

**The CBC Pensioners  
National Association**

*Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past*

**L'Association nationale  
des retraités de la SRC**

*Assurer notre avenir, partager notre passé*

# ***THE GOOD LIFE***

## ***NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO (SWO) CHAPTER OF THE CBC PNA***

### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD**

You, our members, make the difference and we listen and thank everyone for your comments to better our newsletter design and interest. We try to pack as much information in our eight-page format as possible. Thank you once again and keep the comments coming.

This is a very special edition and, to start, congratulations to Irene Orr...page 2.

Regarding our August edition article on MINA/MIA, there was some information that was left out on MIA...page 3.

Our Chapter is still growing as we welcome two new members...page 3.

Rosalie Trombley was a very special person who influenced and brought a great deal of attention to many artists. It was a great weekend with a special guest...page 4.

How did our Chapter start? This edition explains the beginnings...page 5.

Do you love a good muscle car? We have a great surprise for you...page 6.

Photos from our vault, do you remember them? Page 7.

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**2023**

**Year-End Christmas  
Edition**

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**Christmas/AGM Gathering**

**Coming up in our 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**

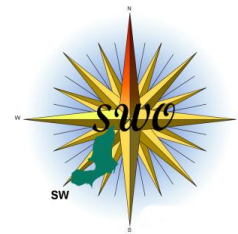
**Edition:**

**2023 Recap and Pizza  
Meeting (details to follow)**

*Proof Editor: Brian Worrall*

## **Irene Orr — Our SWO Centenarian: Joanne Hoppe**

Photos courtesy of Michael (Fitz) Fitzsimmons



By some, she's called "Gram", by others a "Wonderful Angel" and even some know her as the only person who got a standing "O" at work.

We're talking about Irene Orr, who celebrated her 100th birthday, October 12, 2023.

Irene is remembered for many things. As the Southwestern Ontario Chapter celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, Al Clark remembers Irene as its first Secretary/Treasurer who was instrumental in getting the chapter started.

Jeannette Quenneville met Irene when she started working at CBC. She remembers her "knowledge of payroll was impeccable...she was so efficient" and all of her work "was done on paper ledgers, not computers." Irene is remembered as a great mentor and was respected by management and employees alike.

Jackie Kervoelen was hired in 1975 to help with the transition from CKLW to CBC/Radio Canada. She says she was so lucky to be working beside Irene, describing her as "smart, kind, patient, capable, determined and attentive." Irene was an example of "how to adapt to change and handle stress."



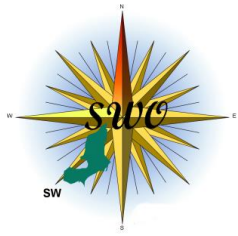
How is Irene remembered as a person who got applause at work? Every other Thursday, soft spoken and confident, Irene would come up to the TV newsroom to give out pay cheques. I remember everyone would stop what they were doing, stand at attention and start clapping. No other person was so welcome.



Though many CBC'ers remember Irene as quiet and at times shy, Irene could also be quite humorous. Apparently one of her favourite sayings is, "I'm so full I can hardly spit over my chin." That one has stayed with Jeanette over the 45 years they've been friends.

From your entire Southwestern Ontario Chapter family, **Irene**, congratulations on reaching 100! We wish you good health, a joyous celebration and a very Happy Birthday!





### **Follow up to MINA: Phil Peck**

In the previous issue of *The Good Life*, I wrote that Membership Is Not Automatic. When a member of the Association dies, their surviving spouse does not automatically become a member.

I failed to mention in the last issue, that the Enrollment Form is sent to all surviving spouses, when their partner passes away.

The National Office of the Pensioners' Association has created a package of documents they call the "wallet". It contains a brochure, a letter explaining the benefits of joining, an invitation to become a member and the Enrollment Form. Pictured is the front cover of the wallet. The wallet is sent out by the Pension Administration as soon as it learns that a pensioner has passed away.



Let's hope that a spouse who receives a wallet is already familiar with the Pensioners' Association.

It is very important that the Association maintains a significant level of membership, in order to have a strong voice when advocating for pensioners.

### **Welcome: *Our Two New Members to the SWO Chapter***



Pam Bedore spent almost 30 years at CBC taking care of business. She started in Finance, and then transitioned to do administrative work in programming and News. She retired from CBC Windsor in 2004, and says she hardly remembers working there. Pam heads south every winter to enjoy the warmer, Florida weather.

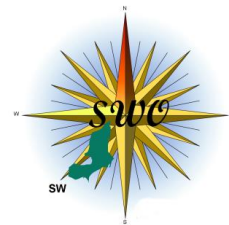
Heather Inksetter started working at CBC Windsor on Pelissier Street. She produced the local Radio Noon program for more than a decade and then became the Windsor correspondent for the regional program, Ontario Today. Prior to working in Windsor, Heather worked for Northern Services and in the National Radio Newsroom in Toronto.





## **Honouring Rosalie Trombley – CKLW: Gerald Head**

*Photos courtesy of Carol Kerr and Kevin Shea*



She was a single mother with three young kids who lived in the town where many of us were raised. She was personable and well-loved with a job that paid the bills. In those details alone, she was quite remarkable, but it was her job that made her legendary.



A statue honouring the late Rosalie Trombley, known as the Girl with the Golden Ear, was unveiled on Sunday, September 17, 2023, on the Windsor waterfront. There was a CKLW Big 8 Radio Reunion and Fan Fest in Windsor on the same day at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts in the Skyline Room. All events were open to the general public. Many of the former CKLW DJs and past CBC employees were in attendance. The CKLW DJs were available for a Q & A session.

Rosalie was hired in 1963 as a part-time switchboard operator and receptionist at CKLW. She moved into the music library and in 1968 became CKLW's music director. Her job was to find the songs that listeners liked best and eventually her decision to add a song to the playlist would influence its success. Rosalie was able to predict when an album track had the potential to become a hit single.

Rosalie was born in Leamington on September 18, 1939. She passed away on November 23, 2021. The actual statue dedication took place on what would have been her 84<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Many recording artists visited Rosalie to promote their latest single release. The music library walls were lined with gold records. Some of the groups helped by Rosalie were Earth, Wind and Fire, Elton John, Kiss, Ted Nugent, The Guess Who (Burton Cummings launched the event), the Poppy Family and Bob Seger.

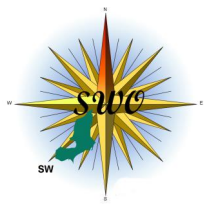
In April 1992, Rosalie was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the first annual Motor City Music Awards held in Detroit. She was



inducted into the Motor City Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Canadian Music Week Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Rosalie has also been honoured by the Walt Grealis Special Achievement Award at the 2016 Juno Awards.



A scholarship in Rosalie's name is given by St. Clair College in their Music Theatre Performance program. It was a great weekend of memories for thousands of CKLW followers throughout North America. Befitting, the statue, when placed, shows her facing Detroit where she influenced many artists. Local sculptor Donna Mayne was instrumental in making a statue of Trombley possible – including doing the artwork and sculpting.



## **Southwestern Ontario Chapter – The Beginnings Part 1:**

**Al Clark/Gerald Head** *Photos courtesy of Michael (Fitz) Fitzsimmons*

As it says in the footnote of our Newsletter, “**THE GOOD LIFE**”, “We were the first and are the longest-serving Chapter within the PNA organization.” Did you ever wonder how this came about?

First of all, let’s be reminded that many of our members joined the PNA upon their retirement in April of 2000. They signed on as members of the National Association and were administered by the Ontario Region.



Al Clark, our first Chapter President, remembers that there was a definite need for a social outlet for retired employees to get together and reminisce. Toronto and other centres had 20-year members’ associations. Windsor did not.

More importantly, as Al also states, there was a need for this area to be heard on matters of pension surpluses, medical benefits and services for retirees.

Howard Simpson (President of the Ontario Region) remembers that SWO had to ask for financial support from the Ontario Regional Board whenever SWO wanted to do something for its membership. Walter Wicks was the PNA National President when Al contacted him suggesting that this area form a Chapter.

On November 7, 2001, a motion was passed by the Ontario Regional Board “to try to get the Windsor Chapter up and running”. At that same meeting, it was moved and carried that Howard Simpson and Walter Wicks go to Windsor. Arrangements were made for Howard



Simpson and John Dixon to hold a meeting in Windsor for this purpose. An executive committee was formed with Al Clark as President, Hugh Naldrett as Vice-President, and Irene Orr as Secretary-Treasurer. In September of 2003 the Southwestern Chapter was created.

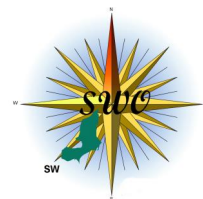
At the September 17, 2003, meeting, a motion was approved “that we (Ontario Regional Board) pay all costs of the Windsor organizing drive.” On November 26, 2003, \$500 was approved as seed money for the Windsor Chapter. The Southwestern Ontario Chapter was up and running.

Al says that the reasons for creating a chapter here in Southwestern Ontario remain the same as 20 years ago. Yes, we are a social group, but more importantly we are an advocate group. We pursue our share of pension surpluses, have input to keep medical benefits affordable and suggest and implement programs for retirees. The PNA is the only organization recognized by CBC management as official representatives of retirees.

**HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY TO CBC PNA SWO CHAPTER !**

## **Diane Leonard-Humphrey (Past Associate Producer-CBEF)**

*Nav Nanwa — Windsor Morning Host*



### **WINDSOR WOMAN'S MUSCLE CAR TRIUMPHS AT DETROIT'S WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE!**

Diane Leonard-Humphrey's 2013 Dodge Charger SRT was honoured at the Woodward Dream Cruise in Michigan. She says people still ask her if it's her husband's car, "It's 2023, guys," she said.

"Women drive nice, powerful cars." She describes herself as a car enthusiast.

The east Windsor resident's 2013 Dodge Charger won an award at the recent Woodward Dream Cruise in Michigan, where she also got to meet Jay Leno. Diane says she put off renovating her kitchen to upgrade her muscle car instead.

*So, Diane, the first question that I have for you is when did you first fall in love with muscle cars?*

It was actually when I met my husband. He was already into muscle cars. He had a 1970 Firebird. So, it just became a natural thing. I mean, when he picked me up, he was in his 1970 Firebird, and it was like, "Oh my God. Nice looking guy. Nice looking car." So, yeah, that's how it started.

*Tell me about the car that we're sitting in currently. It's quite beautiful.*

It's a 2013 Dodge Charger SRT. So, it's already 10 years old but I've had some changes made to it. I've had a new motor put in last year. It's not a modified motor — it's a brand new out-of-the-factory motor.

*Why do you like driving it?*

I always love driving. I always said to myself I should have been a trucker. But yes, I love driving. I love long trips. So, for me it was a natural thing to do to decide to get a new motor rather than a new kitchen. For now.

*We're also sitting in an award-winning car because you recently attended the Woodward Dream Cruise event in Detroit. Tell me a bit more about that experience and the award you won.*

When you go to Woodward Dream Cruise, a lot of times you go with a group, you go with the club. And I went with this group that does a car show, but they're also drag racers. So, every year I go to the Woodward Dream Cruise with them. They have car shows with awards and I've won a couple with them in the past and I was pretty honoured. I'm not there for the award. I'm there for the people.

*You also got to meet another car enthusiast, a well-known one, in fact. What was it like to meet Jay Leno?* Oh my God. That was the highlight of the show. Dodge invited a special guest, and we didn't

know until the morning who the guest was and everybody got excited because, like you said, he's a car enthusiast just like us, except his collection is like a lot more than ours. Everybody wanted to meet and take a photo with him — it was exciting. I'm very short, so I weaseled in front of



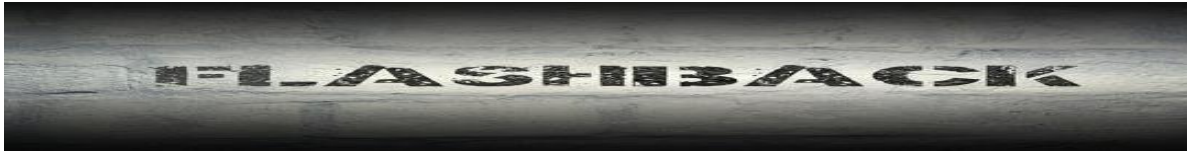




everybody— so sometimes it's an advantage. I shook his hand and I said, "Can I take a picture with you?" And he just looked at me and said, "Oh, yes."

*Diane, where do you see your love for muscle cars going in the future?*

If my budget would allow me, I would definitely have a Hellcat (Dodge Charger) but unfortunately, I have two years before retiring. Maybe someday.



Take a moment to View, Like and Comment on all our posts on Facebook, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/SWOChapterCBCPensioners>

### **From Your National (CBC PNA) Pension Surplus Update (October, 20223)**

Work is continuing towards implementation of the payout of the pension plan surplus. We had hoped that payouts would be made before the end of this year, but recent developments have left that in doubt.

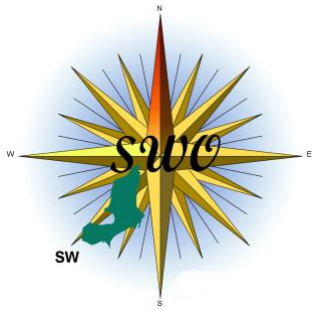
We have been notified by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), the federal body that regulates pension plans, that it is seeking to confirm that contributors, employees, and pensioners have been consulted before funds can be distributed.

We are writing to OSFI officials to provide them with more details on the role the PNA played both in achieving and ratifying the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Our goal is to offer assistance and provide evidence to demonstrate consultation is and has been taking place. What we have been told is that OSFI requires that two-thirds of all contributors must agree to the distribution of pension surpluses. It seems the regulator is prepared to accept that the Unions represent all of their members but while the PNA is recognized by the CBC as the only official representative of pensioners, it does not have the same kind of legal recognition. OSFI is therefore requiring further evidence of the will of retirees. We are hopeful our submission will assist in convincing the regulator its concerns have been addressed.

We are convinced the vast majority of employees and retirees do support the payout and that it will go ahead as agreed in the MOA. What we cannot know is what the impact will be to the timing of the payout.

We will continue to update you on developments. Donald Langis/Dan Oldfield

Visit the CBC PNA website for full details and future updates: <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca>



## **OUR ANNUAL YEAR END CHRISTMAS PARTY— AGM**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023**

**GIOVANNI CABOTO CLUB, 2175 PARENT AVENUE**

**DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM – DINNER SERVED AT 6:00PM**

**ANTIPASTO ITALIANO, PENNE PASTA WITH MEAT OR MARINARA SAUCE,  
TOSSED SALAD**

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND CABOTO'S FAMOUS ROASTED CHICKEN WITH  
ROASTED POTATOES, MIXED VEGETABLES, BREAD & BUTTER, ITALIAN PASTRY  
TWO BOTTLES OF WINE PER TABLE (RED & WHITE – INTERCHANEABLE)  
COFFEE/TEA**

**NOTE: ANY DIETARY REQUESTS, PLEASE LET US KNOW AND CONSIDER IT  
DONE!**

**FREE FOR ALL OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS AND A GUEST**

**\$25/PERSON FOR ALL OTHERS**

**\*RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE\***

***SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS: CBC PNA PRESIDENT DONALD LANGIS,***

***Marc-Philippe Laurin-Consultative Comm. on Staff Benefits & Mike Sullivan-Former CBC Windsor Radio Tech***

**RSVP TO ANY OF YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**



Gino



Sandy



Jackie



Gerry



Manny



Phil



Gerald

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