



With any luck, CBC Pensioners and friends will be gathering in all three provinces for a cheery meet and greet and a nice hot Christmas dinner.

Halifax Christmas Dinner Dec. 8th

All CBC PNA members in mainland Nova Scotia are invited to attend our Christmas dinner planned for Wednesday, December 8th at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 142, 50 Hillcrest Street, corner of Main Avenue in Fairview. It has been a long time since many of you were able to come together so please consider joining your former colleagues and friends to mark the festive season. Members will gather at 11am for a meet and greet (cash bar) with dinner served at 12 noon.

"Pause-indicatif Maritimes" 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)

The Menu

Garden Salad with Italian Dressing
Turkey Dinner with Gravy, Coleslaw, Mashed Potatoes,
Mixed Peas & Carrots
Roll & Butter
Pumpkin Pie, Tea and Coffee

NO CHARGE!

This is free to every member who attends along with one guest. Additional guests are \$20.00 per person.

Covid-19 regulations require proof of double vaccination, masking on entrance, hand sanitation and a sign-in with name and phone # for a contact tracing list.

As in past years, we invite you to share some of your Christmas cheer with those less fortunate. We ask members to bring a small gift for charity - something warm such as socks or scarves or gloves or a wooly hat. The donations must be unwrapped and in an open paper or plastic bag. A cash gift in lieu would also be very welcome. Claire Brownell looks after the appeal.

The caterer needs to know how many people are coming by Thursday, December 2nd. If you are planning to attend, please send your name and how many coming (1 or 2) to David Carr at any of the following contacts:

davidscribe@aol.com

(902) 457-1837

413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8

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Moncton Christmas Dinner Dec. 11th

Saturday, December 11th, at the Pere Patrice LeBlanc Centre, 91 Murphy Avenue in Moncton.

Meet and greet at 5pm followed by dinner at 6pm. Reservations must be made no later than Tuesday, December 5th by calling Ronald Cormier at 506-830-8435 or by e-mail to rcormier8563@rogers.com.

Price for members and their spouse or partner is \$5 and for non-members \$25.

The meal will be a turkey dinner with all the fixings; dessert, tea and coffee are included. Chef Michael Cormier will cater this event. There will be a cash bar available.

IMPORTANT: Please note that you need to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and have valid identification in order to attend the dinner. Wearing of a mask is also required until you have reached your seat. Masks are also required to move about inside/outside the dining room.

If the situation changes and the government of New Brunswick imposes new restrictions which make it impossible to hold our Christmas dinner, we will advise you of the cancellation.

Cape Breton dinner Dec. 2nd in Sydney

The Cape Breton chapter will gather on Thursday, Dec. 2nd at the Cambridge Suites in Sydney in the Keltic Room. The dinner will be provided at no cost, with a cash bar. Reservations must be sent to Mary Munson by Nov. 26th mmunson@ns.sympatico.ca

PEI luncheon Dec. 8th

A recent survey of PEI chapter members showed that most want to get together for a holiday party this year, despite continuing Covid-19 limitations. Ask - and you shall receive!

Your chapter has booked a holiday luncheon on Wednesday, December 8th in the Province's Room at The Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, 75 Kent Street, Charlottetown. Guests can arrive at 11:30 for a meet and greet and to catch up on everyone's news. A three-course hot turkey lunch will be served starting at 12 noon.

We need to know by Friday, December 3rd who will be attending. There is no charge for lunch as the chapter will be picking up the tab. Please contact Kathy Large at largekathy22@gmail.com or 902-394-4966 to reserve a spot.

Please note: guests must provide the Hotel with proof of vaccination and ID to attend. Masks are required while moving through the building. All CPHO protocols are being followed by hotel staff.

President's Report

As I write this, we are hoping we will be able to see each other at our traditional December parties for the first time in two years.

In the meantime, please let me on behalf of the regional board wish you a happy Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or just plain merry holiday season in the coming weeks.

It's been quite a year. Because of the pandemic, we have more than twice had to delay an annual general meeting. That has left us without a proper election to confirm your regional executive and board members. The board has taken the irregular step of passing a motion to confirm the temporary status of several new board members, and the serving executive, until you can directly and indirectly

approve a new slate. We are asking for your interim support for this step, knowing that we will have an AGM in the spring, one way or the other, to bring us back under your democratic authority.

Ironically, it's been perhaps the busiest year in the association's history at all levels, nationally, regionally and locally. We've taken on numerous projects, elected a new national board and executive, set our goals for the next three years and instituted several new standing committees to carry them out. We have also sat down at the table with CBC management over some sensitive issues to press our case on behalf of retirees, and much more.

We have identified recruitment of new members as our top-most priority, and we continue to ask you to help us identify retirees who have not yet joined so we can explain to them why their membership is so important to all of us.

If you know someone like this, please let us know. We can send them a package of information to explain how we serve retirees and how important their support is in making this possible. You can reach me at any time via the contacts at the end of this letter. For that or any other issue or question you need answered, call me or write me. If I don't know, I can find out. And don't forget that our new website can be a powerful tool for contacts and information. You can find it here:

<https://www.cbcpensioners.ca>

Please read and enjoy this newsletter, produced and edited by the wonderful Kathy Large and Hélène Branch with help from a squad of great contributors, and let us know of any ideas you have for stories or improvements.

Geoff Turnbull,
Maritimes Region President,
CBC Pensioners National Association
g.turnbull1645@gmail.com
902-441-4978
3 Clearview Crescent, Dartmouth NS B3A 2M7

Failure of the mediation process

Efforts to mediate a dispute between the CBC and the PNA and its Unions over the validity of the Memorandum of Agreement on Pension Surplus Sharing have failed to reach a settlement. Nevertheless, the mediators from Canada's Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services have asked the parties to agree to a suspension of the process in order to reflect on their respective positions. No new further mediation sessions are planned, and the parties are scheduled to take the matter before the appointed arbitrator, retired judge Dennis O'Connor, at the end of February 2022 for a binding decision.

The mediation had been requested by the CBC but the Corporation has reiterated its position that the deal, negotiated in 2009, has expired, notwithstanding the fact the agreement contains no expiry date and, in fact, calls on the parties to merely "review" the agreement every 10 years. The PNA and Unions challenge that position.

Alain Pineau
President

CBC Disbands the EAP Board

The CBC has decided to dismantle the long-running Employee Assistance Program, a decision that took the Pensioners National Association and the Unions by surprise. The PNA and the Unions were told of the decision after the fact, and after the staff were reassigned.

Dan Oldfield, the PNA's representative to the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits, provided further details: "What we know at this point is that they have unilaterally killed the joint Executive

Board, which included representatives from the PNA, the Unions and the CBC that oversaw and developed strategy for EAP. It made this move unilaterally, a move that excludes employees and retirees from any meaningful consultation.”

The National Board of the PNA will be lodging a protest with CBC management.

EAP services have long been provided by a third party. The oversight and direction of that third party will now come only from the CBC. Oldfield calls this “a short-sighted and unnecessary action.”

The new program is described as “an integrated digital platform offering comprehensive total individual wellbeing (Well@Life) to employees and their eligible dependents from best-in-class third-party providers.” Oldfield says this would seem to indicate that PNA members will no longer be included although that has not yet been determined.

The CBC executive in charge of the EAP program is now Vicki McCormick, the director of benefits and disability management. She hasn’t responded to a request for further information.

New Brunswicker on National Executive



The Maritime region can now boast two elected members on the national CBC pensioners’ 14-member board. In addition to the president, Geoffrey Turnbull, the new addition is Donald Langis, elected to the position of vice-president (francophone) on

the 4-member executive committee during the Spring triennial meeting.

Donald worked his way up in the radio and television newsroom in the Moncton production center where he retired in 2005 from the news director position. As a retiree, he joined the Pensioners National Association (PNA) where he eventually became president of the Moncton Chapter. His election called for his resignation from this position and also from the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) where he was the association’s representative. The New Brunswick chapter comprises nearly 200 members.

A Southwest NB Chapter?

I have been interim president of the Moncton Chapter for the past six months. During this time, I have spent many hours making phone calls and sending emails trying to bring to fruition something that is dear to many of us. Namely, the previous Maritime president John McKay, the current Maritime president Geoff Turnbull, past Moncton president Donald Langis and myself, Carole Ryan. We all hope one day to create a new chapter for Fredericton and Saint John retirees.

Neither Sleet nor storm nor pandemic will stop us

In an attempt to meet with association members in Saint John and Fredericton in 2019, my predecessors travelled through a snowstorm. Unfortunately, the weather was so bad that day, not many members attended. Not long after, in 2020, the pandemic hit, making travelling and meeting people from other regions difficult.

This fall, on the heels of so many getting vaccinated, we optimistically scheduled a meeting with these two regions for September. Regrettably, just before our scheduled visit to Fredericton, Covid-19 cases increased and we made the difficult decision to cancel. Within a few weeks the province implemented a “circuit breaker” for

Southeast NB. Soon after, Southwest NB was in the same predicament. We tried hosting a virtual meeting via Zoom. Although we made some headway, we have concluded that in-person meetings are required for this type of work.

Before the current “circuit breaker” came about, members from the Fredericton and Saint John area were actively looking for a venue to have a Christmas lunch for NB SW members. However, because of all the ups and downs of the pandemic and the changing health guidelines, they were not able to secure a venue.

I sincerely hope that many existing members will attend the Spring Luncheon this April / May 2022. We also hope that retired employees who are not yet members will attend and consider becoming members. Let’s all work together to form a new southwest chapter in New Brunswick.

Carole Ryan, Moncton Chapter president

Sue Dexter has gone back to (Seniors’) College

She may be retired, but she hasn’t stopped learning

Sue Dexter had a long career as a successful radio producer.

Nearly ten years ago she decided she still had lots more to learn, so she became involved with Seniors’ College in Mahone Bay, on Nova Scotia’s South Shore.

“You haven’t stopped living just because you are retired.” And she says, “You don’t want to be stuck at home... this program allows you to indulge in things you’ve always been interested in.”

Seniors’ College isn’t a university course – but it offers a similar experience, according to Carol MacAskill, publicity

chair of Seniors’ College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS). “Our president likes to quote one student who told her she always wanted to go to university but couldn’t. So now she can come here and learn. We like to make sure people know there is no homework, no tests and no stress!”

For Dexter, one of the best features of Seniors’ College is the chance to explore subjects that interest you. “Some of the courses I remember with a lot of pleasure. One that comes to mind was about the history of women in Roman and Greek times. It was offered by the former head of classics at St. Mary’s University who spent her whole life on these studies. She had made many trips and was very knowledgeable so she could really open up the topic for you.”

“Another one was about the Italian Renaissance. It was offered by Greg Galbraith, a retired high school teacher who had made a number of trips to Italy and was able to weave in his experiences as a traveller with the information about the statues and paintings he was showing us.”

Dexter is not just a student. She has been on the local organizing committee and right now is helping develop a course on aboriginal issues for winter 2023.

“Seniors College is a really good deal,” says Dexter. “For a single fee you can take as many courses in the year as you want and you meet a lot of brilliant people. They have been very successful in their careers and they don’t want to stop talking.” As you can imagine, many of the instructors are retirees themselves

About 700 Nova Scotians were members of the Seniors’ College before the pandemic. There are programs in Halifax, Mahone Bay, Chester, Liverpool and Truro. The yearly fee of \$150 plus HST covers all three terms – spring, fall and winter.

The Association’s Carol MacAskill is high on the social aspect of the courses. “People love to get together. And since the pandemic they are really missing these opportunities to share a tea or coffee and a snack and catch up with their fellow students,” she says. The

Halifax program is working to include more social time in its schedule as well.

The pandemic has made things difficult, but SCANS has been able to adapt, thanks to a hardworking group of technical volunteers who helped instructors create a series of Zoom-based courses. In the fall term, five province-wide courses have been offered.

MacAskill says the group is planning to return to in-person classes and a hybrid schedule for the winter term. But the decision hasn't been made yet as they watch and wait to see how things go with the Covid-19 pandemic.

“That can only happen when we feel we can do it safely – considering we are dealing with a more vulnerable age group since all students are 50+ years of age.”

Before the pandemic, students in Mahone Bay could pick from 4 classes in the spring and fall and 2-3 in the winter, when travelling is more of a problem on the South Shore.

More information about the programs offered by the Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS) is available on its website: <https://www.thescans.org/>

Elsewhere in the region:

New Brunswick:

Tantramar Seniors' College :
Classes offered in Sackville, Shediac, Moncton and Amherst with some cancellations due to Covid-19.

Winter 2022 offerings (beginning in late January) will mostly be online via ZOOM with some in-person, outdoor classes. Should the situation improve, we hope to offer in-person, indoor classes again beginning in the spring term (late April).

Annual membership fee: \$120

Contact: John Wales

tscordinator@gmail.com

Université du troisième âge (UTASE)

The Université du troisième âge, in partnership with the University of Moncton, offers to seniors 65 and over, the possibility to assist, free of charge, to most classes given on campus. In light of the pandemic, signing-up for in-person classes was quite compromised last year. Normally, and under certain conditions, classes offered on campus are accessible. But things have changed. If you want to inquire about the present situation l'UTASE asks that you reach the Éducation permanente office of the university.

506-858-4000

info@umoncton.ca

Prince Edward Island

<https://www.seniorscollege.ca/Classes> offered in all three counties. Covid-19 health protocols in place.

Winter 2022 classes are listed on the website.

Annual membership fee: \$160

Contact: seniorscollege@upe.ca

Financial Report

Most certainly, the April thru November months of this current fiscal year, have been financially uneventful.

In normal times, we would have held five General Meetings and one Annual during this 8-month period. Due Covid-19 however, we held only one General, resulting in reduced facility rental and catering expense.

However the beat goes on and the Board continues to meet monthly (virtually) to carry out regular business. Expenses for the period totalled \$1,016.12: Administrative such as printing, ink, postage et al, along with the only General held.

So, we started the year on 01 April/21 with a bank balance of \$17,124.63 and as of 31 October/21, a balance of \$22,022.04. A surplus to date, of \$4,897.41.

So financially, the Region's finances are in good shape.

If anyone would like more information, please contact me at davidscribe@aol.com or (902) 457-1837 or 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8

Respectfully Submitted
David Carr
Treasurer, Maritimes

Meet our new board members

Despite the cancellation of our AGM in early October, the new board members who had agreed to serve have started their terms. The regional board passed an emergency motion which recognizes their role as board members pending confirmation at the next annual general meeting. Please welcome them all to their new roles:



Shelley Bridges – Maritimes Board Secretary

Shelley Bridges was a Senior Account Manager with CBC's Media Sales and Marketing Department for 25 years with a hiatus in the late 90s to be home with her two children. She was

the recipient of several achievement awards with CBC before retiring in 2014. Prior to that, she worked in the media department with CTV Atlantic.

Christine Morris – Fredericton (Director)



Chris was a journalist for many years in the Maritimes. She started with the Halifax Herald and worked briefly for CBC-TV. She signed on with The Canadian Press in 1979 and stayed with the wire service until 2009. She was stationed in Fredericton apart

from several years in Washington during the Clinton administration. She met her husband, CBC journalist Paddy Gregg, in Fredericton and they married in 1980. Paddy died in 2013 and Chris joined the Pensioners' Association as a surviving spouse. She is serving on the PNA national standing committee on recruitment.



Marc Savoie – Moncton (Director)

Marc Savoie worked for more than 30 years as a television director, receiving many awards and recognitions –an Anik Award (1989), nomination at the Géméau Award (1999), first award at the Canadian Art Conference (1991), Atlantic

Journalism Award (1991) and B'nai Brith Canada (1984). He directed the 2010 documentary PLUS GRAND QUE LA MER, (Larger than the sea) on climate change and its potential consequences in the Maritime Provinces. in 2015, Radio-Canada cut his job and asked him to retire.



Carole Ryan – NB Chapter President

Carole Ryan agreed to take on the interim presidency of the Moncton chapter after Donald Langis was elected national vice-president (Francophone). Her career at Radio-Canada focused on technical work. She was a master control room

technician for TV and radio, switcher, CCU operator, character generator operator as well as instructor and Technical Producer. She served as president of the local technician union STARF and was an EAP volunteer from 1988 to 2015 (27 years) including a ten year term on the National EAP Board. In retirement, Carole practises Tai Chi, yoga and walks her dog as well as being a voracious reader.

(Continued on page 8)

Mary Munson – Cape Breton Chapter (acting president)



Mary Munson retired from the CBC after a 37-year career as a script assistant, producer and documentary producer. She worked on such well-known programs as Mr. Dressup, Take 30, CBC Compass in Charlottetown, CBC Midday, The Journal and the Health Unit where she produced an award-winning documentary

“Angela’s Journey”. That was the story of a patient’s experience with metastatic breast cancer. In 2006, she joined CBC Land and Sea, a national program based in Halifax. In the space of 7 months in 2011 and 2012, she married Dave Cameron, who is also a CBC pensioner, retired from CBC and they moved to Cape Breton where she is now with the local CBC PNA chapter.

Moncton AGM elects new board



Standing: Claire Collette (director) Anne Godin (director) Nicole Bourque (treasurer) Sitting: Ronald Cormier (secretary), Carole Ryan (president), Donald Langis; past president - Missing Sylvie Paquin St-Onge (vice-president)

Moncton Chapter AGM

On June 18th 2021 at the request of the Moncton Board of Directors I accepted the interim presidency. The role of Board President comes with its fair share of writing. As a result, past presidents have often had backgrounds in journalism and editing. As many of you know, my background is a technical one and although I’m an avid reader, writing is not my greatest strength. That being said, I’m an expert at surrounding myself with people who are skilled in areas that I am not. As luck would have it, I have a published author, Ronald Cormier as board secretary. Furthermore, Helene Branch, who spent her career as a radio journalist, has accepted the task of being the contributing French editor for the association’s twice-yearly newsletter.

Having a great team in place allowed me to shift my focus over to organizing meetings and activities. Well, I soon realized that trying to get things organized in “The Time of Covid” is not that easy. One step forward two steps back, has become the norm.

On November 10th we were able to have our first Annual General Assembly in person in over 18 months. It was held at the Moncton Press Club at 2pm on a windy, rainy, cold afternoon but that didn’t stop 28 members from coming out and enjoying a reunion with their colleagues and vote for their new board members. It was a wonderful meeting. We voted in all but two new board directors. Claire Collette, who led the nomination committee, said “what she looked for in candidates were a variety of people who had worked in different positions within the CBC before they retired”. Well done Claire, we have a diverse group of people! From the radio side, we have a host and a journalist. From the TV side, we have a studio artist, a technician, and a producer. Finally, from the admin. side we have an Executive Assistant and someone from human resources. To round out our group we have Donald who is staying on our board as Past President and National Vice President, francophone. Additionally, we have Marc Savoie, who sits on the communications standing committee and Chris Morris

(Fredericton), who sits on the recruitment standing committee. Both have been invited to attend our Moncton Board meetings.

I am delighted and overjoyed; I feel like Moncton has a fantastic collection of people who are ready to move things forward. We will have our first Board meeting with me presiding on November 24th. Several board members have already brought forward ideas for discussion and we will finalize our Christmas get together.

My Best Wishes to everyone,
Carole Ryan
Moncton Chapter President

A big thank you to Francis Porelle



After meticulously keeping the New Brunswick Chapter's accounts for 21 years, Francis has decided to pass the task on to others. And the person who succeeds him will be only the second to occupy this position. In fact, Francis has been around our section since it was created in 2000.

BRAVO, Francis, a thousand and one BRAVOS. For your brilliant career of almost 30 years as a technician at RC-Moncton, and for your ability to maintain a communication network with amateur radio for several decades. (A hobby which allowed you to help out a few Quebecers during the ice storm of 1998.) Could this be the secret of your immortal youth? I'm certainly not the only one who would one day want to be and do like you.

Benoît Duguay, outgoing vice-president,
NB Section of ANRSRC

From TV producer to published author

Mary Munson's 41 years working for CBC television didn't prepare her for a big challenge she undertook in her retirement. She decided to write a book about fairies and fairy folklore in Cape Breton. "I made a documentary about the topic for *CBC Land and Sea* but I was dissatisfied and felt that I had to cut too many stories and that there was more to learn," she said.

So for months she gathered information and contacts and eventually started writing the book. "The first draft was flat and uninteresting. Many times I thought I would walk away from this project."

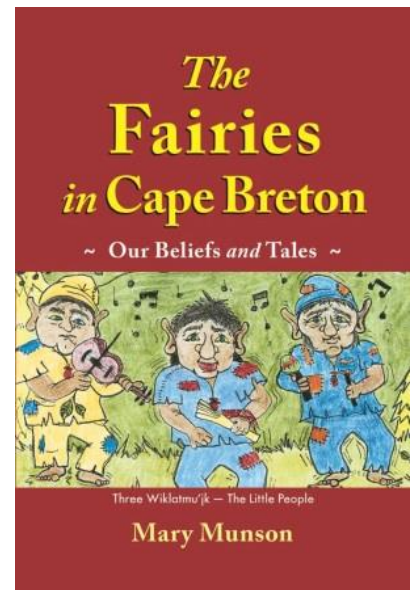
"After looking for the reasons why it wasn't working, I realized that my narrative was all about the search for fairies from Cape Breton. Realizing that freed me up to talk about the meetings I had with people, their frame of mind and other aspects of our conversations."

"In many cases, I had to establish a relationship and tell people a lot about myself before they reached a comfort level to tell me their stories.

Friends are surprised by the characterization of the fairies on the cover of her book. "They are expecting Disney-type fairies with wings and fairy dust," Mary says.

Instead, she discovered the fairies of Cape Breton folklore are generally male, very small and dressed like the humans they interact with.

"They live in nature. Very rarely do they come inside any buildings or homes to visit." However, one Mi'kmaw



story she collected is about the Witlakmu'jk coming inside to look for food.

Writing the book was a completely new challenge for Mary. "In TV, you are always working as part of a team that includes a camera operator, an editor and someone vetting with you. When you are writing a book like this, you are all alone without support. Even if you are Margaret Atwood, you are still sitting down each day to write on your own."

She admits her experience as a TV producer also was at the root of one of her first big mistakes in this project. Her TV experience told her to "book the guest" so she lined up numerous interviews. But she discovered that was the wrong way to go about the work. She needed to do a lot more preliminary research on the subject before she was in a position to ask the right questions in those interviews.

She also had to work hard at learning how to tell her story in this format. "In TV, you rely on the pictures to tell your story." Now, she had to develop the skills of creating scenes with words and dialogue instead of videotape.

"*The Fairies in Cape Breton*" should be available in bookstores all over Atlantic Canada by late November.

For the record

Deceased Members

Joseph - Andre Chiasson - Sept 2020
James Longmire - June 2021
Gordon Gillis - July 2021
Donald Leblanc - June 2021
Lillian Wilson - July 2021
George Mackenzie - August 2021
Margaret Doyle - Sept 2021
Doris Hall - Oct 2021
John Phillips - Oct 2021
Jean Ring - Nov 2021

New Members

Marc Bastarache - NB
Gisele Boulay - NB
Joe Gillis - PE
Brigitte Lavoie - NB
Mary Munson - NS
Marc Poirier - NB
William Preeper - NB
Cyril Ryan - NB
Eileen McInnis - NS
Claire Nantes - PE
Heather Gillis - NS
Jeannine Leblanc - NB
Pierre E. Leblanc - NB
Peter Sutherland - NS

Michel Charron - NB
Micheline Rioux - NB
Agostinho Carvalho - NB
Abbe Lanteigne - NB
Colin King - NS
Susan Allen - NS
Andre Carrier - NB
Camille Leblanc - NB
Margaret Isaacs - NB
Emile Babin - NB
Guy Babineau - NB
John Hancock - NS (Dec 2021)
Wendy Martin - NS



CBC Pensioners National Assoc.

Website : <http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/>

CBC Pensioners National Association
Dianne St-Germain - Coordinator
Suzie Bougie - Assistant
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 10:00 to 16:00
1-877-361-9242
info@cbcpensioners.ca
290 Picton Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1Z 8P8

CBC Pensioners' Association Maritimes :
Geoff Turnbull, President
Phone : 902-441-4978
g.turnbull1645@gmail.com
3 Clearview Crescent, Dartmouth NS B3A 2M7

Newsletter editor (English) Kathy Large
largekathy22@gmail.com

Newsletter editor (French) H el ene Branch
branchnb@gmail.com