



LiveWire

December, 2019

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President's Report

I would like to thank you for your support in re-electing me as your President for 3 more years. In the coming year we will be concentrating on updating our Bylaws to conform with the new National Bylaws.



The controversy of Bill C-27 appears to be behind us now. It died when Parliament took its recess leading into the election. With the Liberal minority government in place, we strongly believe that the Bill will not be re-introduced. The matter of the government trying to get it in through the back door has also been stopped. The mandate of the Pension office can only be changed by a vote in Parliament.

The National Board of the PNA continues to fight for change to the Pension Plan to extend pension benefits to spouses that married after the employee retired. The review of the Memorandum of Agreement covering the distribution of the pension surplus and controlling costs of employee healthcare continues.

At our recent Annual General Meeting in Toronto, elections were held for the Ontario Region Board. Your new Vice-President is Raj Narain. Ben Daube returns as Treasurer and Gino Piazza is our Secretary. Three Toronto Directors were also elected: Mary Depoe, Gail Carducci and Steve Athey. I offer my congratulations to all those elected and I look forward to working with them.

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Christmas Social

The Ontario Region of the CBC Pensioners Association

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 7th, 2019 from 11:30 am

THE DUKE OF DEVON PUB

Toronto Dominion Centre 66 Wellington St. West, Toronto, ON

CASH BAR • FREE PARKING • PRIZES

Members & Partners: \$20.00 each | Non-Members: \$25.00 each

For tickets: Send a cheque made out to CBC PNA Ontario Region

To: JOHN DIXON, Suite 608, 50 Baif Blvd., Richmond Hill, ON L4C 5L1 905-884-8632 or
PNA Ontario Region, Leone Earls, #65021-358 Danforth Ave., Toronto ON M4K 3Z2
416-463-0314 (Tickets can be picked up at the door)





John Dixon, our former Vice-President, deserves a standing ovation for the work he has done for this Association. John is a founding member of the Ontario Region serving you in all positions on the Board. John has a wealth of knowledge of and a dedication to the retirees of not only the Ontario Region but nationally also. John, we thank you for your service. I truly believe that we have not seen the last of John. He will continue in one way or another to service the needs of us retirees.

This issue of Livewire contains information on the many events scheduled in this Region. Please make every effort to attend. Our Livewire editor Leone would like to pass the torch onto someone else to publish the Newsletter. Leone will continue to support and participate in the workings of the Region. Please seriously consider becoming the Livewire Editor. Leone will teach you everything you need to know and be assured that it is a labour of love.

Gerry Head,
President

AGM...GUEST SPEAKER

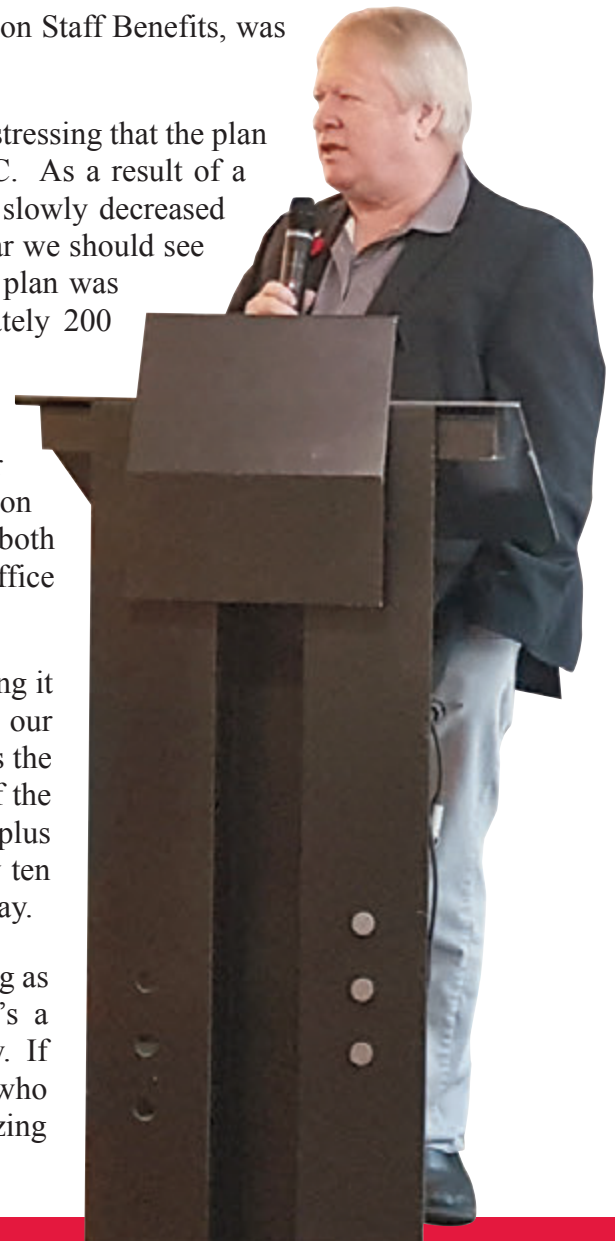
Dan Oldfield, PNA's representative on the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits, was our guest speaker.

He spoke of his role on the Supplementary Health Care Committee, stressing that the plan is 100% funded by pensioners with no monetary input by the CBC. As a result of a restructuring of our benefit package two years ago, our rates have slowly decreased and become more competitive with the result that in the coming year we should see a monthly decrease of between \$25.00 and \$30.00 in Ontario. The plan was also opened up to potential new enrollees resulting in approximately 200 new members joining.

Dan touched on the Special Assistance Fund which has provided over a million dollars to Pensioners in the last ten years to help cover the cost of things like mobility devices and hearing aids. Information can be found on the National website under Programs and both Dianne St. Germaine and Suzie Bougie who staff the National Office (1-877-361-9242) are ready to help.

Dan went on to comment on the PNA itself, the importance of keeping it strong and the need for continued recruitment. The CBC collects our dues and remits them to the Association. The Association, in turn, is the official voice of CBC Pensioners with the Corporation and is one of the signatories to the Memorandum of Agreement on pension surplus sharing. There is a requirement for the MOA to be reviewed every ten years and Dan is our lead on this process which is currently underway.

Our status with the Corporation only remains viable, however, as long as the PNA membership remains above 50% of all pensioners. It's a challenge. There are approximately 10,000 pensioners out there now. If they don't join at the point of retirement it is difficult to find out who they are. And, of course, our members die (although we are an amazing long-living lot!).





In the recruitment process, there are lots of talking points ... the social meetings and the loyalty programs, but the most important is advocacy. As Dan noted, we look after ourselves, we fight for a fair deal on benefits, we are the ones the employer has to talk to, we keep an eye on our pensions and as noted above we helped drive the initiative to make sure we got our fair share of any future pension surpluses.

Dan's final remarks focussed on RIFFs and the position the National Board took at its meeting in October. It unanimously passed a motion to join with other retiree groups in advocating for the removal of the requirement to take out a minimum amount each year.

JOHN DIXON: A TRIBUTE

John was a founding member of the Ontario Region of the CBC Pensioners National Association as we know it today and, in fact, the first meeting was held in his basement on December 14, 1999. John was the Region's first VP and together with President Walter Wicks and the Board, they recruited members, developed by-laws and organized monthly board meetings. The first General Meeting was held in a church basement with over 200 attending. Everyone donated \$1.00 to cover the cost of cookies and coffee and a nice donation was given to the church on each occasion.



From these beginnings John has been instrumental in moving the association forward...by helping to put the first "Livewire" together, choosing with three others the CBC PNA logo, finding a company to manufacture our lapel pin, organizing the set-up of meetings for the South Western, Golden Horseshoe and Mid-Western Chapters and travelling to Sudbury/Elliot Lake and Thunder Bay biannually to ensure members there were informed and felt included. He has been part of the organization of the annual Ontario Region Christmas luncheon since 2003, has arranged for guest speaker at AGMs, was a delegate to the PNA Founding Convention in Montreal in June 2000 and has attended several triennial conventions since.

John served as Vice-President from 1999 to 2007, President from 2007 to 2010, Immediate Past President from 2010 to 2016 and Vice-President again from 2016 to 2019. On many occasions over the years, John has filled in as Editor of LIVEWIRE. In 2012 John was awarded a Life Membership for services rendered by the National Association of our Pensioners.

And now, John will be stepping down from official duties for the first time in 20 years. His wise counsel and calm demeanor on the board will be truly missed, but I suspect his involvement in the Ontario Region will not end giving advice when needed, correcting us when we don't get it right, selling Christmas luncheon tickets and attending the Region Chapters various functions.

And finally, a quote from John back in 2012:

“ In all, it has been and still remains a pleasure to serve our members and it has been a great learning experience for me. ”



IRENE ROBINSON: A TRIBUTE

Irene has been a member at large and/or a director on the Ontario Regional board since 2002. Looking back through meeting minutes and motions, she was always present and always involved. Over the past many years, she has arranged many of the Toronto activities and outings, including Pompeii at the ROM, a boat cruise in the harbour, a wine tour to the Niagara region, a tour of the Aga Khan, shows at Famous People Players and a trip to Ripley's Aquarium. She has also been one of the two key people organizing the Ontario Region Christmas lunch. With John Dixon, she found downtown venues, organized door prizes, sold tickets and checked folks in at the door. We couldn't have done all this without her.

Irene decided this year not to run again as a director...which is not to say she won't be consulted with and involved in this up-coming Christmas lunch on December 7th.

All the best Irene and thanks!

FROM RAJ NARAIN, OUR NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

I would like to thank all of you for your support in electing me. I certainly do have big shoes to fill. John Dixon has been at the forefront of the PNA for 20 years. He has served in every conceivable capacity in this Association and his advice will prove to be immeasurable as I take on my new role.



As you know, my platform was based on the following:

Increasing the membership of the PNA

Increasing the member benefits of the PNA

Supporting our older members

But the Board can't do it alone, we need your help. How? You can do the following things:

Increasing the membership

If you know of a CBC employee who is retiring, get his email and send it to your chapter. Remember, the PNA speaks for you and can only do so, if we represent the majority of CBC retirees.

Member Benefits

Know of a good deal that you think fellow retirees would be interested in, contact your chapter and spread the word.

Older Members

We need to keep in touch with them. As we age, our world gets smaller and we start losing our social contacts. Try and stay in contact with an older member. Be it by phone or giving them a ride to the next Chapter function, they'll appreciate the chance to touch base with a fellow exCBCer.

A few little things, but they will have a huge impact on the lives of our fellow retirees.

Thank you.

Raj Narain



YOUR NEW TORONTO DIRECTORS!

At the last board meeting in September, a motion passed to increase the number of Toronto board members to three. Raj will be moving out of his Toronto directorship as he assumes the position of Vice-President and Irene Robinson who occupied the Director-at-Large position decided not to run again. And so...

Three new Toronto Directors were elected by acclamation at the Ontario Region's Annual General Meeting on 30 October. They are all looking forward to working with the Toronto members of the Pensioners' Association over the next three years.

MARY DEPOE worked in radio before becoming a script assistant, first with TV Children's and then in TV Variety. She went on to work as a Unit Manager and then in Labour Relations as a Talent Relations Officer. The ATPD presented Mary with a Golden Globe award in 2002. Mary has been instrumental in the creation of the Toronto Committee and brings her insight to the Ontario Region Board.

GAIL CARDUCCI has worked in both Radio and Television at CBC over a span of 42 years. Primarily in TV News, she worked as a Resources Producer and then as a Manager for the last 9 years. Gail feels that it's important to stay in touch with former colleagues from that shared past and to work toward a strong future. She looks forward to contributing to the Ontario Region Board as a Director.

STEVE ATHEY worked in a number of technical positions at CBC-TV as well as devoting much time and effort to the various Union organizations that served employees over those years. Steve wants to continue to assist all of his former CBC colleagues now that we have all entered the adventure that is our retirement. Steve is new to the Ontario Region and will bring all his skills to his position as Director on the Board.

We are looking forward to getting to know our Toronto members and other retirees from the Ontario Region chapters. Thanks to Raj Narain for his work on behalf of the Toronto Committee and his encouragement for our involvement.





TORONTO ACTIVITIES

Our Oct. 17th 'Meet and Greet' Pub Afternoon/Evening was quite a success. Over 45 people attended the event at Grace O'Malley's near the Broadcast Centre.

Done in combination with the Guild's Pre-Retirement Seminars, one third of the attendees were current CBC Employees who had lots of questions about the Pensioners' Association. All in all, it was a successful evening spreading the word of the PNA to current employees.

The Next Pub Afternoon will be on:

November 27th, 2019

Time: 1 pm onwards

Where: Factory Girl 193 Danforth Ave.

There will be nibblies so please RSVP by Nov. 22th. at cbctorontoretirees@gmx.com
And, don't forget the PNA Ontario Region Christmas lunch on December 7, 2019.
Details are in the box on the front page.

Tickets are available now, but are selling fast!





GOLDEN HORSESHOE CHAPTER

Christmas Luncheon

Annual General Meeting & Election

Wed., Dec. 4

Royal Canadian Legion
828 Legion Rd.,
Burlington



Join us in saluting David Knapp who's stepping aside after more than 9 great years as President of the Golden Horseshoe Chapter

\$20 a person

Tickets ***must*** be bought in advance by a CBC PNA member.

Cut-off date: Mon., Nov. 25 **Easy pay** -- payghchapter@gmail.com

Mail -- John Bainbridge, 77 Arcade Cres., Hamilton, Ont. L9C 3J1

(Make cheques out to Golden Horseshoe Chapter CBC PNA.)

Please advise John of the full names of any guest(s) for name tags

11:00 Reception (Cash Bar) with **music** by **JustUs**

12:00 Traditional Roast Turkey Dinner, Wine, Dessert, Coffee, Tea
Dozens of great **DOOR PRIZES** including tickets to the Stratford and Shaw Festivals, gift cards to the Keg from Sue Heddle Homes, maple syrup from Jay Mowat and Clare Booker of Willow Creek, a gift certificate worth \$150 from 13th Street Winery for a wine and cheese tasting for six...and a **NEW DRAW!**



1 raffle ticket for \$2
3 raffle tickets for \$5
7 raffle tickets for \$10

Buy them when you arrive at Registration to pick up your prepaid luncheon tickets





SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO CHAPTER



***OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY* SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Our Christmas party will once again be held at the Giovanni Caboto Club. Doors and cash bar opens at 4:30pm and dinner will be served at approximately 6:00pm. Santa has delivered us a great choice of door prizes and we were able to once again put together a Surprise Raffle!

Please Note: If you are attending, we need you to confirm no later than Monday, November 25, 2019! So please mark your calendar and reserve early! Why wait, contact any of your Board members now!

Our Christmas Menu:

Antipasto Italiano & Bruschetta, Penne with Meat or Blush Sauce, Roast Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Tossed Salad with Radicchio in a Bread Bowl, Bread Rolls, Italian Pastry, Coffee and Tea

Drinks available at the Cash Bar

**Also Provided: Any special meals or dietary restrictions! Just let us know when you confirm! **

For our Associate Members, you can pay your 2019 dues at the Christmas Party!

SPECIAL GUESTS

Joining us this year is the Windsor Experiment 25th Anniversary group with many special guests coming from out of town. CBE radio and CBEF moved from Pelissier to Riverside Drive and then CBC-TV returned to the air. All this occurred in 1994. Photos and videos will bring back many flashbacks to everyone!

Your Chapter Elections (Your entire Board has agreed to remain for another three (3) term)

To view the collection of photos from all of our events on Facebook, copy or paste this link:

https://www.facebook.com/SWOChapterCBCPensioners/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Your entire Board (Gino, Sandy, Jackie, Gerry and Manny) would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year!

NORTH CENTRAL CHAPTER

President David Hauraney and his executive are on a winter hiatus. Once the snow has gone and the days are sunny and warm, they will start thinking about their annual BBQ at Bob and Wendy Burt's on Lake Couchiching. It is usually held sometime in August and for the last couple of years the day has been shared with the local Probus club.



CBC Pensioners' National Association Trent Chapter

Christmas Lunch

Thursday November 28, 2019

Gathering at 12 noon with lunch beginning at 12:30 p.m.

At

Baxter Creek Golf Club

1702 Cedar Valley Road just off County Road 28



There are door prizes.

**All CBC Pensioners and spouses
welcome!**

More details on the reverse side.

Please contact me if you are coming.

By email: bburhoe@cogeco.ca or telephone: 705 874-0480

We have booked space for 20 but can go a bit higher if need be.

Barrie Burhoe, Trent Chapter President

322-1099B Clonsilla Avenue,

Peterborough, Ontario

K9J 8L7



The Christmas Lunch Menu

Turkey Dinner

Butternut Squash
Soup

Turkey with Stuffing

Potatoes

Vegetables

Rolls and Butter

Coffee and Tea

Festive Dessert

Accommodation will be made for those who need a gluten-free diet or are vegetarian. Please let us know.



DURHAM CHAPTER



Time to Sign Up for the Annual Holiday Luncheon!

It's coming to that most wonderful time of the year and we are looking forward to our annual Holiday Luncheon.

This year, we will be returning to Kedron Dells Golf Course where we held the Spring Luncheon.

The meal is plated, not a buffet, and includes butternut squash soup and winter greens with a champagne & dried cranberry vinaigrette, roast turkey, sage stuffing, cranberries, mashed potatoes, gravy, and roasted seasonal vegetables. Dessert is apple & cranberry crisp with vanilla ice cream & caramel sauce. Yum!

Cost is \$20.00 per person, payable at the door, and includes a glass of wine with your meal. There will also be a cash bar available.

This event also serves as our Annual General Meeting and we do have some business to take care of that will begin a half hour before the start of the luncheon. (See the next item in the newsletter.)

DATE: December 6th, 2019

TIME: 12:00 - 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Kedron Dells Golf Course, 2400
Ritson Rd. N., Oshawa, ON L1H 8L7

KEDRON PHONE: 905-728-6641

Please RSVP BY November 25th to

CBC-PNA-Durham@outlook.com

or call Barbara Saxberg at 905-404-1334.





IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON ... AND OUR POCKETBOOKS CAN GET DEPLETED

Here are some things that will help –

- ✓ Our **pensions will increase** by 1.93% starting January 1, 2020
- ✓ If you **plan to travel** don't forget to check out all of the affinity programs available through the National Pension Association (www.cbcpensioners.ca)
 - Travel insurance through Johnson Insurance (Medoc)
 - Discounts at Choice Hotels Canada
 - CBC Hotel rates
 - Enterprise and National car rental special rates
- ✓ **Special Assistance Fund** – If you find yourself needing to purchase hearing aids and/or mobility devices this fund can help offset their cost. The National Pension office staff can assist in outlining eligibility requirements and provide help in applying.
- ✓ **Perkopolis** – And, the latest addition to our affinity programs, Perkopolis, will provide CBC pensioners great savings on entertainment, travel, attractions, shopping, health, wellness, sport and more!

OBITUARIES:

KEMP, Alfred (Alfie) – died on June 29, 2019 at the age of 75. Alfie was a former Cameraman/ Videographer with CBC Toronto.

LAWSON, Robert (Bob) – died on August 5, 2019 at the age of 92. Bob worked in CBC Toronto as a Scenic Artist and Assistant Designer for 25 years before finishing his career in CBC Vancouver.

CONEYBEARE, Rod – died on September 5, 2019 in his 89th year. Rod was best known for supplying the voices of Rusty the Rooster and Jerome the Giraffe on “The Friendly Giant”.

TURZAK, Donna – died on September 12, 2019. Donna spent most of her career with CBC in Manitoba, but spent the last two years of her career in Toronto as Chief-of-Staff to the Vice-President of English Radio.

LYONS, Margaret – died on October 5, 2019 at the age of 96. Margaret was the force behind the CBC's “Radio revolution”, became the managing director for radio of CBC's English-language division in 1981 and then Vice-President of radio in 1983.

MARTIN, J. Bruce – died on October 6, 2019 at the age of 82. Bruce was a researcher and script-writer for “The Nature of Things”.

CHANTRY, Patricia – died on October 22, 2019 at the age of 74. Patricia was the Production Secretary for “Music Hop” and later became a Script Assistant for CBC TV.

MCBURNEY, Ward – died on October 24, 2019 at the age of 57. Ward was a writer of non-fiction broadcast on CBC Radio's “Fresh Air”.



REMINDER: When you move, change your phone or email, PLEASE let the Ontario Region and the National Office in Ottawa know. TOLL FREE NUMBER 1-877-361-9242, email at cbcpensioners@on.aibn.com. We have had quite a bit of mail returned recently as there is no forwarding address. Also, we would appreciate it, if those with email could arrange to receive LIVEWIRE, CONTACT and all other communications by email to help us reduce our mailing costs.



YOUR ONTARIO REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Direct all pension inquiries to the Pension Administration Centre 1-888-604-9258

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