

Station Break is "springing" back to life. Welcome.

"Station Break" is back again to provide you with news from the Maritime Branch of the CBC Pensioners National Association. We've been on a break since Mary Wilcox retired from her years of faithful service as editor back in 2019. Thanks, Mary! Maritime President Geoff Turnbull and New Brunswick chapter president Don Langis will work with Kathy Large, PEI Chapter co-president, to produce two editions a year - in May and December.

We are at a tipping point

President Geoff Turnbull

Our association is just over 20 years old. It has served us well. Our leaders have fought the good fight on behalf of our members and helped CBC retirees in many ways. It took many competent, committed volunteers to bring us this far.

We have been especially blessed with the calibre in our pioneering national executives. As your regional representative to the national board I have experienced this for myself.

Last year our national leaders saw it was time for us to take a good hard look at ourselves: how are we doing, and what do we need to change?

Led by Vice President (Anglophone) Dave Jeffrey, they conscripted four working groups to research, debate and hammer out recommendations. They've focussed on the critical topics of diversity, recruitment, advocacy and communications.

"Pause-indicatif" est également disponible en français. Pour en obtenir une copie, envoyer un courriel à: cbcpam@gmail.com ou visiter le site web de l'Association nationale des retraités de la SRC (www.cbcpensioners.ca)



In this region, Marc Savoie, Barb MacPherson and I have spent many hours working on these issues online with two dozen colleagues from across the country. The groups will be making their recommendations to the whole membership at our virtual Triennial Convention in the coming weeks.

One of the most sensitive areas for us to look at has been "Diversity and Inclusion", which is one of the

core values spelled out in our constitution. Despite that, ***our association has never had close to gender parity in our leadership.***

This issue became painfully obvious at our last convention. If you had walked into the annual general meeting, you would have noticed that most of the people at the head table were older white men. I was no exception.

There were only two women in that crowd.

And that was just the tip of the non-diversity iceberg. We also need to understand the wants and needs of members with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, black or indigenous people or any people of colour, and also the geographically isolated.

How included can you feel if you don't see people with whom you can identify? At that convention ***three years ago, we collectively committed to tackling gender parity as our first step.*** We would recruit new board members to better balance the male and female representation.

Not just for the sake of appearances. Clearly we would be better if we cast our nets wider so that more women, and more people from a diversity of backgrounds, could lend us their experiences, talents and skills.

Yet here we were, not long ago, presented with a slate of candidates for our national executive consisting entirely of men. They are individually and as group excellent choices. They are competent, committed, and have already given much to the association. But they are all men.

I told you this was a sensitive issue.

It is an understatement to say my diversity/inclusion workshop group was disappointed.

Our constitution says we are an inclusive organization that embraces diversity. I fear it may be hard for some of our members to believe that.

For all of us, there are lots of challenges ahead. We'll have to deal with worries about "tokenism", concern that current volunteers might feel pushed aside by affirmative action, even simple inertia.

Some regions and chapters (including us here in the Maritimes) have made good progress on this issue, but there's still lots to do.

I believe we collectively have the will. Most of us believe it's time for change, and our national executive agrees. At a special board meeting on April 18, the board re-committed to making diversity in leadership a priority issue.

At the online convention in May, the floor will be open. One thing I do know. Change is in the air. I will be there and I will let you know what happens.

Geoff Turnbull

Pres., Maritime Region, CBCPNA

Regional meeting delayed; new board members needed

The Maritime Region executive has decided to delay the Annual General Meeting until an in-person gathering can be held in the fall. Normally, pensioners would get together in Halifax for an annual meeting in May. But after discussion during the regional executive meeting in March, a motion to delay was passed. A new date for the meeting will be announced later in the year. To maintain continuity, the terms of all executive and board members have been extended.

When that meeting takes place, the president, vice-president and five board members will face election. New volunteers to help fill some of

those roles for the Maritime branch are in great need. Of particular note, the role of Secretary is vacant on the regional executive.

The main function of the job is to record minutes of all regional meetings. Other duties include staying in touch with the membership, possibly attending national meetings, and generally keeping track of the work of the regional board. Other duties might include dealing with the caterer, and sending out notices of meetings.

Branch President Geoff Turnbull also reported that national meetings – the AGM and the Triennial Convention will be virtual in various segments -- some in the spring, the fall and possibly after next Christmas. Those decisions will depend on the wishes of a new national executive to be selected in the spring.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved in the work of the regional executive can find out more information from Branch President Geoff Turnbull. Email: g.turnbull1645@gmail.com or phone 902-441-4978.

The idea for the birthday calls came from Barb MacPherson's work on a special national committee on new member recruitment. "One of the other members -- from Manitoba maybe -- mentioned the branch there was calling everyone on their birthdays as a way of keeping in touch. It twigged -- 'we could do that' in my own head," said Barb recalling the start of the project. So she brought the idea up at the next regional board meeting, volunteered to take it on and everyone thought it was a good idea. She got started last fall.



Our Birthday Present to You

By Kathy Large

The Maritime branch has found a new way to put something extra in your special day every year. You can expect to receive a phone call on your birthday from a member of the Pensioners Association. The birthday project started last fall. Calls are made by two people - Barbara MacPherson for Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and Donald Langis for New Brunswick.

"I usually start out and explain that I have called to wish the person a happy birthday. I was very cautious when I started. I don't want people to think it is a scam call."

"It's a great way to keep in touch with our members in a new way. In fact I think one thing that's wrong with the world today is that we don't talk enough or have enough personal contact. One man called me back out of the blue, just to say hello!"

Barb is a recent retiree, leaving CBC in 2018. She spent her entire career at CBC television in Halifax, after Jack Brownell hired her the year she finished her electronics course at Holland College in Charlottetown. She started out as a studio camera operator for “Codco” and learned a number of jobs such as audio technician, and Chyron operator. Then she found the job she liked the best - in the studio control room as switcher. When Newsworld moved operations to Toronto in 1997, she became the switcher for both supper hour and late night news shows. When technology changed, she did as well, becoming a switcher/director. She’s a proud Prince Edward Islander in Vernon River, P.E.I. despite her decades in Nova Scotia.

Her plans for retirement speeded up after experiencing the loss of a close colleague, director Ken Publicover. Ken was diagnosed with brain cancer in March 2017 and died in October of the same year at the age of 60.

Barb remembers how shocking that was. Everyone teased them by calling their control room the “Ken and Barbie” show. In trying to cope with the loss, she realized she should retire as soon as she hit her 85 formula because “you never know what life is going to throw at you”.

Donald Langis became involved in the birthday project to make sure that all members are served in their preferred language.

“There is a language issue we need to recognize. The majority of members whose first language is French resent being called by an English speaking person,” according to Don.

Moncton is the main production centre for Radio-Canada in the four Atlantic Provinces so many employees there worked in French for their whole careers. In contrast, Don was news director so he needed to work with both French and English language reporters and editors and easily moves from French to English.



The birthday project has become a weekly responsibility with more than 180 members in New Brunswick. The day we spoke, he had two calls to make. Barb sends him a list monthly. “Calling isn’t the problem – having the correct phone number is! Frequently numbers have been disconnected or people don’t answer. That may be because they don’t recognize my name on their call display,” he says.

“When I do have chat with someone, it is always positive. I haven’t had one complaint since we

started doing this. And I've learned a lot of things about people. For example, I enjoyed talking to one member about a project they were doing for building little gift containers for people who wouldn't normally get much for Christmas."

It isn't always good news. "There is illness among our members and I have needed to get in touch with a member through their caregiver. But even those in dire situations appreciate the call. You've thought of me! How nice. It makes them feel as if they are part of the group, not just paying dues to an organization they aren't connected to," he points out. The majority of N.B. members are in the Moncton area but only 20-25 people out of 180 come to social events. "So this is a way we can connect with the rest," he explains.

Don started at Radio-Canada after being the managing editor of a French-language newspaper in Moncton. He was hired as the line-up editor for the early morning radio newscasts. Following that, he moved to TV line-up editor and then News Director. He was the longest serving news director in Moncton, working hard to earn staff support and respect.

"When I started, there was a lot of ill feeling in the newsroom. I learned the importance of creating an atmosphere for teamwork. Every Wednesday I would invite people to eat pizza and vent their frustrations. After 2 or 3 years, there was nothing left to vent! It worked. But I knew I had to follow up on what I heard. If you get a complaint, you have to do something about it. If not, you have to say why."

Don retired in 2005 as "directeur de l'information". In his retirement, he has been busy serving on community boards and working with the liturgy committee in his parish, in Dieppe - Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus. He also represents the CBC Pensioners National Association on the board of the CBC Employee Assistance Program (EAP) as a

non-voting member of the board.

"I'm never in a rush and I like to chat," Barb says. "If they want to talk some more, I am ready to do that. Some love the CBC, some hate the CBC. I listen to all the points of view. I have a great listening ear!"

In the month of March alone, she made thirty calls. "If anything, they are overjoyed to get to know me." Some members are quite elderly. One home Barb called the gentleman was turning 97 that day and his wife answered the phone.

"What I have found is that that some members don't have a lot of people to talk to especially with the Covid-19 situation of the past year. They miss closeness with others. And they really appreciate me calling to express that I am there to care and to talk to." Barb has found a particular group that enjoys recalling their connection to CBC. "There are a number of women that I've met on the phone who are widows of CBC pensioners. Often their voice will crack a bit when they tell me about their husband. Even though they don't know me, my connection to CBC brings them back to happy days with their husbands and a time when CBC was like a big family."

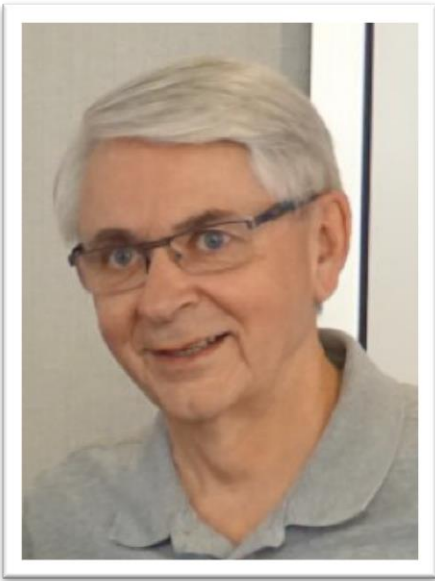
Another example of the benefits of the project came when she spoke with a man in his 80's. "I didn't know him but we had a great chat. Later on, I had an email from him that explained, "I left CBC when I was 55. Now I'm 83. Talking to you today made me feel young again."

One woman Barb spoke with recently finished off the conversation by saying "You've made my day! So it's a wonderful experience for me. I really, really enjoy it. I really do."

NB Chapter Report Virtual Visit: A Format to Duplicate

The “virtual visit” format could serve as an example to the other regions of the CBC’s Pensioners National Association during this Covid-19 confinement period. This is how the PNA president, Denis Collette, described the Moncton chapter’s two get-togethers, one in each official language, which attracted nearly 40 members on Monday, April 12th.

Mr. Collette added that this experience was undoubtedly as enriching for him as for the members since it allowed him to feel the pulse of the membership. After a presentation on the workings, structure and constraints of the association, there was an open question period.



The president explained among other things the revenues, the dues, the expenses, the mandate, the regional and chapter structure, constraints, recruitment, the memorandum of agreement,

the complementary medical insurance plan and the pension plan. He mentioned the planning leading up to the Triennial Convention. Dave Jeffrey has gathered 4 teams who are drafting objectives and recommendations that will be submitted to the PNA. He also spoke of the sometime difficult relationship between the PNA and the CBC. But then he added

that the PNA is important because it allows the Corporation to deal with only one intervener.

Donald Langis, president
Moncton Chapter

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Fiscal Year 01 April/20 thru 31 March/21

An eventful year in every respect. Due to Covid restrictions, most of our budgeted programs and events were canceled, including meetings. We did, however, manage to hold an Annual Meeting which, amongst other things, approved the prior year’s financial debits and credits.

After expenses for the year totaling \$6,038.30, we were left on 31 March/21 with a bank balance of \$17,124.63 indicating a healthy surplus of \$5,560.88. The expenses, in part, covered hall rental, AGM catering, chapter expenses to attend the AGM, By-Laws, changing our mailings from Gmail to Mail Chimp, administration, equipment, audit expenses etc etc.

All expenses were Board-approved at our monthly virtual meetings. I will have the year-end report done within the next couple of weeks which will show in detail all deposits and expenditures for the entire fiscal year.

If anyone would like a copy of this report or need any other information, please contact me at davidscribe@aol.com or (902) 457-1837 or 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8. My Thanks

Respectfully,

David Carr
Treasurer, Maritimes

New Regional Director at Radio-Canada Acadie

Jean-François Cochet has been named Regional Director at Radio-Canada Acadie.

Having moved to the region in 2016, Mr. Cochet was General Manager of ARCANB (Association des radios communautaires acadiennes du Nouveau-Brunswick/The New Brunswick Association of Acadian community radio) which includes 14 community radio stations.

Born in France, Mr. Cochet studied commerce and management. He will take up his position in the Moncton production centre on May 17.



calm, unflappable, professional, pleasant - and a damn good reporter. One of his gifts was his willingness to support and mentor anyone new coming into the newsroom.”

“Good bye old bear.” That’s the way that former TV assignment editor Ian Porter reacted to the news as he remembered his friend and colleague. “There was no one better at smoothing television newsroom tensions as the clock ticked towards six. And no one better at telling the stories of regular folk who all-of-a-day found themselves newsworthy.”

“Paul understood the place of local evening news in the life of our town and that it needed to cover more than just the latest scandal or controversy. It had also to reflect the experiences and accomplishments of the people who kept the wheels turning and the lights on.”

Porter said Barr could do "stern" when a story required it but his lasting image of Paul is of his “down-to-earth, engaging warmth that was as genuine off-air as on”.

Friends remember Paul Barr

Former CBC Television news reporter Paul Barr passed away on April 29, 2021 in Halifax. His friends who worked with him in the Halifax newsroom remember his kind and professional attitude and his great talent for storytelling.



CBCPNA Maritime president Geoff Turnbull commented: “Paul was unique in the newsroom:

PEI Chapter Report

Like other Maritime chapters of the Pensioners National Association, Prince Edward Island has been in limbo this winter during the on-going pandemic. With the vaccination program well-underway in PEI, there is hope we will be able to have an in-person get-together sometime later this year.

Meanwhile, in April PEI chapter co-president Kathy Large took part in a ceremony of interest to broadcasters. The event at Government House in Charlottetown was held to recognize the centennial of the first reception of a radio voice and music program in Prince Edward Island. Previous radio transmissions were only received in Morse code.

On March 11, 1921 a group of returned soldiers who had built their own radio receivers managed to tune in an experimental broadcast from Union College in Schenectady, New York. They were studying radio with instructor Keith Rogers, Large's grandfather. Rogers had been a Canadian Army signals operator during World War I at the Citadel in Halifax and was commanding officer of a local PEI militia unit.



Rogers' described the radio sets used as "crude in the extreme", simple cardboard salt cylinders with copper coils wrapped around them and headsets for speakers. In a speech he gave years later, he said: "Static crackled and boomed, but every once in a while they were rewarded by the sounds of more or less sweet music when a rift in the seemingly impenetrable wall of static presented itself."

Rogers went on to create CFCY in 1925, the first commercial radio station east of Montreal.

The ceremony to recognize the beginnings of broadcast media in PEI was hosted by the Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry, who recounted her own memories of how important radio was in connecting her home community of Tignish to the rest of the province and the world.

Editor's note: The Board of Directors of the CBC Pensioners National Association appointed 4 non-elected members to sit on different committees to protect the interests of its members. Alain Pineau sits on the Pension Board of Trustees, Dan Oldfield and Jean-Paul Rouillard on the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefit (CCSB) and Donald Langis on the Employee (retirees) Assistance Program (EAP). The following articles give us a brief summary of their participation in these committees.

Pension Plan Finishes Year With Flying Colours

By Alain Pineau

This has been a difficult year from numerous viewpoints, including stock markets. And yet, our Pension Plan finished the year with flying colours, and it owes its success in great part to the Liability Driven Investment policy adopted in 2009.

After a 2019 year end which saw its assets grow from 7 to 8 billion dollars, the Plan had lost all those gains by March 2020... only to recover them by July!

The verified 2020 results have been presented to the Board of Trustees at its March 29 meeting: the Plan finished on December 31 with its *best results in over 20 years!*

The 2020 rate of return achieved was 11.49% while the annualized four-year return was 10.59%

Markets continue to show a lot of volatility, and according to some, cannot continue to go up , especially if the current health crisis goes on. It is therefore possible that the year-end results for 2021 not be so stellar, but one thing is sure: you can rest confident about your pension cheques coming in!

The EAP is “Yours to Discover”

By Donald Langis

Entering the *Employees Assistance Program’s* website is comparable to Dorothy’s experience in “The Wizard of Oz” when she leaves her drab black and white world to experience a colorful world of make-believe.

The only difference is that the *EAP’s* website is the real thing where you will find a wide variety of subjects. Wellness, mental health, and finances are just a few of the subjects that are covered. And then there’s a section on the pandemic.

The *EAP* program offers us two choices and is only a click away on the main page of our association’s website. Click on *Programs* and scroll down to *EAP Resources Center*. Then click on *Learn more*.

The first choice is requesting a private telephone conversation with a specialist. It’s as simple as picking up the telephone, dialing 1-866-838-2025 and requesting the help of a specialist in the field of your choice. Your multiple consultations are free (believe it or not).

The second option is the website where you have access to a wealth of information. On this website the sky is the limit. At your leisure, you can consult documents dealing with questions such as anxiety, fitness, stress, depression, bereavement, and sleep. You can also read the *EAP’s* newsletter. All of these documents have been prepared by experts in their field.

As they say in Ontario, the world is “yours to discover”.

Changes Coming to Special Assistance Fund

by Dan Oldfield

Last May, the CBC advised the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits that it would no longer handle the administration of the Special Assistance Fund. This unilateral decision has caused some havoc in ensuring that those seeking the assistance are actually getting it. People did not receive their cheques until December. The PNA was facing a similar scenario this month but forced an ad-hoc special sub-committee meeting. Thanks to the efforts in the PNA National office, most of the requests submitted for approval were ratified at the March meeting. The PNA offered to take over the administration of the fund. It is hoped that a transfer of administrative duties will take place in time to deal with requests at the June meeting.

Vital Statistics

Milestone Birthday

Our regional treasurer, David Carr, celebrated his 90th Birthday on March 29, 2021.

New Members

Michel Bertin –NB	Jean-Albert Maire- NS
Janine Blanchard – NB	Kathryn Morse - NS
Shelly Bridges – NS	Robert North - NS
Brian Chisholm	David Pate – NS
Terry Crocker – NS	Eric Perron – NB
Michael Farrington – NS	Marc Poirier – NB
Evelyn Foex – NB	Neil Savoy – NS
Joe Gillis – PEI	Kevin Shaw - NB
Jacquelyn Good – NS	Connell Smith – NB
Michael Lewis – NS	Leo Theriault – NB
Allan MacLean – NS	Brian Thomas - NS
Patricia MacLean – NS	
Karen Mair – PEI	



Deceased Members 2020/2021

Paul Barr Apr. 29, 2021
Jeannie Lee Brickenden – Nov. 17, 2020
Mary Cleary – Nov. 25, 2020
Marguerite Cooper – Apr. 8, 2020
Virginia Covey – Nov. 24, 2020
Francine Doiron – Feb. 24, 2020
Jean-Guy Doucet – Jan. 21, 2020
Gerard Forest – Jan. 15, 2020
Gisele Fournier – Apr. 16, 2020
Louise Fredericks – Jan. 24, 2021
Pauline Harborne – Mar. 8, 2021
David Hayes – Mar. 29, 2021
Ronald Hill – Apr. 27, 2020
Patricia Kennedy – Feb. 18, 2020
George Leblanc – Dec. 5, 2020
Leo Leblanc – Nov. 22, 2020
Thomas Pottie – May 2, 2020
Emerson Rudderham – June 10, 2020
Barbara Service – Dec. 24, 2020
Gordon Smith – Apr. 6, 2020

Others who worked at CBC Maritime stations
(non – pensioners)

George Boyd – July 7, 2020
Jack Kellum – Dec. 4, 2020
Shannon Murray – May 23, 2020

Please contact Kathy Large
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story suggestions for “Station Break”.

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