



## President's Report – 2020 – Bob Waller

The less said about 2020, the better.

The year actually began with the Golden Horseshoe Chapter's annual Christmas Luncheon and Annual General Meeting at the Burlington Legion on Wed., Dec. 4, 2019. Big crowd. Great food. A huge Santa bag of door prizes.

David Knapp stepped aside after a decade of service. I succeeded him. Marie Clarke-Davies came on to the board as Vice-President. John Bainbridge began a second term as Secretary-Treasurer. Fred Walker stepped down as Director and was succeeded by Cindy Beatty. Our beloved Joan Chilcott began her second term as Director but ten days later tragedy struck when she died of cancer. We mourn Joan and all the others who have passed on this year.

Don Reynolds succeeded Joan as Director

in January and the new board began planning the Spring event: a luncheon in May at the Royal Botanical Gardens featuring a talk about gardening in a time of climate change by their Head of Education, Barbara McKean.

We sent out our first promo in mid-February but COVID-19 was already knocking on the door. A few weeks later we sent out the cancellation. Then the Pandemic took hold and we went into lockdown for the first time.

Things started looking up a bit in summer as the number of cases dropped but the second wave started to roll in by September and we cancelled our 2020 Christmas Luncheon by announcing the decision in what became the first issue of our occasional newsletter, the Golden Horseshoe Update. > 2

## President's Report from Page 1

As I write this in mid-November for our upcoming issue and our virtual Annual General Meeting at 11 am on Wed., Dec. 2, the situation is looking dire indeed as the Pandemic picks up speed and COVID-19 cases soar just

about everywhere.

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Please stay safe as this annus horribilis staggers to its end. My best wishes in this difficult time to the 182 other members of the Chapter and your loved ones.

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## **Golden Horseshoe Chapter CBC PNA Annual General Meeting via ZOOM 11 am - Wed., Dec. 2, 2020**

### AGENDA

Call to order

Approval of Minutes, 2019 AGM Dec. 4, 2019 (see document for approval)

President's report (see document for approval)

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (see document for approval)

New Business

Adjournment of Annual General Meeting (motion to approve)

Greetings from Gerry Head, Ontario Region President

**If you have a smart phone, a computer or tablet with camera and microphone, are on-line and have downloaded the free ZOOM app you can connect by clicking on the link below. You can also join by computer even if you don't have a camera so long as you have audio and a microphone.**

<https://zoom.us/j/95497607798?pwd=aIRFNvVpMU4zK2pLcHlOQXQ0czhKUT09>

*You will likely be asked to enter the Meeting ID and Passcode below:*

**Meeting ID: 954 9760 7798**

**Passcode: 270201**

**If you have only a basic phone, you can join in using audio only by dialing one of the numbers below (long-distance charges may apply):**

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**+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

*You will likely be asked to enter the Meeting ID and Passcode below:*

**Meeting ID: 954 9760 7798**

**Passcode: 270201**

**[2019 AGM Minutes and 2019-20 Financial Report on Pages 10 & 11](#)**

# CBC pension surplus Memorandum of Agreement heading toward arbitration 3

By Dan Oldfield  
Chair, PNA MoA Review  
Committee

You may recall that an agreement reached in 2009 regarding pension surplus was up for review last year. The PNA, the Unions, and the CBC last met in December 2019 to conclude the review.

Unfortunately, the CBC took the position that the deal had expired and no longer exists. We, the PNA and the Unions, have rejected that position based on the clear wording of the agreement. We have advised the Corporation that we



*Dan Oldfield*

intend to arbitrate the issue as per the terms of the agreement.

The CBC, for reasons not fully understood, has been reluctant to agree on a neutral third party.

The Memorandum of Agreement was reached after several years of litigation and grievances. In order to reach the agreement, the PNA withdrew a class action lawsuit and the Unions withdrew more than 20 grievances.

There is nothing in the terms of the agreement that allows any party to cancel or amend the MOA without the agreement of all parties.

The PNA intends to protect our rights under the terms of the agreement. We'll keep you posted.

## Ontario Pres. has good news about Chapter finances

Oct. 31, 2020

Hello to all,

Yesterday, the National Board met through a zoom meeting.

The main item affecting Ontario and its Chapters was passed.

Beginning January 1, 2021 the payment to Chapters will increase from \$1.00 per member to \$2.00 per member with the minimum payment being \$400.00 up from



*Gerry Head*

\$300.00. This will continue to be paid quarterly.

This translates this way:

North Central Ontario 67

members will receive \$402.00 quarterly.

Durham 81 members will receive \$486.00 quarterly.

Trent 44 members will receive \$400.00 quarterly.

SW Ontario 83 members will receive \$498.00 quarterly.

**Golden Horseshoe 183 members will receive \$1,098.00 quarterly.**

Gerry



## The Golden Horseshoe's jewel in the crown presses forward in spite of the Pandemic

By Marie Clarke-Davies

It was March 13, with the arrival of Spring tantalizing close, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Royal Botanical Gardens to shut its gates.

It is Canada's largest botanical garden. The RBG covers 2,700 acres and boasts 27 kilometres of trails. It is also a National Historic Site and is recognized by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve.

The closure of the RBG, headquartered in Burlington with properties in neighbouring Hamilton, affected everything from weddings, conferences and camps to the public's use of its gardens and natural areas.

All programmes for March Break, traditionally one of the busiest periods on the calendar, were cancelled.



*Barbara McKean*

Eventually Easter Brunch and Mother's Day events met the same fate.

"We realized that if we were going to reach people, we were going to have to do it online," says Barbara McKean, the Head of Education.

And with that, the RBG's virtual gates opened wide, with the launch of RBG at Home. The goal was to develop and post online resources

to help parents and teachers engage with children learning from home. The other target? Grownups looking ahead to gardening season.

"We were online with some activities the first week of April. It was a lot of pressure on staff to come up with this new initiative so quickly. We were trying to diversify the offerings that we had, to provide a little bit of everything for everybody," says McKean.

And it didn't stop there: "We were all taking our phones out and pulling together short videos and finding, wow, this had 9,000 views. It was remarkable how quickly that took off." If people couldn't see the tulips and magnolias bloom in person, they could at least appreciate them virtually. > 5



### **Jewel from Page 4**

The team also started offering free interactive family-oriented video conferences, in English and French. While the RBG has been producing video conferences for children around the world since 2007, this initiative was another boon for schools and families trying to pivot to online learning. Based on its many years of offering these

programs, the RBG was recognized this fall as one of the top 15 virtual field trip content providers in the world.

Still, the public was starved for the real thing. Crowds flocked to the nature trails that opened for hiking and birdwatching starting in May. The Arboretum welcomed visitors late in the month, for the blooming of the lilac collection. The Rock Garden, Rose Garden and Laking Gar-

den's iris display soon followed.

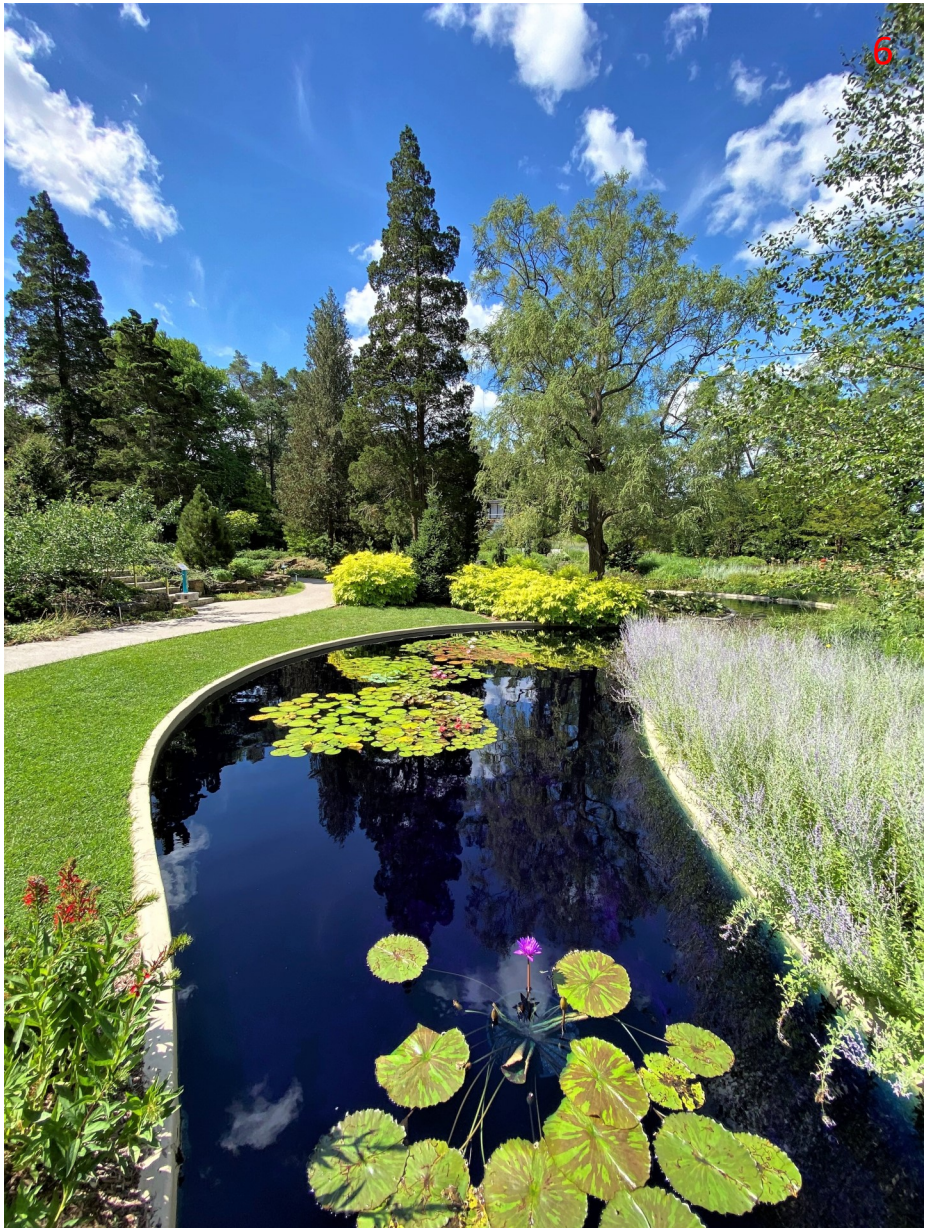
“When people were cooped up inside and not getting out much, there was a real pent-up hunger for being in green space,” says Barbara McKean. “We’ve been getting a lot of first-time visitors—people staycating and trying new things in the area.”

## Jewel from Page 5

Steps were taken to encourage social distancing. Certain trails and loops were marked “one-way.” People were encouraged to visit in small groups. And early in the reopening, some parking spots were blocked off. It wasn’t all to keep humans safe.

“It was about keeping the landscape safe as well,” says McKean. “We have been getting a lot of visitors who don’t normally do this kind of thing, and there’s been an increase in the amount of litter showing up along the trails, and in erosion where families have been letting their children run off the trails. In certain areas you can really see the wear and tear.”

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## Jewel from Page 6

The RBG has also had to educate visitors on the hazards of spreading food for wildlife. Excessive amounts of seed, corn and baked goods left on the ground were starting to hurt, rather than help, the birds and animals.

For the remainder of 2020, with the weather turning cooler, courses and experiences will be online.



And, as with everything else this year, holiday celebrations will be different from those in the past. The plan is for a fully outdoor experience, called “Winter Wonders,” featuring an evening light show.

Looking ahead to its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, the RBG

will offer a rainforest experience, called “Under the Canopy,” starting in mid-January. The physical component will take over the entire main building. There will be live animal exhibits, including sloths and marmosets, plus plenty of online material to add to the adventure.

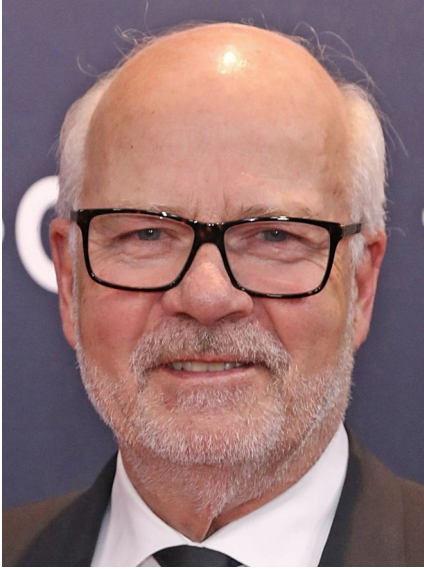
If you can’t get away to somewhere warm this winter, a trip to “Under the Canopy” could be just the ticket.



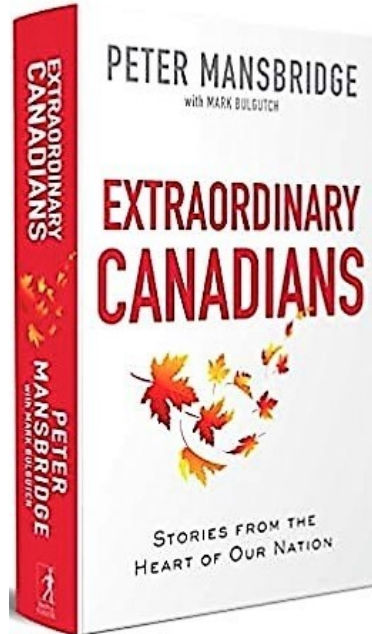
# Got the Pandemic Blues?

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This uplifting new book by two PNA members will help chase them away



The publisher writes: “From **Peter Mansbridge**, the former anchor of CBC’s *The National*, and **Mark Bulgutch**, former CBC News producer, comes a collection of first-person stories about remarkable Canadians who embody the values of our great nation—kindness, compassion, courage, and freedom—and inspire us to do the same. Featuring voices from all walks of life—advocates, politicians, doctors, veterans, immigrants, business leaders, and more—this collection gets to the heart of what it means to be Canadian. These stories will change the way



you see your country and make you fall in love with Canada all over again.”

Update asked Peter about the book: *The subject is a winner: extraordinary people invariably have compelling stories. But you must have had a lot to choose from?*

**You’re right. Our country is full of winners in every neighbourhood, people who have courage and dedication but aren’t looking for recognition. They just want to keep making Canada better.**

*How did you select the final candidates?*



**Obviously we wanted a sense of the country geographically, culturally .... Diverse in every way. We talked to Canadians across the country to help us with suggestions and then made our final decisions when we had talked to each individually.**

*What role did Mark play in making the book?*

**He was the co-author. He wrote the ones he wanted and I wrote the ones I wanted!**

*Any idea what you might be working on next?*

**Yes, But I can’t say yet! I was writing all summer and still am.**



# CONTACT TRACING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC 9

From just one COVID-19 positive wedding guest....



Based on actual case data

**50**

wedding guests exposed and required to self-isolate, unable to go to work or to school



**15**

guests tested positive for COVID-19

**1**

outbreak at a long-term care home



**10**

households with someone who tested positive for COVID-19



**1**

family business affected by multiple positive COVID-19 cases

**5**

employees tested positive for COVID-19

**81**

required to self-isolate in their rooms

**37**

people required to self-isolate at home, unable to go to work or school

**3**

admitted to hospital

**1**

person died



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Annual General Meeting - Burlington, Ont. - Wed., Dec. 4, 2019

MINUTES

12 Noon – Call to Order by David Knapp, President, Golden Horseshoe Chapter, including a moment of silence for members who passed away in the previous year.

One hundred and nine guests enjoyed a roast turkey luncheon. Forty door prizes were drawn in two batches. A 50/50 draw was conducted at the end.

1... Greetings from Ontario Region President Gerry Head

Supplemental Health Plan is strong with close to 200 new members this year. There have been some challenges with covering ongoing costs so some benefits have been reduced. PNA has been discussing this issue with CBC.

Pension Surplus - The unions and PNA are still in discussion with the CBC about sharing the surplus. CBC has not been clear about its intentions. This is a concern for the PNA.

Pension Bill – C27 is dead – The bill to create Defined Target pension plans, a potential threat to our Defined Benefit plan, died on the Order Paper when the October election was called. Nevertheless, the PNA is keeping watch in case it is resurrected..

Pension-splitting for pensioners who marry after retirement – In this situation the PNA and unions are asking CBC for changes to make this possible. Members are also encouraged to write their members of parliament to voice their concern.

RRSP Reform – The current age restrictions regarding RRSPs are too low. PNA is working with other organizations to pressure the government to increase age limits.

2... AGM - Call to order: Fred Walker, Director, GHC

Minutes of AGM of Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - accepted

President's Report for 2019 – accepted

Secretary-Treasurer's Report for fiscal 2018-19 - accepted.

3... Election of GHC Executive: George Duffield

George introduced the slate standing for positions on the Chapter Executive:

Bob Waller (former Vice-President) – President

Marie Clarke-Davies – running for Vice-President

John Bainbridge – running for second term as Secretary-Treasurer

Joan Chilcott – running for second term as Director

Cindy Beatty – running for Director

Members acclaimed the slate.

David Knapp will remain on the Executive as Immediate Past President.

Bob then thanked David and retiring Director Fred Walker for their service.

4... Other Business - none

5... Adjournment

## Golden Horseshoe Chapter - CBC PNA

**Period September 1st, 2019 to August 31st, 2020**

**Opening Balance:      \$1,515.81**

### Revenue

**Ontario Membership Transfer:      2,232.00**

**Christmas Lunch Subsidy:      1,100.00**

**Ticket Sales:      2,335.00**

**Total Revenue:      \$5,667.00**

### Expenses

**Bank Fees:      \$78.90**

**Promotion & Communication:      \$336.97**

**(includes ink, paper, mailing, etc)**

**Total Expense:      \$415.87**

**Christmas Lunch catering & Elevator fee:      \$3,313.00**

**Bob W. final costs:      \$130.79**

**Bar steward fee:      \$334.00**

**Music (Mark Punga):      \$160.00**

**Door prizes:      \$557.43**

**David Knapp honorarium:      \$100.00**

**Total Holiday Lunch costs:      \$4,495.22**

**Closing Balance:      \$2,271.72**

# Golden Horseshoe Chapter Executive



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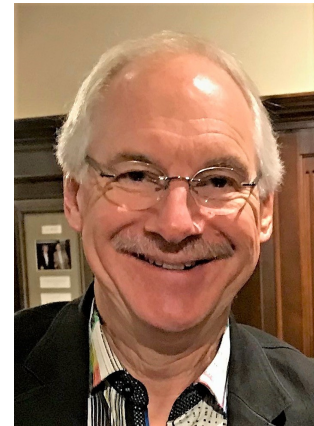


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If so, please let us know**