

# MARITIME STATION BREAK

## FALL 2023

### Signing Pension Surplus Consent Form Next Step; Oldfield Describes Process as a “Marathon”

By Kathy Large

A recent complication has slowed down the process of paying out a surplus from the CBC Pension Plan. About a month ago, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) decided that there hadn't been the required “significant consultation” with everyone who is affected. So no one will be receiving cheques at Christmastime, as had been hoped.

“It's been a marathon. I share every ounce of frustration that people must be feeling,” said Dan Oldfield, the PNA's representative on the Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits. But Oldfield says he is drawing on patience learned over his many years of labour negotiations. “We need to put our head down and into the wind and do what is required to move forward. It's what we have to do and we are going to do it.”



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

Oldfield said it appeared to be a formality when the distribution plan was submitted for approval to the federal government regulator. But then OSFI decided 2/3rds of the people eligible to share the surplus (employees contributing, pensioners, survivors and deferred pensioners) must be consulted and demonstrate their support. The unions have expressed support on behalf of employees who are contributing. But only 51% of the pensioners group are members of the PNA. So CBC will send a consent form by regular mail to all pensioners starting in mid-November. A signed consent form must be returned by the deadline which is December 8th, 2023.

Assuming the required support is received, calculations of individual entitlements will be completed and a 40 day waiting period required by OSFI must be fulfilled. The most recent estimate of when to expect payouts is now in the spring.

Oldfield is not anticipating any opposition from anyone to paying out the surplus. But he says it is important for everyone to return the form so the required numbers are reached. Failure to get the required 2/3rds support could prevent distribution of the money.

“I would vote against it if there was any chance the withdrawal could hurt our future pension. But there is not! This is money earned thanks to the excellent performance of the Plan's investments and is over and above what is required to maintain all current and future pensions.”

The CBC Pension Plan allows for a surplus to be paid out once the value of all investments exceeds 105% of the plan's liabilities. This surplus is being proposed because the investments are now at 120% of what is required. Approximately \$95-million dollars which comes from two years of showing a surplus will be

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shared according to a formula that is based on a person's individual lifetime contributions to the Plan.

This latest twist can be used to recruit new members. "We know the CBC pension family includes people who are not members," Oldfield said. "This is an excellent time to reach out to them and share why it is so important to send in their consent. And maybe you can share how the PNA has carried the torch on this through hundreds of hours of volunteer work and also footing the legal bills. What those people can and should do when they hear those details, is join the PNA."

*There is continuing coverage and an updated set of FAQs on the PNA's website. [www.cbcpensioners.ca](http://www.cbcpensioners.ca)*

## Christmas Parties in 5 Maritime Cities



### Halifax

The Halifax Chapter will meet at the Swiss Chalet on Lacewood Drive in Bayer's Lake on **Thursday, December 7th** at 11:30, with the meal served at 12:30. The Chapter will give each guest a \$15 gift card towards the cost of the "Festive Meal". Register with Shelley Bridges [shelleyabridges@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyabridges@gmail.com) by Nov. 24th.

### Moncton-Sackville

The Moncton - Sackville Chapter will meet at the Père Patrice LeBlanc Centre, 91 Murphy Avenue in Moncton on **Thursday, December 14th** at 5:00 p.m. with the meal served at 6:00 p.m. The cost of the meal is \$15 per person. Register with Ronald Cormier at 506-830-8435 or [rcormier8563@rogers.com](mailto:rcormier8563@rogers.com)

### Fredericton/Saint John

The Fredericton-Saint John Chapter will meet at 10 Cornerstone Court in Fredericton on **Wednesday, November 22** at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is covered by the Chapter. Registration closed on November 15th. Contact Joyce Reinhart at [jhreinhardt@bellaliant.net](mailto:jhreinhart@bellaliant.net) for more information.

### Charlottetown

The PEI Chapter will meet at the Quality Inn and Suites (Inn on the Hill) at 150 Euston Street in Charlottetown on **Friday, December 8th** at 11:30 with the meal served at 12:00 noon. The cost of the meal is covered by the Chapter. Register with Kathy Large at 902-394-4966 or [largekathy22@gmail.com](mailto:largekathy22@gmail.com) before December 3rd.

### Cape Breton

The Cape Breton Chapter will meet at Flavour 19, Ligan Golf Club on the Sydney-Glace Bay Highway on **Thursday, December 14th** at 6:00 p.m. with the meal served at 6:45 p.m. The cost of the meal is covered by the Chapter. Register with Wendy Martin at 902-563-6695 or [wendymartin64@gmail.com](mailto:wendymartin64@gmail.com) before December the 10th.



## Rosaire L'Italien: Combative? No doubt. But always gently...

By Jacques Hamelin

Everyone who has retired from Radio-Canada Atlantique over the last twenty years remembers Rosaire l'Italien. For his engaging smile, his humour, the enthusiasm he put into developing a story and his news stories which sometimes had many surprises in store for us.

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At the beginning of the 1970s, nothing prepared him for the world of journalism, other than his activities in college student radio stations in his native region of Gaspésie.

"Like all young people my age, I was an avid reader of the adventures of Tintin, the legendary reporter of the famous comic strips."

A graduate of St-Thomas University, it was in 1973 that a job offer was posted at the Radio-Canada station in Matane. His application was accepted and, very quickly, his appetite developed for a certain type of story.

"At the start, everything interested me, especially if it was controversial. But I also always had a soft spot for people who were in trouble. "

He made his debut at Radio-Canada Atlantique in Moncton. With the same lively presence, the same need to "rock the boat" and stay connected to his sources. "I loved being the first to develop a subject and I kept in touch with my contacts daily."

After a few years, in 1980 he became a correspondent in Edmundston. Thanks to his network, he covered news from Saint John to Miramichi with special assignments in Ottawa, Paris, and Morocco.

"I have always been captivated by travel. You become familiar with a host of subjects, meet all kinds of people, from different cultures."

Ten years later, Rosaire returned to Moncton and would eventually be permanently assigned to the RDI network. And there would be no shortage of "major

reports". Rosaire still remembers with some emotion the coverage of the World Acadian Congress which took place in the Lafayette region of Louisiana in 1999.

"It was a unique opportunity for the Acadians of the North to fraternise with the Cajuns of the South . But the most touching thing was seeing the Cajuns discover each other and being able to celebrate their culture. "

But no one could have imagined that the RDI team would have to return to Louisiana a few years later and that this time, it would not be to celebrate.

"We had just covered an election campaign in Nova Scotia and now my team was ordered to urgently travel from Cape Breton to Louisiana which was suffering the wrath of Hurricane Katrina. Technically, we were more or less prepared for this coverage but we had to act quickly. When we got there, it was hell. Getting food was a challenge, finding a place to wash or sleep required a lot of creativity but you had to be there. The scenes we witnessed were horrific."

It was finally in 2015 that Rosaire retired from Radio-Canada. But the last thing he planned to do was stay inactive. After being invited, he applied for the federal NDP in the riding of Madawaska-Restigouche. He didn't have too many illusions, and when he became interim leader of the provincial NDP, he disillusionment continued.

"Politics can be very problematic. It's like living with a very demanding mistress who doesn't share anything in return."

It was then that he was asked to join the Board of Directors of Maison Nazareth, a shelter for homeless people which was in danger of having to close its doors. The challenge that then arose was to get things back on track. Supported by the founder of the Center, Sr. Rita Barrieau and Claudette Bradshaw, godmother of the Headstart Center, he volunteered to put the refuge in order.

"It's not complicated, the plane was about to crash. Everything had to be repaired in mid-flight."

A renewed team has since managed to restore credibility to the project.

"It's more than just a shelter for the homeless. We offer training workshops, ways to overcome addictions, to give hope to people who no longer have any. There are no easy solutions for these types



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of problems. You have to know how to listen and teamwork is essential. We have managed to improve operations and we are sometimes cited as a model in the shelter network.”

*Maison Nazareth is at 75 Albert Street in Moncton or phone 506-858-5702*

### Maritime President's Report

When Bert Skinner strong-armed me into serving on the regional executive many years ago, it was with the promise that it meant just one or two short meetings a month, with the summer off. John McKay was president then, David Carr treasurer, and Don Tremaine vice president.

Needless to say, Bert lied... and John did not correct him. Bert and Don have since died, and David and John have retired. But I am not bitter... If I were to tell the truth, I would have to admit that it has been - mostly! - a privilege and a pleasure to serve the retirees who make this association possible.

Many of the people who have stepped up at the chapter, regional and national levels to serve on boards, executives and committees are now colleagues and friends. We don't always agree on everything, but we have always found a way to work together, on many important issues.

The latest chapter includes years of commitment to win a share of pension surpluses for all retirees. You may notice that every pensioner, whether a member or not, has benefitted from our work.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read how important it is to increase our membership to at least two thirds of all pensioners. You have a key role to play in that work. Bring a retired non-member to a meeting. Explain how important it is to join and pay the modest dues. If nothing else, it is a matter of self-interest.

The national board met in Ottawa from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, still fighting for the distribution of the surplus, taking on issues of diversity, participation, the Special Assistance Fund, governance and more. What did I take away?

Staying connected and working together have never been more important. We are first, a social

organization. From that base we have the strength and support to work on behalf of all pensioners. My message to you this season is step up and take part in any way you choose - and find ways to make it fun!

I wish you all a warm holiday. Merry Christmas, Cheery Kwanzaa, Delicious Diwali, Excellent Eid, Happy Hanukkah, Terrific Tet, Cheerful Chunjie (Chinese New Year). However you do it, celebrate the Solstice and the New Year and the life we are privileged to enjoy in this wonderful country.

Geoff Turnbull

### Retirement is giving me a chance to help girls in Africa

By Susan King



One of my life-long ambitions has been to visit Africa. Now, I've travelled to Kenya, representing a small, Fredericton charity "Friends of Kilayo". It empowers young girls and women from the Masai Mara, an extremely poor Kenyan region.

I'm awestruck by the beauty of the country. I remember on my first trip in 2018, while enjoying the scenery, I saw a herd of elephants in the dusty distance on a wide savannah. It was a "pinch me" moment. I truly realized how far I was from my home in New Brunswick. It opened a whole new world to see wildlife roaming freely on the vast reserves.

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But what strikes me even more deeply are the visits to the school which the charity supports through donations and sponsorships. The students are so excited to see us every time we visit. They haven't seen many white people and want to touch our faces and hair. This is not the Kenya of tourist brochures. This is the Kenya of the Maasai tribe, still steeped in a very traditional culture.



The Maasai are a semi-nomadic people whose lifestyle and economy depends on their cattle and goats. They are strongly tied to the land, herding their livestock from field to field.

They live in small villages. Their homes (manyatta) are mud huts. There is no running water, no toilets, no electricity (although solar power is slowly changing this) and no windows except for a small one above the wood stove.

At night, the small animals are brought in and roam through the hut. Each time I enter these homes, I have to hold back my emotions. It's difficult to witness such extreme poverty.

Men are dominant in this tribe. A goat is given to males when they reach puberty but not to girls. Between the ages of 11 and 13, girls are often circumcised and shortly afterwards married to a man chosen by the father in exchange for livestock. Such rituals and traditions are slowly changing through public awareness and education.

Kilayo, the Maasai girl our charity is named for, grew up in this environment. Kilayo dreamed of becoming a teacher and wanted to give her family a better life.

With the help of "Friends of Kilayo", she is now completing her education at a teachers college.

In 2020, I returned to Kenya for my second trip. Our crew on the ground included Lucy, who is a coordinator for our girls; Joe, our cook, and Ben, our driver.

Lucy is one of the first girls we sponsored. She is now a tour operator and owns her own business. She is invaluable in helping us with the language barrier and handling finances needed to keep our girls healthy and focused on their studies. Joe makes the most delicious traditional Kenyan meals using fresh local produce.

We meet with as many of the girls we sponsor as possible when we are there. And we talk with the school principal to see what else is needed. We buy things such as bug netting and sanitary napkins and other things for the school.

After skipping a year because of the pandemic, we returned to Kenya in early 2023. We visited Kilayo at her teachers college. She has come so far from her days at the Masai Mara school and is working hard to complete her education.

We also visited a beautiful beach near Mombasa. It was the first time I saw the Indian Ocean. It was also the first time I saw a rhinoceros. We waited for two hours until a sole rhino emerged from the bush to make its daily trip to a watering hole. It slowly walked across a mud plain and paused briefly for a drink of water and then turned and made the trek back. It is an amazing event to witness.



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I never imagined that in my retirement years I would get the opportunity to spend time in Africa, see the wildlife and experience the joy of helping girls and women get a chance at more fulfilling lives thanks to the work of our charity. It is extremely heartwarming and very rewarding. It is the reason I will return to Kenya again and again.

We have sponsored over a dozen girls and we are continuing to grow. When women get the opportunity they deserve, there is no limit to what they can achieve. To be part of this non-profit is an honour.

For more information, our website is [friendsofkillayo.com](http://friendsofkillayo.com)

*Susan King retired from CBC New Brunswick in 2013 after working for the Corporation for 27 years.*

## Financial Report

Like almost every group, company or family you can think of, the PNA Maritimes has had to look very closely at our finances. As a result, we have moved to a less expensive location and instead of relying on professional catering, the Board and members are often providing home-cooked lunches. For instance, at our last meeting, Melissa Mount (spouse of George) took it upon herself to provide us with delicious chili which everyone enjoyed immensely.

One way each of us could help keep the Association healthy and viable is to think of at least one person who is eligible to join (either a spouse of a retiree or someone who has retired) and suggest they become a member. For the cost of a couple of coffees each month, they could be a part of the organization. One excellent benefit would be if we can get our national membership over 66 per cent, further pension surpluses could be sent out much faster foregoing the present need we have to reach out to get enough signatures of all pensioners.

If you have any questions about the Financial Statement, please let me know and I will try to address any queries.

Best regards,

Jane Hartlen

Regional Treasurer

[JaneHartlen@gmail.com](mailto:JaneHartlen@gmail.com)

## Memories of CBC: Terry Fox Run Almost Ended by CBC Cape Breton Crew's Accident

By Wendy Martin



Hundreds of thousands of people across Canada take part in or support the annual Terry Fox Run, named after the young man who attempted to run across the country to raise money for cancer research.

But far fewer people know that Fox's inaugural run in 1980 very nearly came to an abrupt end following an accident involving a film crew from CBC Cape Breton.

Fox had just arrived on the Marine Atlantic ferry from Newfoundland on May 7, 1980, and was running on the Trans Canada Highway near North Sydney, N.S.

CBC employees John Lewandowski, Gary Embrett and Gordie MacNeil were travelling in a Suburban just ahead of Fox. Lewandowski was driving slowly with the rear doors open, ahead of Fox's support van. Embrett was filming Fox as he ran, and MacNeil was in the back of the vehicle, gathering sound.

"The accident happened very quickly," recalled Lewandowski. "We were clipped on the rear driver's side by a five-ton truck taking fish from Louisbourg to New England. We were pushed off the road, ahead of Fox thankfully, and came to rest in a ditch."



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No-one was seriously hurt. But Fox said the accident was an extremely close call. He described it in his journal.

“CBC was filming me all the while. There (sic) were only going about 5 miles an hour when I heard this huge freight truck barreling up and not slowing down. It hit the CBC vehicle at 50 miles an hour,” wrote Fox. “One CBC crew member fell back onto the highway and into the ditch. I thought he was dead. It was terrible. If I was 5 yards further ahead I would have been killed. I couldn’t run anymore.”

Lewandowski said he and Embrett were shaken and a bit bruised but otherwise OK. MacNeil was thrown out the back of the vehicle and suffered back injuries.

Lewandowski, who went on to a career with Canadian Press, said he and the other two CBC staff were taken to the Northside General hospital in North Sydney for treatment, and Fox came along to check on them. Lewandowski said he was later charged with unnecessarily slow driving, but the charge was dropped as soon as the case went to court.

Fox’s run continued as he ran close to 42 kilometres a day through the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and Ontario. However, on September 1, he announced in Thunder Bay he would have to stop his “Marathon of Hope” for medical tests which showed his cancer had returned to his lungs. He passed away the following June at the age of 22.

## The Ken and Barbie Show



The blockbuster movie of the summer probably brought back lots of memories for families whose daughters were fans of the blond doll and her friends which have been around for six decades now. But

there are a group of Halifax CBC pensioners whose memories jumped to a very specific period of time. They worked on the Ken and Barbie Show.

That was Director Ken Publicover and switcher Barbie MacPherson.



Their reign in the control room at Bell Road during the supertime news hour didn’t even end with the move to Chebucto where they both were considered Switcher-Directors in the studio.



In fact, Barbie and Ken had worked together in various roles for 28 years, starting back in the Newsworld days. Ken left CBC due to illness in 2017 and died later that year. The loss of her long-time colleague prompted Barbie to retire the next year when she became eligible for a pension. She has since moved back home to Prince Edward Island and is an active member of the regional PNA board and the PEI Chapter executive.

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### Cape Breton Chapter Report

The Cape Breton Chapter of the CBC Pensioners Association met in March for a pizza lunch, and a chance to reminisce. The chapter typically meets twice a year, once in the spring, and once in December for a holiday dinner.

This spring, chapter president Wendy Martin was back at work full-time for a few months, as the Eastern staff representative for the Canadian Media Guild. The position was vacant, while the Guild looked for a permanent hire. The Eastern staff rep looks after the interests of several hundred employees of CBC, Radio-Canada and the Canadian Press in the four Atlantic provinces. "It's interesting and challenging work," said Wendy. "On any given day, you could deal with a bullying complaint, speak with management about someone who's been passed over for a job, and help someone with disability leave paperwork."

Some of the biggest concerns from CBC employees this spring were an overuse of temp employees, denial of LTD claims and confusion around a new HR/ payroll/time management system called Workday. A new rep, Carl Gannon, was hired into the job in May and is based in Halifax.

### Moncton-Sackville Chapter Report

This year has been a quiet year for the Moncton-Sackville Chapter. We, the board of directors are all into our third year and we feel pretty seasoned now.

In the first years we started a Facebook page for PNA members, we now have 102 members who have joined this group. In the beginning we were only accepting Association members. As of October, we sent out a communication inviting all spouses to join as well.

In the last three years we have hosted a variety of outings. This year we did an afternoon at the Magnetic Hill Winery in Moncton, N.B., where we enjoyed a wine tasting paired with charcuteries, we were fortunate to have had a wonderful fall day. We have also offered our PNA members several Lunch & Learns with more to come this winter.

Recently we held information meetings in Sackville (Sept. 27 th ) and Moncton (Oct. 12 th ) to discuss what is happening with the pension sharing surplus file. We had large turnouts for both of these information sessions. Association members have expressed valid concerns regarding the surplus, when it will come in and how to best handle this additional income. Following these two meetings, we have received news that the board that oversees these things, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), has raised concerns halting the process. We look forward to things being resolved.

In the fall of 2022, the Moncton-Sackville board of directors put forward the motion for New Brunswick to become a region. Although no formal decision has been released, a PNA Structure Review Committee has been set up to study the PNA structure as a whole. New Brunswick is a large province with a growing membership, and we look forward to being recognized as a region within the PNA.

Carole Ryan

Moncton-Sackville Chapter President

[carole.ryan22@gmail.com](mailto:carole.ryan22@gmail.com)

506-387-2940



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### PEI Chapter Report

Planning is underway for our Christmas luncheon in Charlottetown. We're looking forward to seeing everyone together again and hear all your news from the summer.

Our many members who worked at Compass learned of the passing of another Executive Producer this fall. Steve Andrusiak retired from CBC in Ontario and was the Chair of Communications Arts at Fanshawe College and taught media ethics at Western University among other roles. He died on September 5, at the age of 73.

We are welcoming a new member this fall. Kelley Doherty worked for CBC in Toronto where she operated a robotic camera and worked as a floor director.

Kathy Large

### Fredericton-Saint John Chapter Report

The Fredericton/Saint John chapter of the Maritimes CBC Pensioners Association, the newest branch in the region, continues to focus on growth and broadening the reach of the association to retirees.

Our third social gathering for all members will take place on Nov. 22 at a Christmas luncheon in Fredericton. There is strong, continuing interest in

the pension surplus situation and we are actively reaching out to everyone in our area about the need to vote for the surplus sharing arrangement.

We are expecting at least 30 people at our luncheon and will have a financial planner on hand to discuss money management issues.

Christine Morris

### Halifax Chapter Report

We have moved our monthly meetings to the Legion in Bedford. A small planning group including Jane Merchant, Claire Brownell, Olga Milosevich, Shelley Bridges and Sandy Smith have breathed new life into our group. We now cater our own lunches, at a substantial saving in cost with an interesting and tastier menu.

Olga continues to set up our Lunch and Learn sessions, and they have been well received. We are always looking for ideas, menu help and ways to unlock the talent in our fellow retirees.

Come see us if you're in town on the second Thursday of the month, starting in February.

Geoff Turnbull

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### New Members

**Margot Brunelle** - NS - Radio Producer and Journalist

**Kelley Doherty** - PE - Robotic camera operator / floor director

**Maurice Goguen** - NB - Television audio technician

**Mike Hartlen** - NS - Supervising Technician

**Jacqueline Leger** - NB - Administration Officer, Moncton

**Terrance Leger** - NB - Technical Maintenance Supervisor

**Joe Mahoney** - NB - Regional Property Manager for Eastern Canada

**Andre Maillet** - NB

**Rick Martell** - NS - Senior Technician of Toronto studio operations

**Rona Martell** - NS - News Director - for Newsnet

**Norbert Melanson** - NB - Cameraman

**Wayne Pottie** - NS - Surviving spouse of Jean Pottie

**Allan Richard** - NB - RCI RCI - Caretaker

**Richard Tarkowski** - NB-RCI Senior Maintenance Technician

**Shaun Waters** - NB - Radio producer

### Deceased Members

**Douglas Barron** - NS - Radio technician

**Michel Doucet** - NB - Radio Host

**Raymond Fralick** - NB - Sales

**Rena Fraser** - NS/Milt Isnor - NS - Floor Director / AD

**Amos Landry** - NB - Sales

**James David Langille** - NS - Sales

**Robert Lawrence** - NS

**Sylvia Roy** - NB - Administrative Assistant

### How to Contact Your Association:



**CBC Pensioners National Assoc.**

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

**CBC Pensioners National Association**

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