

March
2022
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The Good Life Newsletter of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of The CBC Pensioners National Association

President: Gino Piazza (226-260-4110 ginojohnpiazza@gmail.com)
Vice-President: Sandy Tymczak (519-948-4436 sandytymczak@hotmail.com)
Secretary-Treasurer: Jackie Kervoelen-Chelsea (519-979-8147 jkervoelen2@gmail.com)
Director: Gerry Goulet (519-736-0000 ggoulet8@gmail.com)
Director: Manny Pacheco (519-776-7726 manny.pacheco@cogeco.ca)

We were the first and are the longest-serving chapter within the PNA organization.

National (highlights)

Making Progress on Strengthening Communications

*"Happiness
is when
what you
think, what
you say
and what
you do are
in
Harmony"*

*Mahatma
a
Gandhi*

The CBC Pensioners National Association recently announced the creation of a Communications Advisory Board (CAB). The board is currently chaired by John Mang of British Columbia and comprises six volunteer members: Steve Athey (Toronto); Maud Beaulieu (Regina); Rich Knowles (Halifax); Claude Morin (Rimouski); Micheline Savoie (Montréal), and Talin Vartanian (Toronto).

We also announced the appointment of Catherine Schellenberg as Communications Coordinator. Catherine has acquired solid communications experience in various positions, most recently at Casino Lac-Leamy in Gatineau (Québec). With the assistance of the CAB, she will develop and implement a communications strategy and workflow processes for all communications related to activities of the PNA.

These announcements are the result of recommendations made to the National Board at the May 2021 Convention. They are a positive step in fulfilling the communications activities identified in our [Three-Year Action Plan](#).

Memorandum of Agreement on Pension Plan surplus sharing - Arbitration Update

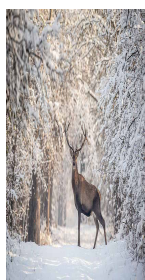
On February 25, the CBC Pensioners National Association (PNA) concluded two days of arbitration involving the Memorandum of Agreement on Pension Surplus Sharing. At issue is CBC's contention that the 2009 agreement is expired and must be renegotiated. Both the PNA and the unions oppose this position.

We presented our viewpoint to the arbitrator and will require more hearing dates to continue as witness on the stand before others do the same. Proceedings may continue into the fall.

Upcoming Annual General Assembly

The PNA will hold an in-person board meeting and AGA on May 18-19 in Toronto. Among the agenda items: ratification of the revised bylaws that were adopted by the board at its January virtual meeting.

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



President



Alain Pineau

VP-Anglophone



David Jeffrey

VP-Francophone

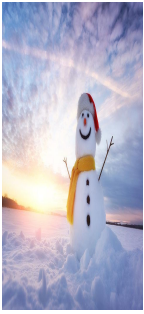


Donald Langis

Treasurer



Réjean Labrie



Regional (highlights)

Spring is here. The sun is out. The air is warming up. Light up the BBQ. Let's celebrate. The restrictions that we have been living under for the past 2 years are beginning to be removed. Soon we will be able to gather as a group and renew our friendships. Meetings will be held in person not sitting in front of a computer screen. BBQ's and parties with old acquaintances will soon be the norm. Oh, how I look forward to these days.

You ask, what has been happening with the Pensioners Association? Lots!

Planning for our first in-person meeting in two years is underway. The National Board will meet in Toronto on May 18 and 19. The Ontario Region Board is meeting on May 4th.

Resolve to
keep
happy, and
your joy
and you
shall form
an
invincible
host
against
difficulties

*Helen
Keller*

Two of our locally known members are now members of National Committees. Rochelle Porter has accepted a position on the SCEDI (Standing committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) representing the Ontario Region and Phil Peck has accepted a position on the Recruitment committee as co-chair and the representative from Ontario.

Is there a surplus of pension funds? Yes. How much? We won't know until the Pension Board meets this month. What is the status of the Memorandum of Agreement that deals with the sharing of the surplus? The parties have met with the arbitrator, Dennis O'Connor and more sessions are planned. As the President of the CBC Pensioners National Association, Ontario Region, I will go out on a limb and predict that the Association and the Unions will win this arbitration. The pension monies belong to the people who paid into it. It is our money as much as the CBCs. By the way, the limb I am going out on is very thick and strong. I have no fear of falling!

The South- Western Ontario Chapter was the first Chapter established in Canada. It is one year younger than the PNA itself. It was created through Gino Piazza urging Al Clark (the first President) to lobby the leaders of the Ontario Region at that time. This Chapter has been a leader in innovative ideas that have been adopted by the Ontario Region and the National Board. This Chapter has always had a good leadership group and we should all be proud of our heritage. Keep up the good work!

Over the next couple of years there will be a concentrated push to recruit new members. Membership is the lifeblood of this association. Where else can you get more enjoyment out of something that costs as little as the membership fee of this pensioners' group. Not only enjoyment, but a group of caring colleagues that watch out for the membership's welfare. We were proud to work together in the broadcast industry and we continue to be proud friends socially. Recruiting begins with each of us encouraging non-members to seriously consider joining.

This is an election year for the Ontario Region. You will be kept fully informed about the process. The election will take place in October. Now is the time to seriously consider becoming involved.

My wish for all of you is sunshine, green grass (weeds killed by Covid) and nothing but good health.

Respectfully,
Gerry Head
President Ontario Region
CBC Pensioners National Association



Local – Southwestern Ontario (SWO)

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward." Amelia Earhart

BREAKING NEWS – UPDATE

With many and if not all restrictions being lifted by this summer, it seems that our BBQ will take place once again at the Menard's Villa in LaSalle. All the details will be forthcoming in our Spring/Summer newsletter. Like many of you being confined or as one member put it incarcerated in my own home for such a long time and not being able to socialize with friends has put a huge void in our lives. Obviously, if there are certain mandates in place by the provincial and municipal health units we will adhere to them.

Your board did have a face-to-face meeting in December prior to our AGM and we will be scheduling another one in the coming months. One of the topics will be the planning of our upcoming BBQ, but once again we definitely need your feedback, suggestions and ideas to plan for our Chapters future.

Not being able to hold any events did have a slight positive angle. Our financial statement is, well for our chapter size, bursting. I mention this as part of our planning will be our yearend celebration **Christmas Party scheduled for Saturday, December 3rd**, so I ask you now to save the date. Also, please feel free to contact any of your board members listed for any further clarifications.

Just a Reminder - This is coming back!



2019 BBQ

Gino	Sandy	Jackie
President	Vice-President	Treasurer



2019 Christmas Party

Gerry	Manny
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'

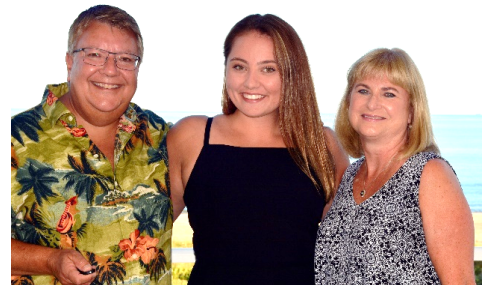
Lately I was asked when the restrictions are all lifted, will that be the end of the 'HERE IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN UP TO' saga? Personally, I feel it is still a worthwhile article to let our members know what we are up to and feel it should continue! Your comments are welcomed.

Denise Kristof (Regional Producer, Radio)



It's hard to believe that six years have passed since I retired from CBC! I don't understand where the time has gone, but it sure has been busy! My time at CBC represents such a big chunk of my life and I feel especially fortunate to have had the opportunity to work there. Not only did I meet my future husband (of 33 years) there, I also worked with some great people who became life-long friends.

Like everyone, Covid-19 has thrown a wet blanket on a lot of the plans that Steve and I had since he retired in 2020. Regardless, we are healthy and able to spend time with each other, and with family and close friends, so we consider ourselves blessed. Kara just turned 24, which seems a bit surreal. She finished her degree and has since earned further accreditations to better position her to shine in her own career.



After working for 35 years in hectic and demanding roles, I spent my first year of retirement being kind to myself and used that time to figure-out what I wanted to do. I didn't want another full-time job but I also didn't want anything too stressful.

I ended up taking a part-time job in a family-owned specialty retail shop; I previously frequented and enjoyed the social aspect of the store. Part of that job involved fitting cancer patients with wigs, which I found particularly rewarding because you could see the positive impact it had on their lives. They would leave with huge smiles because it was one aspect they could control as they went through their treatments. With Covid's arrival in 2020, I left that job because family demands increased. My 93-year-old mother's dementia started worsening, so much of the past two years have revolved around helping with her care.



Being retired has also given me time to get my "baby fix". I regularly babysit my adorable niece and nephew...they are so filled with love and share it so eagerly! I've also spent more time gardening. While this is something we've always done, with the pandemic, I really came to appreciate the "fruits" of our labour. So, what's next? I'm not really sure, other than to look toward making-up some lost time and plans that have been delayed during the past few years. Steve has taken-on a new career situation with

his writing, but because he's not punching-in every day, I look forward to travelling and doing all the things that make life fun and normal. I'm looking forward to a beach, a glass of wine and some palm trees swaying in the ocean breeze in the not-too-distant future! Stay safe everyone.

Brett Morrison (ENG Cameraman)



I retired from CBC in 2009, and my wife Karen joined me in leisure four years later when she retired from CRA. We have spent our time trying to become gardeners and enjoying time with our three sons, their wives, three grandsons and two cute Maltese dogs that have sadly passed but left us with wonderful memories. We love to ride our bicycles and hike on the Bruce Trail.

In 2010, I started a volunteer position at Computers for Kids (CFK) refurbishing old computers for school age children. I had done a story about them years earlier and I enjoyed my time there. Karen retired in 2013 and started volunteering at Hospice of Windsor & Essex County doing office and reception duties.

One day in 2014, after a major January snowstorm, Karen announced that we were going on a winter vacation. We began going to Florida for a month each winter to get out of the cold. Retirement was going well! In the summer of 2019, my oldest son's in-laws proposed a Family Caribbean Cruise in 2020, to get rid of the blahs, to celebrate my son's recent marriage and our 30th wedding anniversary. At first Karen and I said nope, six thousand people in a boat for a week in the middle of an ocean? No thanks. But, after coaxing on my son's part, we went along, and enjoyed ourselves. They had beautiful vegan/vegetarian meals and the ship was extraordinary, the largest class of ships. You hardly saw all the people except at dinner. Then, in early 2020, reports of a new virus began to fill the news, and people worried about the death tolls in foreign countries. We were fortunate because after we disembarked, we found out that our ship on its next cruise had a Covid outbreak. We returned to Windsor early March, and everyone knows what happened after that.



During the spring of 2020, we stayed at home. Our three sons and their wives delivered our groceries. We learned to live with masks, feet painted on store floors and senior shopping hours. It all seems so normal now. Oh, and jig saw puzzles. Neither of us ever did them as kids but now there is a steady flow of family puzzle sharing.

The Covid threat prompted CFK to lay off its mostly senior volunteers to protect us and keep us safe. Last year I was getting cabin fever and two months ago I started a volunteer position at Habitat for Humanity. Karen has been able to maintain her position at Hospice throughout. I do not know when this Pandemic will become an Endemic, but Karen and I are looking forward

travel once again!

FRIENDS OF THE SWO CHAPTER

Steve Kristof (*CBC Radio Technician-casual*)



It's hard to believe that it's been over 35 years since I last worked at CBC! I have fond memories of working in "Master Control" and on remotes, and cherish the friendships that were forged while there. I'll admit that I did hold on to something from CBC when I left; my wife of 33 years, Denise, who retired from CBC in 2015 as a Regional Producer. Our amazing daughter, Kara, recently turned 24.

Since 1986, I have been blessed to have done many other interesting and challenging things in my career, including owning and managing a bustling career counselling company and a small advertising and public relations firm, being a Supervisory Employment Consultant for an Atlanta-based Fortune 500 company, and taking-on other creative roles. Most recently, I retired from the education sector in 2020 after 26 years as a Lead Teacher in

communications, photography and broadcasting.

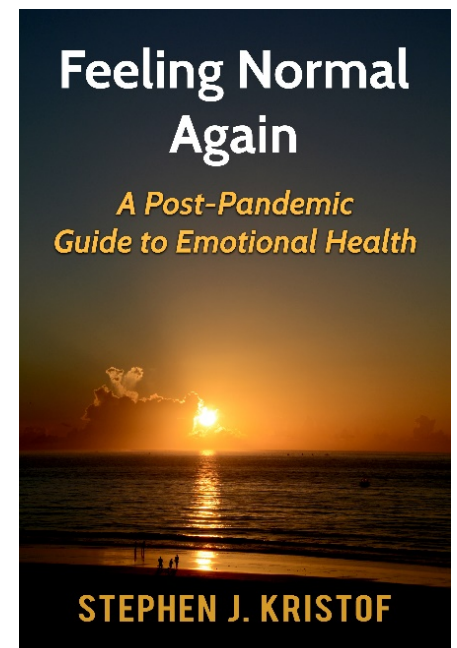
The next chapter of my career has now begun. My first "post-retirement" book has just been published. Feeling Normal Again is about emotional healing and hope; two things that are in high demand following a very difficult pandemic that has stolen two years of our lives.

I started writing this book after it became clear that so many people are struggling to simply feel normal again. Following further research, I discovered that this is a global phenomenon, with multiple

millions of people from all walks of life sharing the same feelings and suffering from similar emotional difficulties. More now than at any point in recent history do so many people feel lost; they can't understand why life no longer feels normal. I was inspired to write this book by the desire to help others understand how Covid has impacted them, and to help them heal and restore normality.

Feeling Normal Again takes an honest look at the state of our personal lives, our country and our world. It explains exactly how we have been impacted, and provides over 50 step-by-step strategies to help regain emotional balance, health, hope and faith.

Feeling Normal Again is available in e-book and paperback from [Amazon](#). Please check-out and follow my [Facebook](#) page, [Website](#) or [YouTube](#) channel for additional content and interviews. As we begin to pull out of this pandemic, let's all focus on a brighter future with more opportunities to celebrate our friendships!



Ed Everaert (Cameraman, Audio Engineer, ENG/EFP Editor)



Some of you may remember me as a former cameraman, audio engineer, and eng/efp editor for CBET. Some may also remember that I am a musician and composed theme music for CBET News for several years. I left CBET in July of 1989, although I continued to have the honour of creating Newsday theme music when the station resumed in 1994 until approximately 2004.

After leaving CBET, I became the staff TV producer for St Clair College's Media Services. We provided all video and audio production related needs for the corporate end of the college, and also provided instructor/student access to our services as well. I was also honoured to teach television production to

Advertising, Journalism, and Entertainment Technology students. I retired from the college in 2013.

Having an audio/video studio at home, I continued to compose music for many corporate clients as well as albums and videos for local artists and am still actively working on projects that interest and challenge me.

The Canadian Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, beadonor.ca Windsor Regional Hospital, Essex County Separate School Board, are past clients.

One of my favourite musical hobbies is performing live in a local bar band with my son Chad, and 2 great friends also from Kingsville. The band is called Almost Famous and we perform in the County and Windsor clubs including Cosmos (Caesars) a couple weekends a month when pandemic restrictions permit.



My wife Beth and I will be married 50 years this coming June and hope things begin to return to normal in case we feel inclined to travel or do something special. We normally vacation in Mexico at this time of year, but have been staying put since the pandemic.

However our children purchased a cabin up north a year ago and we had several wonderful excursions there this past summer with our six cherished grand children aged 7 to 17.



Life continues to be good when you look for it!



GROSSMAN-IANNI, Mina
December 15, 1943 -
February 28, 2022

