

The Transmitter



Green Miles - A Visit to Ireland

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*Photo: Courtesy Sean Prpick, CBC PNA, Regina, SK
Castle Dunluce, Ireland*

Castle Dunluce was a great place for Sean Prpick and his daughter Zoé Beaulieu Prpick to start their tour of Ireland this past summer. Located at the very northern tip of Northern Ireland in County Antrim, this magical place attracts hordes of visitors because it doubles for the House Greyjoy, the Great Castle of Pyke in the TV show "Game of Thrones."

President's Report

Bob Farrow, CBC PNA Regional President, Edmonton, AB

Since retiring from CBC I have volunteered in many different capacities, and have been elected the new President of the Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Northwest Territories Region of the CBC PNA at the Annual General Meeting in September 2018, in Edmonton.

I want to sincerely thank our outgoing President, Jim MacVicar, for his many years volunteering as the President. He has been outstanding in the role and will be greatly missed by our executive and PNA members. Secretary Joanne Skidmore, of Regina, SK and Treasurer, Cécile Magnan, of Edmonton, AB have both been elected for another three years. The Regional PNA executive is very fortunate to have such hard working dedicated volunteers. Not to forget our Entertainment Director, Royle Harris, of Edmonton, AB who has served with distinction for many years, nor Julia Sargeant, also of Edmonton, AB who has served at the national level of the Employee Assistance Plan.

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Photo: Courtesy Ellen Armstrong, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK.

Left to right: Royle Harris (Edmonton, AB), Denis Collette (Winnipeg, MB), Joanne Skidmore (Regina, SK), Bob Forrow (Edmonton, AB), Cécile Maenan (Edmonton, AB)

I would like to welcome to the executive as Vice-President a member of the Saskatchewan Chapter, Lutz Walsh of Regina, SK. He brings much experience in volunteering including with the Regina CBC 20 Year Association. Also present for the AGM was the Saskatoon Vice-President of the Saskatchewan Chapter, Ellen Armstrong, and Jeff Collins from Calgary, AB filling in for Ken McCreath, President of the Southern Alberta Chapter. At the AGM we collected \$65.00 from our 50/50 draw for the Edmonton Food Bank.

Our newly elected National President Denis Collette from Winnipeg, MB was on hand to join in thanking our retiring Regional President Jim MacVicar of Devon, AB for his very productive years with the CBC PNA/ASN. Denis also

talked about the CBC Pensioners National Association and the issues it will address in the coming years.

The Executive of our PNA Region will be in personal contact with our members at least once a year. We will continue to make birthday calls to all members in the region and the Southern Alberta Chapter executive will maintain its regular calls to its members. As well, we will continue to publish four issues of our regional newsletter, *The Transmitter*, each year. Most PNA members in the region receive the newsletter by email and about 50 members receive it by paper mail. CBC PNA Regina members Monique Nenson and Joanne Skidmore look after the production. Thanks to everyone who provided content and be sure to continue sending your articles and photos to Monique and Joanne.



Photo: Courtesy Ellen Armstrong, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK.

National President Denis Collette (Winnipeg, MB) speaking to the members attending the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories Region, September 12, 2018 in Edmonton, AB

Past-President's Report

Jim MacVicar, Devon, AB, CBC PNA Regional Past-President



Photo: Courtesy Ellen Armstrong, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK

Left to right: Regional Past-President Jim MacVicar (Devon, AB) and National President Denis Collette (Winnipeg, MB)

I have had the pleasure of serving on our Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories Regional executive for the last nine years, three years as Vice-President and six years as President.

A few of the highlights - our region has grown over that period from net 267 members in September of 2009 to net 282 members this August. During the same period sadly, we lost more members than we gained. In December 2009 *The Transmitter* newsletter was restarted after a four-year hiatus and four issues are published each year. In April 2016 *The Transmitter* took on a fresh design. The Saskatchewan Chapter started up again in October 2015. Since that time the Chapter has led the Region in recruitment and has held numerous well-attended social events. Our region regularly holds social events for most of its members. Starting in 2012 Loblaws gift cards are purchased for all members in the region in November every few years.

Our region has hosted the national directors meeting and AGM in Edmonton and Regina. While serving on the national executive I was asked to chair the newly formed Growing the Membership Committee. We laid out a recruitment framework to address our decreasing membership.

All of these initiatives could not have been accomplished without your dedicated efforts as PNA members. You see the value in our CBC Pensioners National Association and I encourage you to keep up the good work. I will join you in continuing to support our CBC PNA.

Treasurer's Report / Rapport de la trésorière

Cécile Magnan, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB



Photo: Courtesy Ellen Armstrong, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK

Left to right: Jim MacVicar (Edmonton, AB), Bob Farrow (Edmonton, AB), Joanne Skidmore (Regina, SK), Cécile Magnan (Edmonton, AB), Royle Harris (Edmonton, AB), the Executive for 2015-2018, at the Annual General Meeting of the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories Region, September 12, 2018 in Edmonton, AB

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year (April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018) the revenue for the CBC PNA Region of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories was less than we had budgeted. One reason for that is we didn't receive the amount of money we expected from the new member subsidy because fewer people joined the PNA. Fortunately, our expenses were lower than budgeted. Recruitment of members continues to be a major concern.

At our Annual General Meeting held on September 20, 2017 in Edmonton, AB the membership voted on our next three-year budget (2018 - 2021). The members decided to use our funds every three years to send gift cards to members. Your next gift card should arrive in November 2019!

You can read the budget for the next three years for the Region (2018 – 2021) on the CBC PNA website. Log in at cbcpensioners.ca, go to Newsletters and click on our region, the blue area of the map. Scroll down until you find the budget. If you have any questions please contact me at cecilemagnan1@gmail.com

Moins de nouveaux retraités de la SRC se sont joints à notre association en 2017-2018, ce qui fait que les revenus pour l'année financière 2017-2018 (1er avril 2017 au 31 mars 2018) de la région de l'Alberta, Saskatchewan et Territoires du Nord-Ouest ont été moindres que prévus au budget. Heureusement, nous avons eu moins de dépenses que prévues au budget. Le recrutement de nouveaux membres continue d'être notre préoccupation majeure.

Un budget triennal (2018-2021) avait été adopté à la réunion générale annuelle tenue le 20 septembre 2017 à Edmonton quand les participants avaient décidé d'utiliser nos fonds pour envoyer une carte-cadeau aux membres aux trois ans. Vous devriez recevoir votre prochaine carte-cadeau en novembre 2019.

Vous trouverez le budget triennal de la région (2018-2021) sur le site Web de l'ANR. Ouvrez une session à l'adresse <https://www.retraitessrc.ca/index.php>, allez à Régions et choisissez notre région. Pour toute question, n'hésitez pas à m'écrire à cecilemagnan1@gmail.com.

Meet Our New Executive



Photo: Courtesy Ellen Armstrong, CBC PNA, Saskatoon, SK.

Left to right: President Bob Farrow (Edmonton, AB), Treasurer Cécile Magnan (Edmonton, AB), Secretary Joanne Skidmore (Regina, SK), Vice-President Lutz Walsh (Regina, SK)

BOB FARROW, President, CBC PNA ABSKNWT Region, 2018-2021

After finishing high school, I graduated from the École des Beaux Arts in Montreal with the Prix des Professeurs Award. I first got involved with the stage in light opera amateur theatre in Montreal painting a backdrop for a production of "Kismet".

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I started work in broadcasting working as a scenic painter in television for Tele-Metropole, now the ATV Network in Montreal. I painted backdrops for sets, tv commercials, dramas, quiz shows, opera vignettes and news sets, in the days of black and white television.

I was hired as a set designer for CFTO Television in Toronto and worked with them for approximately two years designing sets, tv commercials, the first set for Canada AM, Miss Teen Canada set, etc. After that I worked as a freelance set designer.

In 1976 CBC Television in Toronto hired me as an assistant set designer. I worked on many network shows including the Tommy Hunter Show and Wayne and Shuster. I received a certificate for completing two years training in CBC's Institute of Scenography, the equivalent of a production design course through CBC. I received an Anik Award for the film, "Riel".

CBC transferred me to Edmonton in 1980 and I worked as a set designer on many television shows, news, and commercials, and was Production Designer on the Opening of the Winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988.

During retirement I have travelled, designed sets for theatre, and was on the Parish Council Executive of two churches in Edmonton for six years. I am involved with five ministries at the churches. For many years I was on the executive of the CBC Edmonton 20 Year Association and was Vice-President of the ASN region of the CBC Pensioners National Association.

LUTZ WALSH, *Vice-President, CBC PNA ABSKNWT Region, 2018-2021*

I was born in Berlin, Germany and immigrated to Canada as a child with my mother at Pier 21 in Halifax. My early years were in Toronto where my mother met my stepfather, a football player with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. We made our home in Regina and in the off-season lived in Tucson, Arizona where my dad studied architecture. After high school I worked for a few years in Europe, Africa, Asia, and North and South America. I returned home to complete a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in the Faculty of Film and Television at the University of Regina.

After university I worked as a Community Producer for Cable Regina and then was hired in 1981 as a technician at CBC Regina. I was the Mobile/Production Switcher for 17 wonderful years working on all types of local, regional and international programs throughout Western Canada. In 1998 I moved into directing for another 15 years working on news and television specials. At CBC I met an archivist at Radio-Canada and we married and have three grown children. I retired in 2013, joined the PNA and was fortunate to attend the national convention in Ottawa in 2015. That year we formed the Saskatchewan Chapter and I am the Regina Vice-President. I am also the President of the CBC Saskatchewan 20 Year Association.

I stay active in the winter as a member of the Regina Ski Club and in the summer running with our Track and Trail running group. I also volunteer with various community groups. I look forward to contributing to the ASN region of the CBC PNA.

CÉCILE MAGNAN, *Treasurer, CBC PNA ABSKNWT Region, 2018-2021*

I started working at CBC Edmonton in July 1974 on the switchboard and quickly moved to the Finance department and then to French TV. In 1983, my husband and I moved to Regina, where I worked in the brand-new CBC Broadcast Centre, moving over to French Services in 1985. I went to Ottawa in 1988 to work with the French section of RBO, Strategic Planning and was part of the three-person office start-up for Galaxie. I moved back to Edmonton in 2000 and have been retired since April 2013.

Since then, I have set up an independent business as a translator. We love to travel in the fall and winter and I garden and play golf in the summer. I've enjoyed being Treasurer for the past three years and look forward to the next three.

JOANNE SKIDMORE, *Secretary, CBC PNA ABSKNWT Region, 2018-2021*

I moved from the job of editorial assistant at a book publishing company in Saskatoon to the local CBC station as a television journalist in 1978. At that time CBC wanted to hire more women as well as people from the local community. After a few years in front of the camera I moved behind a desk to be an editor. In 1989, I transferred to CBC Regina to work in radio as senior news editor. A few years later I took advantage of an opportunity to focus on arts and culture as a reporter and producer, and to host various programs.

I left CBC in 2009 and have worked as a self-employed professional volunteer. I've shared my time and skills with several organizations including Youth Ballet and Contemporary Dance of Saskatchewan, Coteau Books and Saskatchewan Book Awards. As well, I love books and music and am a member of the Rae Street Readers and the Regina Philharmonic Chorus. For the past three years I have been the Secretary of the CBC PNA Region of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories. I enjoy working with Monique Nenson, CBC PNA member in Regina, to produce the regional newsletter *The Transmitter* four times a year. We appreciate receiving articles and photos from members across the region.

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ROYLE HARRIS, *Entertainment Director Metro Edmonton (non-voting member of Executive), 2018-2021*

I started at CBC in August of 1961, left in January 1982, and worked as a Staging Assistant, Props man, set dresser, Rigger etc. Some of the highlights include the first CBC full coverage of a federal election from Alberta, travelling to the Arctic to do the staging for Peter Gzowski's Morningside, the 1976 Olympic Games at Broadcast Centre in Montreal, the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, CFL football from Vancouver to Regina and occasionally Winnipeg, five Grey Cups, several Curling Briers and Silver Brooms and the Tommy Banks Shows.

I was an officer with IATSE and then CUPE and was on the CUPE National Executive. I became a CUPE National Representative in 1982. At CBXT I volunteered with the very active Staff Association. We held Christmas parties for children and adults, car rallies, barbeques and I managed the Staff Cafeteria for six years.

I was an elected member of the University of Alberta Senate. Now I serve as a Senator Emeritus volunteering for various projects at the University such as the Advisory Committee for Play Around the World to give university students an opportunity to provide play experiences for poor and handicapped children in many places. I was a ten-year member of the Friends of the Jubilee Auditorium and remain a member of their Foundation. I am also heavily involved in the Housing Co-op where I live. In my role with the ASN region of the CBC PNA, I make the birthday calls and arrange the suppers and lunches for the group in the Edmonton area. I continue to enjoy the fellowship provided by the PNA.

CBC PNA Regional Annual Meeting

University of Alberta Faculty Club, September 12, 2018, Edmonton, AB



L-R. Dave Smiley, Lutz Walsh, Julia Sargeant, Jeff Collins, Marilyn Smiley



L-R. Bill Ringrose, Bruce Cowen, Dan Bingham, Ralph Williams, Doreen Williams



L-R: Jeff Collins and Ellen Armstrong



L-R: Bob McQuay, Michèle Gregoret, Bill Kuziw, Sylvia Kuziw



L-R: Trevor Barnes, Robert Woodcock, Marg Ringrose, Nancy MacVicar

Chapters Roundup

Calgary: Members of the Southern Alberta Chapter gathered for lunch on October 24 and heard about the region's annual general meeting in Edmonton in September. The group will hold a Christmas Turkey lunch at the Kerby Centre, 1133-7th Ave SW in Calgary. Chapter President Ken McCreath will contact everyone with the date and details about the event. You can find out more information about the SAC by calling Ken at 403-949-2392 or kenmcreath@rogers.com

Edmonton: The Christmas Luncheon (buffet style) will be held on Wednesday December 12th, at the Faculty Club at the University of Alberta and it's best to arrive at 11:45 a.m. There is parking for the Faculty Club - \$2 for two hours parking. Members will receive more information in early December.



You can also contact Bob Forrow at 780 437-5074 or srforrow@telusplanet.net The breakfast gatherings continue on the second Tuesday of each month at IHOP, International House of Pancakes, 3921 Calgary Trail NW in Edmonton. Breakfast begins at 9 a.m. and there is a 15% Seniors Discount on Tuesdays. Do join us on November 13, December 11, January 8, February 12 and March 12. For more information contact Bob Forrow at 780-437-5074 or or esrforrow@telusplanet.net or pna.absknt@gmail.com

Photo: Courtesy of Bob Forrow. July 6 breakfast at IHOP. L-R: Bill Kuziw, James Hees, Jim Tustian, Jim Gerlock, Angela Smythe, Bob Woodcock, Julia Sargeant, Sylvia Kuziw, Hugh Naldrett, Bob Forrow, Sylvia Forrow, Bruce Cowen, Royle Harris

Saskatoon: CBC retirees in Saskatoon will get together on Monday, December 3 at 12 noon at Milestones restaurant on 8th Street. The Saskatoon Vice-President of the Saskatchewan Chapter, Ellen Armstrong, will contact everyone with further information. You can contact Ellen at 306-880-4732 or cbcellen@hotmail.com

Regina: It's election time for the Saskatchewan Chapter. The positions up for election are President, Vice-President Regina, Vice-President Saskatoon, Secretary-Treasurer. Mark Wednesday, November 21 on your calendar for the Annual General Meeting at 11:00 a.m. at Classic Buffet Co., 100 Albert Street in Regina. And, yes, nominations will be taken from the floor! The Chapter will subsidize \$10 per member for the lunch that will follow the meeting. The annual Christmas Party with the CBC 20 Year Association will be held on Friday, December 14 at the Royal Regina Golf Club. Please respond to the email invitation that has been distributed. The coffee gatherings continue on the first Wednesday of each month. Join us at Theo Bill's Restaurant in Regina on November 7, December 5, January 2, February 6 and March 6. For more information contact Hartland Jessome, President of the Saskatchewan Chapter at 306-520-2859 or hartlandj@sasktel.net

Green Miles #1 - Our Visit to Ireland

Sean Prpick, CBC PNA, Regina, SK



For my daughter Zoé Beaulieu Prpick and I, our Irish trip was a doubly sentimental journey. Although we have roots in Ireland through my mother's family, this was our first visit there. At the same time, it was probably our last big father/daughter holiday since Zoé plans to strike out on her own once she finishes grad school at the University of Regina in about 18 months.

*Photo: Courtesy of Sean Prpick, CBC PNA, Regina, SK
Sean Prpick and his daughter Zoé Beaulieu Prpick on the cliffs of Kerry*

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We landed in Dublin, on June 18 and immediately caught the bus to Belfast, only 150 kilometers away. Because the two Irelands north and south live together now in peace and prosperity and are both members of the European Community, the border is invisible. On the bus ride north, I don't remember seeing any signs welcoming us to Northern Ireland. The only indication you've entered another country were that the flags flying in the squares of the little villages along the highway changed at one point from the tricolour of Irish Republic to the Union Jack of the United Kingdom.

Once we arrived in Belfast we were greeted with classic Irish weather: sheets and sheets of rain. It didn't prevent us from exploring the town once we checked into the hotel, but absent any kind of umbrella (I'm from Saskatchewan, after all!) I was soon soaked to the bone. However, a kindly clerk at a nearby hotel donated an umbrella to me from the lost and found box and I was soon back on Belfast's streets, this time dry and comfortable.

Believe it not, though, I never used my donated umbrella again.

For the next two weeks of our holiday, all of Ireland was in the grips of the one of the worst droughts in half-a-century. It was great for us tourists to see the glories of the Emerald Isle in warm sunshine. But as we learned from the local media, if there isn't a darn good rain every few days, bad things happen in Ireland. By the end of the holiday, water restrictions were in place, farmers were scrambling to harvest crops shrivelled by lack of rainfall and forest fires were burning up the countryside.

Still, the Irish kept up their famously good humour. One sunny afternoon in a normally rain swept seaport, an elderly Irish woman who learned we were from Canada cheerfully quipped, "Welcome to Costa del Galway!"



Photo: Courtesy of Sean Prpick, CBC PNA, Regina, SK

A mural in Belfast honouring Irish Republican Army martyr Bobby Sands

Finding Mother

Pat Hume, CBC PNA, Creelman, SK

Visiting mom twice in one month was an unusual thing for me, especially after decades of only occasional visits back home. In early August of 2017, my wife Diana and I embarked on a trip to Alberta with our camper trailer. The trip included visiting my brother and sister at their seasonal campsite not far from their homes in Sparwood, BC.

We picked up Mom along the way. As we drove, she began to open up a bit, telling me things from her past. Sometime earlier, she told me she had been ordered by her mother to quit school at the age of 16, and to get a job. Mom repeated this to me on our trip, and I knew this was something that stayed with her.

Our visits with family were over before we knew it. The short visit with Mom on that drive had an effect on me. I think guilt began to set in for being such a neglectful son over the years. When I learned that she would need a ride to a doctor's appointment in Red Deer in a couple of weeks, I knew I had to step up to the plate. I volunteered to drive back to Drumheller.

August 26, 2017, marked the first time Mom and I were together alone in years. No other family. We watched a lot of game shows over the next few days, and yes, curling, even in August. Game shows, old black and white movies, and, did I mention curling? Those were the entertainment choices when visiting with Mom.

We had a great trip to Red Deer. The weather was fantastic, and we had a good visit on the drive. Leaving Red Deer, we both had a bit of a scare, followed by a bit of a laugh, as I found myself driving the wrong way down a one-way street, with a large truck coming our way. We agreed improper signage was to blame, not me.

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Originally, I planned to return home on Tuesday that week. But I offered to stay a few more days so I could help get Mom back to Penny's and Terry's seasonal campsites in Montana. We were to do that with the help of my sister-in-law, Shelly, who had offered to drive in from Calgary on Thursday to pick up Mom. I thought it would make life easier for everyone if I hung around until then. I would drive Mom to Strathmore to meet Shelly, and head home from there, and she and Shelly would carry on.

During the extra couple of days of my stay, Mom began to open up even more. She shared her feelings about having to take in her father-in-law, my grandfather, who lived with us for several years in the 60's. As a boy, I resented having to share a bedroom with this snuff-chewing old man. Little did I know that Mom also harboured negative feelings. Dad's sisters and their families had more money, fewer children, and bigger homes. Why couldn't they take him in?

But not once did she complain about being married to a man who dominated her and the rest of our family with his rigid ways. It was clear to me that no matter how hard it was on Mom, especially during Dad's final, demanding months, she still grieved his passing a couple of years earlier.

August 30th, 2017. Mom's birthday was coming up in a couple of weeks (September 12th), and I suggested we go out for an early celebration. This was the day before our planned trip to Strathmore. She agreed, but first it was time for her weekly round of drinks with some friends. Each week they would meet at a different location, according to the first letter of the designated drinking spot. This week was 'L', said Mom, so it was off to the Legion we went. We sat down, ordered drinks, and waited for her friends. They didn't show. We called them, and discovered it really wasn't week 'L', it was week 'Y'. They were at Yavis's. So off we went for a cold beer at Yavis's. Later, I reminded Mom of my offer to take her out for an early birthday dinner. Anywhere you like, I said. Whatever you like. So it was back to Yavis's, where mom ordered her favourite - liver and onions.

We returned to her tiny, neat apartment. I pulled out the hide-a-bed in the living room as Mom packed for her trip in the morning. It was only 8:30 p.m., but we were both ready for bed and said our goodnights. Little did I know it would be a goodbye.

I fell asleep watching some Netflix on my I-pad. Around 11, I thought I heard a bump. I assumed it was Mom visiting the washroom, or perhaps the noise came from an adjoining apartment.

The next morning I awoke early and made some coffee. Mom is usually up early, but there was no sign of her on this day. I imagined she was sleeping in. By 7:30, still no sign of Mom. I couldn't imagine anything was wrong, but a slight feeling of dread began to creep over me as I saw her bedroom door was still closed.

I tapped lightly and called out. "'Mom, are you there?'" No response. I opened the door, and in the dimly lit room, could see her bed was empty, the blankets cast back. Where could she be? Then I looked to the floor and saw Mom's feet. The rest of her was obscured by my angle from the doorway, and the dresser.

I stepped into the room, turned on the light, and there she was. Mom was lying on her back on the floor, shoulders and head propped against the wall, her eyes were closed, and she had a slight smile, with her head tilted slightly to the side. "Oh, Mom!" I exclaimed. I felt her arm; it was cold to the touch. She was gone. I didn't feel her pulse. I didn't hug her. I didn't cover her in a blanket. I didn't do any of those things that someone else might do. I just stood there, in shock.

I don't think I will ever forget that image of Mom, at peace on her bedroom floor; the shock at finding her dead; the gratitude for being able to share her last days on Earth..

I can't un-do my selfish neglect over the years, but I'm grateful I could have been there at the end. Rest in peace, Florence Marie Hume. 1931 - 2017

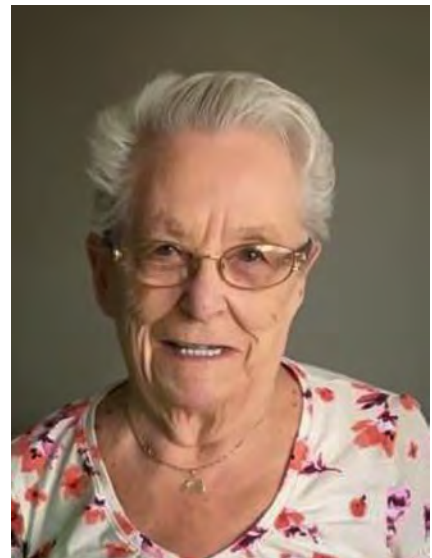


Photo: Courtesy Pat Hume, CBC PNA, Creelman, SK

Pat's mother, Florence Marie Hume

PEI Welcomes Newcomers

Craig Mackie, CBC PNA, Charlottetown, PEI

My CBC history in a flash:

1980 Freelance with CBC Ottawa, 1981 CBC Western Arctic (Inuvik), 1982 CBC Yukon (Whitehorse), 1984 CBC Eastern Arctic (Frobisher Bay, now Iqaluit), 1989 CBC Mackenzie (Yellowknife), 1996 CBC Calgary, 1997 CBC Northern Ontario (Sudbury), 2001 CBC PEI (Charlottetown)



Photo: *Craig Mackie, CBC PNA, Charlottetown, PEI*

Craig Mackie and Itunu Oremade, originally from Nigeria, and a member of the Board of Directors of the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada

Now I'm working at an agency that helps new immigrants and refugees with their settlement, employment, and integration on PEI. I'm the Executive Director of the PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada (PEIANC). The staff at PEIANC are from all over. They are Island-born, from different parts of Canada, and from Peru, Scotland, China, Hong Kong, Egypt, Syria. There's even a Chinese settlement worker who speaks Mandarin and Cantonese and who grew up in Haines Junction in the Yukon.

Canada, and especially PEI, needs newcomers. There is a huge aging demographic beginning to leave the workforce in large numbers. The birthrate is in decline in most areas of Canada. For PEI, we continue to see an outmigration of our youth. Where will we find the people to do the jobs, to pay taxes, to consume goods and services? Immigration and repatriation seem to be the only answers.

I find myself in the middle of an historic population shift on this Island. Never before have so many people come from so many different places in hopes of finding their Canadian dream and more importantly the promise of a better life for their children. Unlike most other provincial capitals, Charlottetown has come late to diversity. Twenty years ago, people of colour were truly visible minorities. Today, Charlottetown is remarkably diverse. In the years 2016 and 2017, our Association had more than 4,200 new clients from more than 80 different countries. The University of Prince Edward Island is nearly one-quarter international students.

Immigration is changing the Island. The economy is doing well especially in real estate and car sales. Newcomers are arriving with impressive education credentials and global work experience. The culinary choices have expanded delightfully.

Working in CBC North helped prepare me for the work I'm doing. In Yellowknife, it was not unusual to hear six or seven different languages every day. I loved the ways different cultures could see the world. It is the same now. I'm surrounded by people from many different parts of the world. We help them become Canadian and they in turn share their culture, food, song, and dance. We are all richer because of this.

Photo: *Craig Mackie, CBC PNA, Charlottetown, PEI*

Craig Mackie with Ira Staricova, originally from Russia, and the organizer of the DiverseCity Festival



My Sundays with Normand

Adèle Fontaine, CBC PNA, Edmonton, AB

I began writing a poem every Sunday after my husband Normand passed away two months earlier on November 25, 2014. Our daughter Danielle describes my poetry as my Sunday devotion.

A dear friend, Germaine St. Paul, gave me a copy of the King's Prayer, a Buddhist prayer recited after the death of a loved one. I began reading this prayer aloud five days after Normand's death and have recited it ever since. The power of these words takes me to a place where death was no different than life.

I would sit at our teak kitchen table, where the family gathered for meals, and where our seven children did their homework and eventually it became the place where I would bring Normand back with my poetry. This is how the book of 77 poems entitled *My Sundays With Normand* came to be written. From the very first Sunday, Normand magically returned to the table to continue the ritual of conversation with me, his wife.

I shared my grieving with our seven children and many grandchildren who live in Montreal, Ottawa, Edmonton and Germany. Slowly I began sharing the poems with friends and family on Facebook and started including them in emails to many others. My list of friends kept on growing and many people encouraged me to publish my poetry. My first book of poetry was published in 2018.

The poems look at the 53 years Normand and I shared together. During thirty-seven of those years Normand worked as a radio announcer at CBC/Radio-Canada. He believed radio was far superior to television because one could create a sense of intimacy with his audience.

Normand was an artist and a writer who loved observing the beauty that surrounded him. We met in 1960 and he charmed me with stories of growing up in Girouxville, a small town in northern Alberta. We talked for hours discussing music, our families, and our values. These conversations continued throughout our marriage. This is what I did not want to lose and what my poetry helps me to keep.

Poem by Adèle Fontaine

February 3rd, 2018

I've just finished reading
Song of Batoche
This is one
We would have read
Into the night
Discussing the details
It's about your heroes
Riel and Dumont
Such intense men
Louis so full of the Holy Spirit
Praying for God to be on his side
While Gabriel believed
The time for prayer
Was over

My head spins as I read
About the bloodshed
And defeat
While women had babies
As war waged around them
This event changed
The history of Canada
I shall never forget
What you did
In Ottawa
Looking at the statue of Macdonald
You slapped him across the face my darling
And said
"This is for what you did
To Riel"



*Photo: Courtesy of Nathalie Fontaine
Normand Fontaine October 2014*

[The novel *Song of Batoche* was written by Maia Caron and published in 2017.]

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.

Beverley Burrows (June 30, 2018) CBC Radio, Regina, Freelancer and Script Writer

Norm Cowan (July 19, 2018) CBC Manitoba Regional Public Relations Manager

Bill Coward (September 18, 2018) CBC Winnipeg Radio Master Control Technician

Wayne Craig (August 4, 2018) CBC Calgary Stagehand and Production Assistant

Lawrence (Lawrie) Elswood (September 20, 2018) CBC Edmonton

Gordon Fisher (November 28, 2017) CBC Vancouver Camera Assistant on Series Including "Cariboo Country", "Kingcome Inlet" and "Helicopter Pilot"

Robert (Bob/Rob) Gilchrist (October 7, 2018) CBC Toronto ENG Editor

Don Goodwin (August 21, 2018) CBC Halifax Broadcaster and CBC Head of Network Sports, Co-Founder Sports Media Canada

Beth Hale (October 4, 2018) CBC Toronto Design

Fred Heiland (July 28, 2018) CBC Winnipeg Radio Technician

Raymond (Ray) Hosty (August 17, 2018) CBC Toronto Technical Producer and Supervisor of Outside Broadcasts Film

Chuck Hubbard (August 2, 2018) CBC Ottawa Senior Lighting Technician

Pauline Landsberg (August 20, 2018) CBC Saskatchewan Financial Analyst for Radio Canada

Edward (Ed/Ted) Marshall (September 8, 2018) CBC Toronto Radio Recording Engineer

Connie Munro (August 4, 2018) Widow of Marcel Munro, CBC Vancouver Announcer/Program Director (1940s-1950s), Director of English Network TV/Director of News & Public Affairs, CBC Toronto (1960s-1970s)

Ralph Nelson (July 8, 2018) CBC Toronto TV Technical Supervisor

Irene Persoage (September 11, 2018) CBC Winnipeg Radio Program/Production

Sylvain Racette (September 2018) CBC/SRC Saskatchewan and Montreal Reporter

Dave Schemenauer (September 25, 2018) CBC Prince George Senior Transmitter Technologist

Karl Scherer (September 16, 2018) CBC Toronto Sound Technician (1960s)

Sheila Skelley (August 4, 2018) CBC Ottawa/London, England Overseas and Foreign Relations Officer; Previously Public Affairs P/A, Vancouver; Ass't. BBC Rep, Toronto; Program Organizer, Washington; Liaison Officer for Foreign Broadcasters, IBC-Expo 67

Ray Tokar (August 31, 2018) CBC Winnipeg Video and Audio Technician

Robert (Bob) Ulmer (July 9, 2018) CBC Edmonton Radio Recording Engineer

Walter Unger (August 25, 2018) CBC Winnipeg, Ottawa and Toronto, Announcer/Reporter/Producer/Executive Producer/Senior Network Manager

Les Wardrop (August 29, 2018) CBC Toronto Booth Technician

Bill White (August 15, 2018) CBC Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ottawa and Head Office, Radio Technician, Regional Director, Vice President of Finance

Bob Ziemann (June 25, 2018) CBC Ottawa Transmitter Supervisor

Green Miles #2 - The Best of Ireland



The tour group Zoé and I were part of took a lap completely around the Island. Almost every day we found ourselves in some of the most beautifully named towns and cities in the world: Londonderry, Killarney, the previously mentioned Galway and Cork among them. We even found ourselves at Blarney Castle (and, no, we did not kiss that stone).

The most beautiful of all, in my opinion though, was my own family's ancestral village of Crossmolina, in County Mayo.

My mother's people left this place 150 years ago, forced out by the potato famine. Crossmolina was at ground zero of the Irish places worst hit by this environmental disaster and it went into a steep decline for generations. But from what I saw during my brief visit there, it's thriving again. Prosperity has returned and the streets are filled with young families, all very good to see.

My daughter Zoé and I agreed this was one of our all time best family holidays and we saw Ireland in the best possible light (due in large part to that two weeks of unremitting sunshine). I'd return there in a heartbeat, and I hope to do so before too long.

*Photo: Courtesy of Sean Prpick, CBC PNA,
Regina, SK*

The majestic Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork

The Transmitter needs you and your story, photos, and/or a story with photos. Show us a special trip you took while working or on holidays. Tell us about the difference you're making through your work as a volunteer. Write your story in 100 – 500 words. Take your photos in horizontal format and send them in high resolution through email or a shared folder.

Send your article by January 15, 2019 for the **March 1, 2019 issue of *The Transmitter*.**

Share your story by writing to:
Joanne Skidmore joanne.skidmore09@gmail.com
and send the photos to:
Monique Nenson mnenson@gmail.com