension Board of Trustees. Come to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 18 in Edmonton and ask questions about your CBC pension and matters concerning the CBC Pensioners National Association.

*Bob Forrow, President
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Meet Our Pension Fund Delegate



*Photo: Alain Pineau
CBC PNA, Ottawa, ON*

My name is Alain Pineau and I am your delegate on the Board of Trustees of the CBC Pension Fund.

I retired from the CBC/Radio-Canada in 2005 after more than 34 years with the Corporation. I started as an editor in the French Radio Newsroom in Montréal and, over my four years there, did some reporting on air. In 1975, I became Assistant to the Director of News and Current Affairs at Radio-Canada, a post I occupied for three years, before going back to the radio newsroom as Managing Editor of the Montreal and French Network News.

I was appointed News and Current Affairs Representative in our Paris office in 1983, coming back to Canada in 1986 as Associate Director of the then bilingual National Capital Region.

In 1988, I went to Head Office, where I was successively Assistant VP for Planning and Regulatory Affairs, Associate VP for Regional Operations, and finally VP for Planning and Regulatory Affairs. When the job was abolished in 1995 I was appointed Director of the new pay audio service Galaxie and occupied this post for nine years, until my retirement.

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In 2017 I was appointed as the delegate from the Pensioners National Association to the Board of Trustees of the CBC Pension Fund. There are seven Trustees: two from the CBC Board of Directors, two ex-officio Senior CBC Executives (the VP of Finance and the VP of People and Culture), and a representative each for the English and French Unions, and one for the Pensioners. Our responsibility as Trustees is to the Sponsor (the CBC), to current employees, and to current and deferred Pensioners. We must ensure, with the support of a very competent staff of 27, that the Pension Plan meets its commitment to Pensioners. We establish the general investment strategy, set the benchmarks investors must meet, and generally oversee the operations of the Plan. I look forward to meeting you at the AGM in Edmonton on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 to talk some more about our great Pension Fund!

A Relaxing Summer at the Cottage

Susan Graham, CBC PNA, Regina, SK



Storage barn full of cottage items

My brother Bill and I share the family cottage at White Bear Lake in the southeast corner of Saskatchewan. We grew up 15 minutes from here – it is home. We, as a family, built this cottage starting in 1965. It was time for another update, and as you know, one project leads to another.

It was strip (wallpaper), wash wall, paint, repeat. It was store everything in the barn and then unpack everything (still happening). It was look for lost tools in the mess and move things 400 times while projects were happening. Then there were the extras such as varnishing baseboards and window frames, finding new curtains, and shouldn't extra electrical plugs go in now?

I painted everything – the walls, the cupboards, some ceilings, some grass, even a tree and definitely me. I am a very flamboyant painter. My new favourite things are Frog Painters Tape and extension handles for paint rollers.

Bill took care of most of the tough stuff, but one trim board was missed. “I can do it myself.” So up the ladder I went, hammer in hand. I started prying it loose and the next thing I knew I hit my head with the hammer. No real pain just a goose egg the size of a golf ball and a lovely bruise. As for me and ladders, well let's just say I have a love-hate relationship with them. Love as in finally able to reach things and hate as I climb up down up down.



Susan, climbing to great heights

The most taxing part was managing the contractors. “Where are they?” “That is not what we discussed.” “What do you mean the lino was shorted by 5 feet?” “Why was I not told about this change?” Contractors seem to listen patiently to what you say and then do it their way. To be fair, I'm afraid I talked their ears off because, for a while, it seemed like I was the only person out of all the 1000 cottagers at White Bear Lake who was at her cottage.

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This “relaxing” summer did have its rewards. I feel more like the cottage is mine, my paint streaks, my scuff marks on the new lino, my mistakes, my successes, *my place*. I also enjoyed planning the work with my brother Bill, reconnecting with old friends and visiting relatives from my home community. There was “coffee time” or “happy hour” or a trip to “The Bar Bar” at Kenosee. As always, the people you meet are the best part of any project.

Looking for CBC/SRC artifacts for the Royal Alberta Museum

Bob Forrow, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB

The Curator of Western Canadian History at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton, Julia Petrov, along with Jessica Chan, CBC’s Manager of Communications, Marketing and Brand in Edmonton, invited members of the CBC National Pensioners Association to take a tour of the new Royal Alberta Museum. The CBC/SRC group was interested in donating items to display in the Museum.



Jessica Chan, through the CBC, paid the entrance fees for the CBC PNA members. Julia Petrov took us through rooms exhibiting a visual history from the Stone Age to the present day. We could also see the progression from one age to the next of our western land area that is known as Alberta. Julia Petrov indicated that she would like to add physical objects as well as recordings from the early days of CBC/SRC radio and television in Alberta to the digital present day.

This would include items from the French component of CHFA and Radio-Canada in the west.

Julia Petrov said she would like to display pieces that would be solid and durable (not fragile paper items unless they have historical significance). Ideally, the items would have a story and/or a history attached to them. There will be no limitation to the height or width or weight of the donation. The artifacts would help to signify and illuminate a specific period of time of CBC/Radio-Canada/CHFA and Alberta history.



If you have items that could be put on display for the public to see at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton, please contact Julia Petrov, Curator, Western Canadian History, Royal Alberta Museum, 9810 103a Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 0G2. You could call her at 780 453-9123 or send an email to Julia.petrov@gov.ab.ca You could also contact Jessica Chan, Manager of Communications at CBC Edmonton. You can reach her at 780-468-7433 or jessica.chan@cbc.ca

So Long, Saskatchewan

Laurie Dickson worked at CBC Radio and Television in Moose Jaw, Regina and Vancouver. Paul Grant worked with CBC in Charlottetown, Regina and Vancouver. One son, three dogs and 35 years later, they spent a year exploring Saskatchewan.



Daisy the dashboard dog

We set out from Vancouver in the fall of 2018 to spend a year exploring Saskatchewan and writing about it on our *Road Apples* blog (link below). Our trusty Subaru (with Daisy the dashboard dog) took us about 20,000 km, much of it on gravel highways and grid roads. We went to livestock shows, fall suppers, sandhills, badlands, choral concerts, galleries, pizzerias, drag queen galas, farm yards and curling rinks, and met hundreds of kind and generous people. We may have also stumbled upon a new tourism trend - wintering in Saskatchewan. There's lots to do, even during the third coldest winter on record.

But a quirk of fate called us back to Vancouver early. We make plans. God laughs. So we missed the short, sweet Saskatchewan summer, and a few other things as well, including...

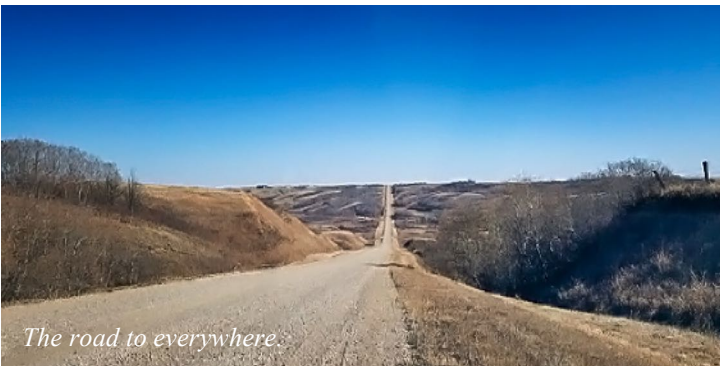
- * Drivers who stop if a pedestrian even *thinks* about crossing the road.
- * Air that is so dry, knee and hip joints move more easily than on the wet coast.
- * Also, laundry, dishes and winter boots dry much faster.
- * Bigger space, slower pace. Crowded people are cranky people.
- * Standard time all the time - it makes perfect sense.
- * Fox squirrels.
- * Dill pickle vodka.
- * Pie, and lots of it, especially Saskatoon.
- * Sky, and lots of it.



Cold winter



Land of living skies



The road to everywhere.

There's still so much of Saskatchewan to visit, so we'll see you somewhere down the road. In the meantime you can catch up on our travels here:

<https://saskwatchers2019.blogspot.com/>

A Couple of Tips from a Couple of Travellers

Lutz Walsh, CBC PNA, Regina, SK and Mireille Beaupré-Walsh

In the autumn of 2018 we took a three-month trip to Europe and visited Portugal, Spain, Italy and Germany. Our trip was enhanced using accommodation and communication services that we didn't know about when we toured Europe four years previously.



Our apartment home in Portugal

First of all, in 2014 we relied on accommodation services such as trivago.ca, booking.com. and hotel.com to locate the best prices and locations; however, this often meant paying high prices for small rooms in prime locations. We rarely had kitchen facilities and relied more on restaurants and picnic lunches. In 2018, we decided on longer stays in different locations and booking ahead from Canada with Airbnb.

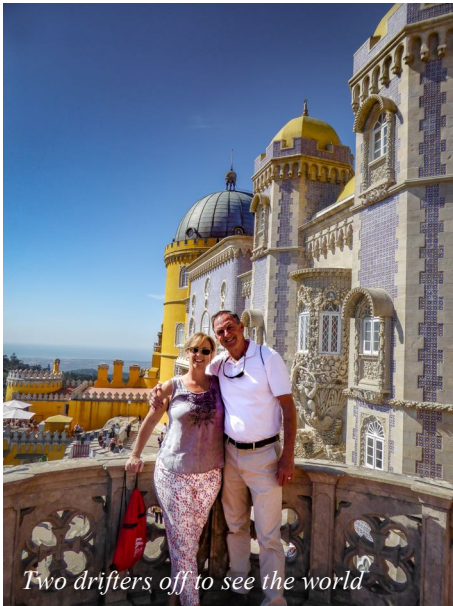
The basic idea is that private contracts are made to rent private accommodations, often full apartments or homes through the Airbnb website which offers some form of protection to both the owner and renter. We created an honest and relatively detailed account with our profile and picture so that owners could see who was making inquiries to rent. We then combed the website to find what was available in each location. Not only did we see pictures, prices and locations but we read reviews from former renters. That gave us a good idea of the pros and cons. We also discovered that longer stays resulted in significant savings. We saved hundreds of dollars by staying a few days longer as the monthly rate was less than the weekly rate.

But cost was not the only benefit of our Airbnb experience. We got to enjoy having full apartments with all the amenities (kitchen, washer/dryer, dining and living room, bedroom, patios or balconies) in prime residential neighbourhoods. This apartment living allowed us to live like locals, shop in neighbourhood markets, cook at home, and meet neighbours. All of our Airbnbs were wonderful and full of local character with stocked bookshelves, cable tv and wifi. We truly felt at home. At the end of each stay we rated or reviewed our stay on the website and the owner rated us so that future owners could decide if we were good tenants. All in all we highly recommend using this kind of accommodation service particularly for longer stays.



Veal Scallopini supper in our apartment in Rome

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Two drifters off to see the world

We also embraced what for us were new and better technologies to communicate and stay informed. Four years ago we relied on free wifi to access the web and send the occasional email. This proved cumbersome as we often felt obliged to buy a coffee to use a cafe wifi or else we spent time searching for wifi spots. Wifi service in hotels was slow and often didn't function. Canadian telephone and data plans are outrageously expensive for long trips and local SIM cards only worked in the country purchased. This year, we booked our SIM card from Canada prior to our trip so that a card would be available at the airport when we arrived. We picked Vodafone for our carrier as it was a big network and paid €20 for 1 month local talk/text/5G data that covered us in each country.

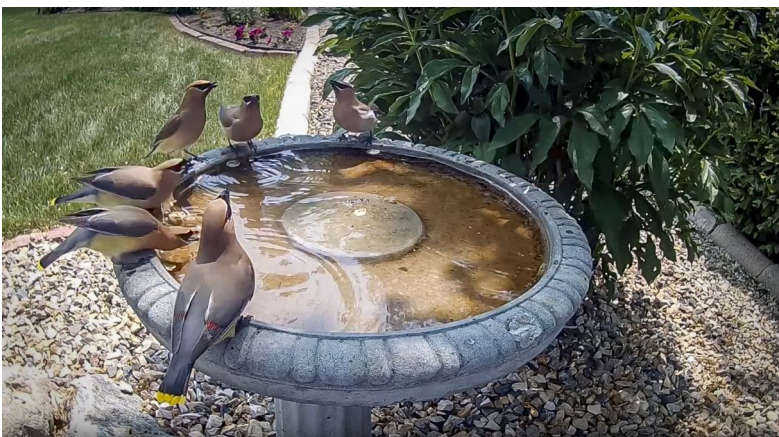
As for phoning home to take care of personal business or talk to people who did not use FaceTime, Google Duo or Facebook, we discovered we could use the Skype app for a small fee. Through Wifi or data, we could call anywhere for pennies a minute. As well, many people in Europe use WhatsApp, a wifi service.

Some of these tips may be old news to you but for us they sure made our trip easier and less stressful. And that is what a holiday should be.

Take a Gander

Regina is known for the many geese who live in Wascana Park. In June 2019 PNA member Norm Sawchyn came across a family of them while he was walking along Wascana Lake.

<https://youtu.be/bToIPH4rjUc>



Cedar Waxwings visiting Norm Sawchyn's backyard (screen capture)

Also in June, Norm had a flock of about 20 cedar waxwings hanging around his backyard for a few days. Norm captured the comings and goings of these beautiful birds at the bird bath. His buddy, former CBC camera operator and also a PNA Regina member Aldo Columpsi, made Norm buy a little Activeon Action Camera. He used that tool to make a video that is peaceful, soothing, almost mesmerizing to watch. Take a look!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0q09LeqGq8>

The cedar waxwings flew about for a few days, ate the berries on the neighbour's juniper bushes and continued to drop by for a drink of water. They drank so much water from the bird baths in both yards that Norm and his neighbours had to refill the baths a few times.

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Then Norm used his new camera to capture a pair of wrens using the bird house.

<https://youtu.be/2IzIJWq8UeQ>

It seems at least one bird caught on to the presence of a camera and went in for his close-up at the end of the video.

Are you a bird watcher? Tell us about your adventures by sending your stories and video links to Joanne Skidmore joanne.skidmore09@gmail.com and your photos (horizontal, large, high resolution, JPEGs) to Monique Nenson mnenson@gmail.com Please send them by **Sept. 20, 2019**.

Chapters Roundup

Calgary: The Southern Alberta Chapter of the CBC PNA held a luncheon at the Kerby Centre, downtown Calgary, on June 12th, 2019. Our main concern is to revamp our executive. Long-time President, Ken McCreath, is having health issues and would like someone else to take on the role of President. Newly elected Vice-President, Joanne McAdam, will step in as Interim President. Secretary-Treasurer Eleanor Suddaby will take on the role of Vice-President in addition to her present duties. Our next lunch meeting will be on Wednesday, October 9th. We invite all members of the Southern Alberta Chapter to attend this meeting and help to revitalize the Chapter. The number of members attending meetings has dwindled mostly because the regular attendees are facing health issues and some have passed away. We are looking forward to becoming a stronger Chapter during the next year.



Photo: SAC Interim President Joanne McAdam and Interim Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer Eleanor Suddaby

Edmonton: Keep the second Tuesday morning of each month open for breakfast at International House of Pancakes (IHOP 3921 Calgary Trail NW). You'll see some friendly faces in the photo from the gathering on July 9, 2019. As well, members met for their annual spring lunch on June 19 at the Faculty Club at the University of Alberta. Proceeds from the 50/50 draw went to the Edmonton Food Bank.



Photo: Courtesy Bob Woodcock, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB.

Left to right: Dave Dawkins, Bob Forrow, Bob McQuay, Terry Gross and Al Candy (July 9, 2019)



Photo: Courtesy of Sylvia Forrow

Bill Ringrose being congratulated by Bob Forrow for winning two door prizes between Bill and his wife Marg (June 19, 2019)

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Regina: The members of the Saskatchewan Chapter in Regina took the summer off from the monthly coffee gatherings. The next one will be on Wednesday, September 4, starting at 9 a.m. at Theo Bill's Restaurant at 530 Victoria Avenue East. Mark your calendar for the first Wednesday of each month except for June, July and August. See you on September 4. Also mark your calendar for this year's CBC 20 Year Association Christmas Party. It will take place on Friday, December 6th at the Royal Regina Golf Club. More details will follow.

Saskatoon: PNA members in Saskatoon thank Ellen Armstrong for being the Saskatoon Vice-President for the last couple of years. They wish her well in her new life in Calgary. Stay tuned for the date of the next lunch for Saskatoon members.

Signs of the Times

Pat Hume, CBC PNA, Creelman, SK

Imagine how complicated life would be without signs to help guide our way. Sometimes we need assistance when trying to decide which way to turn, who to vote for, and how fast we should drive. But sometimes, things can go wrong.

Recently, Bruce and I landed in trouble – thrown out of a Saskatchewan park because we overlooked one of the instructions.



It was too warm to drag out my Arctic Cat ditch pickle, so snowmobiling was definitely out of the question. But I confess I was tempted to practice my motocross skills. However, I could see that such a thing was clearly not allowed. Evidently, I could not park close enough to the entrance, and it was too far to walk back to my vehicle to get my skateboard even if it was allowed. Sadly, though, I missed the top sign. The park guy riding the ATV (motor vehicle) didn't make it clear if we were kicked out just this once, or if it was for good.

And now you know. This company has a firm policy. If you want warranty work done, first you have to buy the bike.



Keeping in good health depends on good hygiene. I've encountered signs that help point the way. Thanks to the sign on the left, I made sure I was packing my own toilet paper and soap. I found the sign on the right to be especially instructive, although it's entirely possible someone deliberately hung the air freshener to cover up a word.

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This was pretty much the worst spell of highway construction we'd had in some time.

Social media is rife with tortured grammar, misspellings, and apostrophe Hell. But as you can see, we don't need a smart phone or tablet to view the world without a spell checker.

In Memoriam: We Remember

This is the information we've received about CBC colleagues and PNA members who have died since the publication of the last newsletter.

Hugh Barr (June 20, 2019) CBC Ottawa Technical Producer TV/Head of Special Projects, Head Office Ottawa

Roger Brewer (July 27, 2019) CBC Edmonton

Robert Desrosiers (June 10, 2019) CBC Ottawa Area Human Resources, Industrial Relations

Howard Engel (July 15, 2019) CBC Writer, Reporter, Executive Producer, Production Executive at CBC Docs, Crime Writer

Eileen Franke (June 6, 2019) CBC Vancouver, Radio Canada International Producer/Formal Program Host, CBC Affiliate CHCT-TV Calgary/Production Assistant, CTV Affiliate CFCG-TV Montreal/CBC Radio Montreal and Toronto with Radio Canada International

Rev. Sterling Gosman (June 13, 2019) CBC New Brunswick in technical jobs. After retiring from CBC he became a minister in the Baptist church.

Carmel Kilkenny (August 12, 2019) CBC Montreal Television News Anchor, Journalist at Radio Canada International (RCI)

Gerald King (June 8, 2019) CBC Toronto Production Sound Mixer

Jerry MacDonald (June 3, 2019) Editor, National TV News, CBC Toronto and Former CWSG Union Representative

Forrest MacKeigan (August 8, 2019) CBC Toronto Production Manager

Doug McIlraith (June 6, 2019) CBC Edmonton and Winnipeg, Radio & Television Host

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Margaret McLean (July 26, 2019) CBC Toronto Employee

Barry Mercer (August 11, 2019) CBC Radio Sudbury Journalist, CBC Goose Bay Host

William (Bill) Pharoah (July 19, 2019) CBOT Ottawa IT Regional Manager

Lynda Raulick (July, 2019) CBC Toronto Television Director

Fran Rayner (née Combes) (May 22, 2019) CBC Vancouver Senior Film Editor

Don Reid (May 15, 2019) CBC Toronto Design Dept. Propsman/Floor PA

Elie Savoie (June 28, 2019) CBC TV Regina and Vancouver, Producer and Director most notably of *The Beachcombers*

Lillian Snider (June 24, 2019) CBC Toronto Television Manager

Raymond Trottier (July 19, 2019) CBC Ottawa Technical Supervisor

Pat Willett (August 2019) CBC Toronto Radio Producer

Ing Wong-Ward (July 6, 2019) CBC Toronto Television/Radio Producer & Researcher

Annual General Meeting

You're invited!

The 2019 Annual General Meeting for the members of the Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories Region of the CBC Pensioners National Association (CBC PNA) will be held on **Wednesday, September 18, 2019** at the University of Alberta Faculty Club in **Edmonton**. We will gather at **10:30 a.m.** for coffee. The meeting will start at **11:00 a.m.**

Alain Pineau of Ottawa will be our guest speaker following the AGM. Alain is the PNA delegate on the Board of Trustees for the CBC Pension Fund. After he speaks everyone is invited to attend the annual lunch for members, new retirees and CBC employees. Each PNA member will receive a \$10 subsidy towards the lunch. The Faculty Club accepts cash, debit or credit in payment for the meals.

The University suggests parking off 116 Street just south of Saskatchewan Drive in the Windsor Indoor Car Park. If you decide to park outside in the V Lot carefully check the rates. We will give \$10.00 towards parking costs to each CBC PNA member who attends the annual general meeting.

Everyone is welcome.

RSVP by Monday, September 10, 2019 by phoning President Bob Forrow at **780-437-5074**, or send an email to srforrow@telusplanet.net



Photo: Courtesy of Lutz Walsh, CBC PNA, Regina, SK

"Follow the Yellow Brick Road", Walking the Camino in Northern Spain

Where in the world are you going?

Be sure to share your adventures with your friends in the CBC Pensioners National Association. Write a story for us and send it to Joanne Skidmore joanne.skidmore09@gmail.com and send your photos (horizontal format, large, high resolution, JPEGs) to Monique Nenson mnenson@gmail.com Please send them by **September 20, 2019**.

Keeping Track of You

Have you changed your street address, changed your telephone number(s) or changed your email address? If yes, the CBC PNA would like to have your new contact information. Send an email to Regional Secretary Joanne Skidmore at joanne.skidmore09@gmail.com and to the national office to Suzie Bougie at cbcpensioners@on.aibn.com

Thanks for helping us keep track of you!