

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

Once again thank you for your comments, concerns, and ideas. There were just too many to put into action this year, but we will get to them all at some point. We have put together a calendar of events to connect with your past co-workers throughout the year. Keep sending us your suggestions and, no matter what they are, we will seriously give them consideration.

- This newsletter starts with a quick recap on our past 2023 Christmas party which was a huge success.
- Recruitment is always at our forefront, and I would like to say that per capita we excelled.
- We are welcoming four of our new members in this edition with more on the way.
- Our History regarding our formation is continued with Part 2.
- A close look at one of our newest CBC PNA members, retired Morning Show Host Paul Vasey.
- We are always finding photos that allows us to Flashback.
- CBC PNA Pension Update and the Advocacy assistance.
- The SWO calendar of six events that came from your suggestions.

2024 Winter Edition

Page – 2
**SWO 20th Anniversary
Christmas Celebration
Recap**

Page – 3
Recruitment
By Phil Peck

Pages – 3 & 4:
New Members

Page – 4
Our History SWO Part 2:
Gerald Head

Page – 5:
Morning Host: Paul Vasey

Pages – 6 & 7:
**Flashback &
CBC PNA Updates and
Assistance**

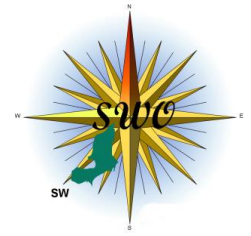
Page – 8:
**What's Ahead, a Full
Calendar of Events 2024**

Proof Editor: Brian Worrall

20th Anniversary Christmas Party Celebration

Recap and Thank You!

Photos courtesy of Michael (Fitz) Fitzsimmons



Our attendance was a little over 100 which included members, associates and those from other Chapters and Regions who travelled a great distance to celebrate with us. We were thrilled to have our Centenarian Member, Irene Orr attend and celebrate with us. It was quite the heartwarming addition to our party.

THANK YOU - When planning a party such as this, a great deal of work goes into it and there are many to thank, especially your board Sandy, Jackie, Gerry, Manny, Phil, Gerald, and Gino.



Although your board attends as guests, they are working throughout the evening. Whether they were welcoming all in attendance or selling 50/50 draw tickets (won by Malcolm Campbell \$150), the drawing and handing out the door prizes (39 in total). Most importantly conversing with our members and guests, getting their thoughts regarding future plans for your Chapter. Especially, those who are deciding whether to join or not (we were able to add four new members that evening). We received donations of 39 door prizes along with the Poinsettias donated by Manny and Elizabeth Pacheco that dressed the centre piece at each table; Percy Hatfield for the wine of the year bottle chosen by the MPPs; Patrick Ryan for the Canadian Whiskey bottles; Gino Piazza for the bottles of liquors and wine accessories; Silvano and Patricia Pupulin for the Waterford Crystal Vase and 4 Royal Doulton settings, books by author Stephen Kristof and 6 pizza coupons from the Giovanni Caboto Club.



A huge thank you goes out to our special guest speakers who took the time to be away from their families and travelled quite the distance to celebrate with us. CBC PNA - President Donald Langis, Marc-Philippe Laurin – Consultative Committee on Staff Benefits and Mike Sullivan – former CBC Windsor Radio Tech and National

Union representative. Their speeches were not only entertaining but very informative allowing all the time required for any Q & A.

Once again, thank you to Ed Everaert, Dan Kennedy, and Mike (Fitz) Fitzsimmons, for the music and wonderful video you produced to not only bring back so many memories, but to also set a beautiful background ambience and entertain us throughout the evening. To Fitz, Brian Cowan, and Stephen Adamcrynck for taking turns sharing the camera and capturing so many wonderful photos of the evening.

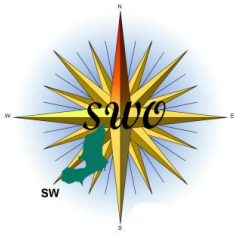


Most importantly to YOU, that attended and made the evening such a huge success!

Take a moment to View, Like and Comment on all our posts and view all the photos on our Facebook site,

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

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024, FOR OUR NEXT CHRISTMAS PARTY!



SWO IS FULLFILLING THEIR PART, BUT WE ARE STILL IN NEED:

Phil Peck

NEEDED: More Members!

I was very disappointed (under statement) when the payouts from the pension surplus were delayed. The agency that oversees pensions stepped in, and it is making us wait for our money.

I would understand if the agency (Superintendent of Financial Institutions) only wants to make sure that our pension fund is not going to fold. But they wanted to make sure that pensioners agree with the plan to distribute the pension surplus. More than two-thirds of us gave our consent.

I wonder if we could have avoided the vote, if more than two-thirds of pensioners were members of the pensioners association. Current employees did not have to vote because most of them are represented by a union which gave approval on behalf of employees.

Currently, just over half of the pensioners are association members. So, the association needs you to help increase membership. Try to remember the people you worked with at CBC/SCR, even those who moved away. When you come up with some names, invite them to join. They can enrol online at <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/join-us/> The enrolment form is at the bottom of that webpage.

There is little to lose, and potentially a lot to gain. Next time there is a surplus (some observers think that will happen again very soon), maybe we can avoid the delay, avoid the vote, and get our money sooner. Let's increase membership to at least two-thirds of all pensioners.

Welcome: *Our New Members to the SWO Chapter*



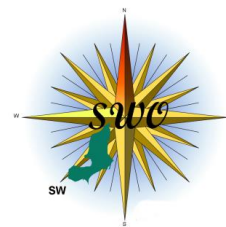
Yvette Ladarski - Most members of the SWO Chapter worked with Yvette at some point. You probably remember her for her administrative efficiency and pleasant demeanor. Or you remember her laugh and that she is an avid bird watcher. Yvette held various positions during her long career, and exited CBC while she was Senior Business Analyst, Ontario Smaller Markets (looking after the money).

Paul Vasey - Before Paul started working with CBC, his byline was a regular fixture in the Windsor Star. Paul turned his journalism talents to radio when he became host of Morning Watch. He became an engaging oral storyteller and interviewer, endearing himself to the local audience. Paul left town, moved to Victoria, and hosted the morning radio program there. He has since retired and moved back to the Windsor area.





Frank Piscitelli - To many co-workers, he is affectionately known a “Big Frank”. Maybe because of his stature? As a long-time camera operator, Frank was known for his professional approach to the job. He worked at CBC Windsor before cuts sent him to Toronto. He was often first to raise his hand, for an assignment in Windsor or Detroit. When Frank retired, he moved back ‘home’ to Windsor.



Helene Plante - For 20 years, Helene worked for Radio Canada in Windsor. She is proud to point out that she was born in Switzerland and that her first language is German, not French. She worked for French Services in Traffic and booked the radio studios. After SRC/CBC, Helene became a teacher for the French school board. She is retired and still lives in Tecumseh.



Southwestern Ontario Chapter – Celebrates 20 Years Part 2:

Gerald Head

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.”

Walter Wicks was President of the Ontario Region of the PNA when he wrote this report to the Ontario Region Board. “Last month, after a few phone calls to a number of our members in the Windsor Area, things started to come together”.

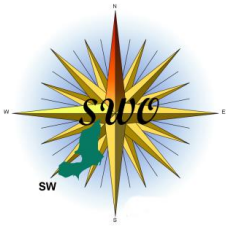
It was decided by the Ontario Region Executive that John Dixon and I should go to Windsor, meet with as many CBC Pensioners in that area as possible, to discuss the possibility of forming a Windsor Chapter of CBC Pensioners National Association.

John arranged for the meeting room in the Downtown Travelodge, and we drove to Windsor on October 2/2003. The next morning, we met with 24 of our comrades who were as anxious as we were to get their Windsor Chapter up and running.

After introductions, we had a question-and-answer period, after which we took a show of hands and got a unanimous vote to form the Windsor Chapter.

However, we needed one more CBC Pensioner to make the necessary 25 members. That evening Al Clark brought us four additional sign-in sheets, and we had enough members to have a WINDSOR CHAPTER.

We have the nucleus of a Super Group in the Windsor Chapter! The local steering group at that time consisted of Hugh Naldrett, Al Clark, Irene Orr, John Fabu and Gerry Head. The current membership is 98 members living in Windsor, Essex County, Sarnia and London and all points in-between.



CORRECTION: Howard Simpson wrote to me after the first article on our forming was published. Howard pointed out that Walter Wicks was never President of the National Board, only the Ontario Region. That was my mistake. Howard also stated that no one joined the PNA on April 1, 2000, as the Association was not formed until June of that year. According to the list of members published by the National Office, several people throughout Ontario joined the PNA on that date including Howard Simpson and John Dixon.

Paul Vasey:
Host of Morning Watch CBC Windsor and On The Island, Victoria B.C.

After 15 years as host of Morning Watch with CBC Windsor and two years as host of On The Island with CBC Victoria I retired in 2007.

There were a few reasons for my early retirement chief among them the fact that our kids were starting to have kids of their own and there was no way we were going to live half a continent away from them. So, Marilyn and I packed up and with our ever-faithful Winston the Wonderdog sprawled in the rear seat we headed back to Windsor which had always been 'home' to us: the place where we met, married and had our daughter and son. Luckily for us, it was also home to our kids and grandkids.

So, while some of our friends had to travel to Australia or California or Nova Scotia to visit their grandkids, we had to drive 10 or 15 minutes to visit ours. Never a doubt we made the right choice.

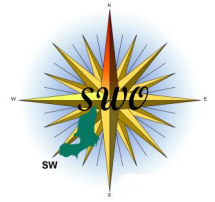


Coming home also meant reconnecting with old friends whom we'd known for many years. Prior to the move out west I'd been master of ceremonies at the annual Spring Song celebration on Pelee Island an event held on Mother's Day weekend and featuring an author invited by Margaret Atwood. Over the years we had the pleasure of hearing readings by a who's who of CanLit: Alice Munro, Alistair MacLeod, Miriam Toews, Farley Mowat, Jane Urquhart, and many others. So, I was delighted to be back on the island for that event, a fund-raiser for the Pelee Island Heritage Centre. I organized a parallel fund-raising dinner for the Pelee Island Bird Observatory at Beach Grove Country Club a few days before the island event. These dinners were hosted by Margaret and featured the same guest author who, the following day, would leave Windsor and head across the lake to Pelee.

Coming home also meant getting back to old habits. Before heading out west I'd written fourteen books: short stories, novels, non-fiction. For some reason, while in Victoria I didn't write a word. But back home, I began writing again and in 2012 my novel, *A Troublesome Boy* was published by Groundwood Books/House of



Anansai. The next year Biblioasis Publishing launched *The River: A Memoir Of Life In The Border Cities* in which I recount snippets of the history of Windsor and tell the tales of the many memorable characters I'd encountered during my two decades working at The Windsor Star. I've since completed a novel *The Avery Boys of Avery Bay* which is in the hands of my agent who is looking for a home for it.



After all these years away from the microphone and I recently found myself back in the studio, actually Walter Riggi's recording studio in St. Clair Beach, to narrate an hour-long feature film about Pelee Island for Pinegrove Productions of Ottawa. Not too rusty: we did the recording in one day and spent another couple of hours another day making sure the producers were happy.

So, a pretty full life and as we hoped, filled with grandkids. We are now faithful fans of hockey games and volleyball games, soccer games and baseball games and tennis matches, school plays and concerts. You'll find us seated with all the other lucky grandparents in the bleacher seats and on the lawn chairs.



Take a moment to View, Like and Comment on all our posts on Facebook, visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/SWOChapterCBCPensioners>

From The National (CBC PNA)

Surplus Sharing Update-Notice Delayed (January 24, 2024)

Due to some technical issues the distribution of the "second notice" to pension plan members has been delayed until later this week or early next week. Notice will be sent by email to those with known email addresses and mailed via Canada Post to others. The "second notice" process demanded by the pension regulator (OSFI) is an important step of the process. It is issued by the CBC after it requests the release of funds from the plan to make the payments to pensioner plan members. Nearly \$130 million is being



requested for distribution. Those who wish to comment on the payout will be given 30 days from receipt of the notice to offer any comments. **You are not required to respond to the notice.**

At some point after the 30-day period ends OSFI will release its decision. Assuming it agrees to the release of funds, there is then a further 40-day hold on funds before they can be released. It appears the earliest possible date for the payments would be sometime in mid-April. We cannot predict precisely when OSFI will make its decision.

Calculations are based on two separate years, but the distribution will be by a single payout. Pension plan members will be notified in advance of how much they will be receiving and how that calculation was made. For employees, the payout may be directed to an RRSP. At this point there is no similar option for retirees so lump sum payments will be made with the minimal tax withholding demanded by CRA.

We will keep you informed of further developments as soon as we are notified.

PNA ADVOCACY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If you are skilled in public policy research, or have political contacts, or are a clear and snappy writer, we need you!

If you are a healthcare expert or knowledgeable about pension plans in Canada, we need you too!

We know that a federal election is not far off. There are serious threats on the horizon of major interest to PNA members. The CBC itself could come under attack, risking the future of public broadcasting in Canada, not to mention creating an impact on our pension plan. We know there will likely be attacks on defined benefit pension plans. And we know the chances of a national pharmacare program will wither on the vine.

We don't want to be caught unprepared. The PNA's National Advocacy Committee is looking to build a series of information backgrounders on the issues. We also want to arm our members with questions to your local candidates and provide you with talking points should you find yourself asked to speak on an issue.

Contact any of us if you're interested. We can't do this work alone.

The CBC PNA Advocacy Committee:

Barbara Saxberg, Ontario Region VP, Committee Chair – bsaxberg@outlook.com

Jon Soper, Newfoundland & Labrador Region President – jonsoper@nf.sympatico.ca

Gail Carducci, Ontario Region President – gail.carducci@gmail.com

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

*We have added many extra strictly ours and others are tag fortunate to be added into. limited, so we would need you to make sure we can secure you a details in the next issue of **GOOD** your interest on any of the*



*events for this year. Some are along events that we were Those that have an ** are RSVP sooner than later to spot for the event. More **LIFE**, but feel free to pre-book events.*

OUR 2024 SWO CALENDAR OF EVENTS SCHEDULE

- ****** Wine Tour #1 – June 22, 2024 (all day, transportation, 3 winery tastings-2 whites and 2 reds and lunch served at the 2nd winery all included - \$100/person) ******
- SWO Summer BBQ – Saturday, July 20, 2024 (4:00 - until???)
- Detroit River Cruise – Day or Sunset Cruise TBD in the month of August, approximately \$50/person for a sunset cruise.
- ****** Wine Tour #2 – October 5, 2024, (all day, transportation, 3 winery tastings (2 whites and 2 reds) and lunch served at the 2nd winery all included - \$100/person) ******
- ****** Frankenmuth Day Trips – 2 dates, November 13 and 16, 2024 (All day - return transportation, stops at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, Frankenmuth, and Great Lakes Outlet Mall - \$60/person) ******
- SWO Yearend Christmas Party – Saturday, December 7, 2024



Gino



Sandy



Jackie



Gerry



Manny



Phil



Gerald

The Southwestern Ontario Board

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 Director: Phil Peck (519-990-4941 ppeck@kelcom.net)
 Director/Past President: Gerald Head (519-995-0345 gercarhead@gmail.com)

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