



The Good Life

Newsletter of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of The CBC Pensioners National Association

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December 2021



Nationally (highlights)

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.

For more info click on: <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca>

"Happiness is not the absence of problems; it's the ability to deal with them."

Steve Maraboli

President

VP-Anglophone

VP-Francophone

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Alain Pineau



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Regionally (highlights)



It is December already. Merry Christmas.

Are you wondering what is happening in the Ontario Region? Plenty!

First, the disappointing news. Mediation between the CBC, the Unions and the Pensioners' Association has failed. Three days of talks and the CBC is maintaining its position that the Memorandum of Agreement covering pension surpluses has expired. The issue now goes to Arbitration in February of 2022. It is important that you know that the MOA, when agreed to in 2009, has no expiration date.

"If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else."

The PNA and the Unions will be formally discussing the dissolving of the Employees Assistance Program with CBC management very soon. The CBC has arbitrarily eliminated the volunteer EAP board and is currently seeking bids from an outside company to offer a virtual program with no local volunteer input.

The situation with the Special Assistance Fund has been resolved. Canada Life will continue paying the recipients under direction of the CCSB. Our National Office will continue to aide retirees in filling out the forms and forwarding the applications to the CCSB.

All the suggestions and work that came out of the National Convention last May are moving forward. Committees of volunteers are being formed and will be working with the National Board to implement the plans. Even though we will have a supercharged recruiting team and plan working hard to increase our membership numbers, remember – the best recruiting is done one-on-one. You can have a big impact on the person you are talking with. Plant the seed. Encourage them to seriously consider membership. The PNA is the only authorized group that can talk to the CBC on their behalf and for their benefit.

Although the above items are National Board items, the Ontario Region leadership has been strongly involved in all of it.

The Ontario Region Board has been meeting via Zoom every two months and we continue to keep in touch with our membership. Any issue that affects our membership is dealt with as quickly as possible. We are available by phone or email for any questions or suggestions that you may have. Feel free to contact us.

This is my last year as President of the Ontario Region. An election will be held in early October of 2022. I encourage every one of you to seriously consider getting involved. Even if it is just on a Chapter level. There is no feeling like you get knowing you have helped someone. The job is NOT onerous. You have great support in the people around you.

There is a lot more that I can say but it is most important that we look to the future. It is YOU and I combined.

Merry Christmas and let us all plan to party together in 2022.

Respectfully,

Gerry Head

President Ontario Region

CBC Pensioners National Association



Locally – Southwestern Ontario (SWO)

“Happiness is a constant work-in-progress, because solving problems is a constant work-in-progress – the solutions to today’s problems will lay the foundation for tomorrow’s problems, and so on. True happiness occurs only when you find the problems you enjoy having and enjoy solving.”

Mark Manson



What a difference a month can make! Although, we have not yet brought the snow shovels out it doesn’t look like it will be a long wait (?). As many of you know, that down in the SWO area, it is not uncommon to celebrate the Christmas season wearing spring clothing. Still a little snow around Christmas day is always welcomed.



CONTINUED NEWS – UPDATE

Originally your board’s thoughts were to possibly look at a gathering early/late spring and we will continue to monitor all the recommendations by the different levels of the health organizations.

We will plan and prepare for a 2022 summer BBQ and of course our yearend celebration scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd. As we get closer to those events we will send out updated information. On that note, at the present time we have 75% of our membership subscribed to email. For those that receive our newsletter by Canada Post, if possible and available, please consider sending in **an** email address. It allows us to quickly communicate with our Members should the need arise. Feel free to contact any of your board members listed above.

Our yearly AGM will take place once again by Zoom, on Wednesday, December 15 at 12:00(noon). Please save the date and time. Details regarding connecting will be sent out in early December.



Although celebrations may be limited once again this year, the enjoyment of Families and Friends will always add a smile and happiness to all! Your Board would like to wish everyone a wonderful, safe and healthy Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Gino

Sandy

Jackie

Gerry

Manny

President

Vice-President

Treasurer

Director

Director



Visit our Facebook site (copy and paste the link) to view many of our past activity photos.

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

'THE CONTINUING SAGA OF: HERE IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN UP TO'

Herb Colling (News Reporter – Radio)



When I was working, I considered my retirement date of 2009, and thought that it would never arrive. Now, I look back and realize that my working life is so far distant that I barely remember it. Some would say, just as well. It's hard to believe that a working life can be so easily replaced, but I find there's less time in a day now than there was back then.

Since retiring, I finished, and published, my latest book *Ford City*, and have been promoting it ever since. I've edited a book called *Radio Transcriptions*, historical vignettes from the '50s; and have written several other booklets for my own edification.

To keep busy, pre-covid, Anne and I were doing sales of glass, books, and china at local flea markets; stocking up at auctions and garage sales on weekends. We hope to return to it in the new normal. Unfortunately, we haven't been travelling; but for excursions to family and friends throughout Ontario, bubbling as it were. We look forward to two trips we booked prior to covid, as well as touring Ireland, going back to England, and Asia when time and safety allow. In the meantime, Anne is working as a crossing guard and mentor/monitor at a local primary school.



We've both been reading; and I have resurrected my stamp collection, working on it assiduously. A dealer friend says I now have one of the best French stamp collections in the country. I've also been working on Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Germany, England, Korea, Vietnam, and, of course, Canada and the U.S. For two years, I was editor of *The Canadian Philatelist*, a stamp magazine put out by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.



I'm also still teaching Elder College courses, but by zoom. We've been doing work projects around the home, sailing and golf league in the summer, and will resume curling this fall. It all takes away from naptime. So, lately, I've been thinking that I should go back to work at CBC. I could use the rest. But I think they've changed the locks. My card key hasn't worked in some time. Nor have I.



Rob Miller (Executive Producer of Radio, Television, Online News and Assignment Producer)

Hi Everybody. The past year has been a busy one for me even with the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

Since the gyms re-opened in July I've been working out 6 or seven days a week. Nothing spectacular, lightweights but it's good for my physical and mental health.

Like many of you I've been spending a lot of time on Zoom. I just finished a series of webinars called Seniors' Views on Facebook. It was sponsored by a Federal grant for the Windsor Centre for Film, Digital Media and Creative Arts. I interviewed people from the community under the theme "Then and Now" talking about how things have changed over the years as reflected in their careers.



My first show was with our former CBC colleague Marty Adler who not only talked about his broadcasting career but how he survived esophageal cancer and now at 78 is attempting to get a radio licence for a limited power station in the Town Amherstburg. I've also taught media relations classes for aspiring filmmakers and seniors on Zoom.

Keeping busy is not an issue as I also sit on the board of the group that has purchased the former Downtown Mission building on Victoria Avenue. It is currently being transformed into a multi-media educational, production and community centre. So far, we've created about 50 jobs to complete the renovations.

We plan to use the centre to continue the long running "Film Camp for Kids" (for children 7 to 17) as well as teaching college level courses for all ages and provide a public venue for community events.



Percy Hatfield (Municipal Affairs Reporter)



Somebody asked me the other day what life has been like after my 30 years with the CBC and did I miss being on TV. The short answer is life has been good and no, I don't miss being on TV.

I spent seven years on Windsor City Council and will have nine years as an Ontario MPP when I retire next June.

I have enjoyed my time at Queen's Park and for the past three and a half years have served as one of the "Deputy Speakers" refereeing debates in the House. I've made it a point to work across party lines and lobbied hard for such projects as the proposed new regional hospital for Windsor and Essex County.

I've had great success when it comes to Private Members Bills – which are most difficult for opposition members to achieve, seeing four of them passed into law.

One of them expanded the Day of Mourning Act – which saw flags lowered at all schools, colleges, universities, and municipal buildings instead of just provincial buildings each April as we fight for better health and safety regulations and pay tribute to those who lost their lives at work.

The other PMB I am most proud of is the Poet Laureate Bill, in memory of Gord Downie of the Tragically Hip. Randell Adjei, a young man from Scarborough became Ontario's first Poet Laureate. The idea for this came from when I was on City Council and we named Marty Gervais as Windsor's first Poet Laureate.

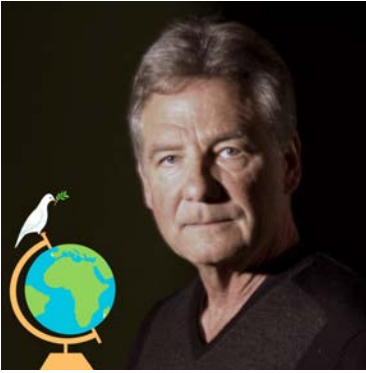
I look forward to retirement I'll be 74. Gale and I have six grand children, four girls and two boys all in the Windsor area. The oldest is just turning 11, and we'll be able to spend more time just being Grammy and Poppy.



COVID meant my travel plans were restricted, couldn't visit Newfoundland. In August, told my mom I'd see her at Thanksgiving after restrictions were lifted there. She didn't wait, passed away in mid September. She would have turned 98 in December.



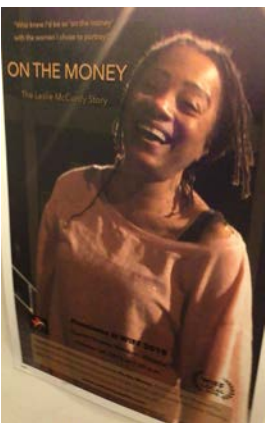
Kim Kristy (Investigative reporter/news producer)



And I wish you good health and much mirth and mistletoe through the festive season and throughout the new year.

I was asked to write a few notes about my experience with the CBC. I could write a book and few people would believe it. Some background. I started working at the station as a journalism student intern. I ended up working there for 33 years.

Way back when upper management decided to close the station and sell the property, Mayor John Millson organized a March from city hall to the station front lawn. Five thousand people joined in and they demanded the station stay open. It did but instead of a vibrant station of 134 people it was reduced to a news 'bureau.'



I retired in 2009 and formed a production company and shot travel movies and a full-length documentary movie about actress Leslie McCurdy's stage portrayal of Viola Desmond, the brave woman who stood up for racial equity and dignity. It's been on CBC Gem.

I've travelled to Peru, Spain and Portugal. I love Portugal, especially Porto. I want to buy an AirBnB there.



I'm in good health and currently story boarding a short film about alternate reality and illusion simply called Ten Seconds. Stay tuned and please stay well.



FRIENDS OF THE SWO CHAPTER

Tara Weber – (weather reporter / reporter)



Hi all, you may remember me as the weather presenter at CBC Windsor from 2006-2008. I still think back on that time fondly. We had such a great crew that worked there and the city was so welcoming. It made a big impression on my life. However, I didn't want to be a weather presenter forever. I left CBC Windsor in 2008 for City TV Toronto where I was a general reporter – covering some of the biggest stories of the day. It was fast-paced with multiple packs a day and a couple of years later when the CBC approached me to come back I jumped at the opportunity. I moved out west, closer to family and joined the team at CBC Calgary where I worked from 2010 to 2015.

In 2014, I was still doing weather stories (haha!) and was looking for new challenges outside of work. I began volunteering at local charities and decided to go back to school at night. I was accepted into the MBA program at the Haskayne School of Business at the U of C. The content was so different from my English Lit / Journalism background. Plus, my classmates were largely from engineering and finance fields, which made it a really interesting experience. I was intimidated, but learned that my writing, editing and public speaking skills were more valuable than I had ever given them credit for. I initially thought I'd focus my MBA in Marketing, but ended up with a focus in Global Energy Management and Sustainable Development.

Towards the end of 2015, I got caught up in the CBC layoffs and was contacted by BNN Bloomberg. They liked that I had journalism experience along with a business background and hired me as their Western Bureau Chief. I've been with them ever since covering the biggest news out of western Canada that impacts that Canadian economy – that's largely energy, but also the booming agri-tech sector, and of course, the recent flooding in B.C.

It's been a bit of a whirlwind and I've gotten amazing recognition for my work. I was recipient of Calgary's Top 40 under 40 class of 2018, Haskayne's Rising Star Award in 2020 and I was selected to attend the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference taking place this summer.



Here is an old one from the past. Can you name them L – R?
A small hint sitting: BB, SR, KS, and JF
Standing: EG, DM, DH, and PS



Jean-Guy Brassard
April 5th, 2021



James Albert Gagnier
May 11th, 2021



Michael Turik
September 30th, 2021