

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)
CBC PNA***

SWO's Success Continues in 2025

- Not just one - two Pension Surpluses being paid in 2025!
- You replied to the Southwestern Ontario (SWO) survey, it will guide the work of your Board.
- There are many types of Philanthropy, here's one you should consider!
- Memories of the past, that keep on living.
- 1st of three celebrations. Congratulations to CBEF Radio Windsor for 55 years!
- Your Southwestern Ontario Membership keeps growing!
- How time flies! This year is an Election year!
- SWO Summer BBQ details.

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**Upcoming SWO Election &
2025 Summer BBQ**

Proof Editor: Brian Worrall

Pension Surplus Update:



Questions have been asked and yes, another pension surplus payout covering the year 2023 is expected to be paid out sometime in July 2025. The 40-day timeline established by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) and set out in the second notice to all contributors for comments has been completed and OSFI has approved. There is a total of approximately \$60 million which will be shared with about 20,000 plan contributors.

How much will I get? Calculations are based on the same method used on the last payout; they are calculated as a percentage of your lifetime plan contributions.

*As well, a notice will be sent out later this summer regarding the 2024 surplus (yes, another one). As previously explained, no action is required because after our last round OSFI agreed that pensioners have already given their approval for 5 years. For more detail information and updates:

<https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/news-articles/>

Southwestern Ontario (SWO) 2025 Survey Results

Your Board Asked, and YOU, the Members Responded.

Based on discussions at the Southwestern Ontario (SWO) Chapter's Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors wanted guidance from members. The Board decided to conduct an opinion survey. The four questions and responses will be used by the Board as it plans for the future.

On the first question *Regarding the day chosen for our annual BBQ*. The survey found that most members think the annual summer barbecue could be held any day – a weekday or on a weekend. This could be useful to know when looking for a venue, as many desirable locations are not available on weekends.

When asked *Would you be more likely to attend the year-end dinner, if it is held at midday?*, the majority said either time is fine. A number of people said "Yes" early would be better. One respondent wrote this comment, 'I do not live in Windsor and am on my own. I do not like to drive my car at night.' Changing the mealtime might attract some members who have not been able to attend in the evening.

On the third question, the vast majority said "No" to 'Do you think the word "Christma" should be removed from the name of the year-end dinner event'.

Regarding the last item *Whether Southwestern Ontario should attempt to get a seat on the national board of the CBC Pensioners Association*, some members had no opinion, but the majority response was "Yes". While this issue is complex, your local Board will consider how to proceed on this matter.

The Board wants to note that over half of all SWO members responded to the survey. While the results are not considered a membership vote, the responses cannot be overlooked.



Plasma Philanthropists! By Barbara Peacock former Announcer/Host CBE Radio Windsor

We all know how much volunteer work our Southwestern Ontario President Gino Piazza does for our group and the Giovanni Caboto Club, but did you know he's also been saving lives since he was a teenager? That's when he started donating blood. And when the Windsor location of Canadian Blood services switched to taking plasma instead of whole blood in January 2024 Gino switched too.

I knew a blood transfusion could save a life, but I wasn't aware of all the things Plasma can do. A single donation of it can help several people; it can prolong their life or make it more livable. Several life-saving drugs and products are manufactured from it. As just one example, albumin treats fluid loss in burn or trauma patients.

Gino and I worked together way back in the early '80's at the Security Building and I'm not sure if I knew then that he donated blood but it's possible he told me because I did try, twice, to donate. Both times my low blood pressure scuttled thing - the nurse got roughly half a bag, my pressure dropped, and I saw stars, and not the kind who came to the studio for interviews!

My grand total of two half bags is laughable compared with what Gino has given but even his total is puny compared with a woman we all know. Anna Jurak was married to our much-loved colleague Rob Miller. She started donating in University and you likely know Anna has also done lots of other volunteer work, including three decades with Rotary. She was President of Rotary Club of Windsor-St. Clair in 2017/18. She initiated the Club's Blood Donor Challenge in those years. In March of this year Anna was one of the Windsor recipients of the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal for community service.



I asked Anna and Gino to tell us about donating. I interviewed Gino and after that I gave Anna a call.

Gino: *I started in high school, back in the mid-60s and then took a pause and started up again after watching a couple of documentaries on individuals with a need for blood. After that it became a regular thing.*

Barb: *What's your total of blood and plasma donations?*

Gino: *I'll be at 120 shortly. Yeah, but that's nothing. My hero is Anna Jurak, she really is, she's already passed 200.*

Now I'm catching up to her and I told her unless she goes every week, I will catch up to her within a couple years because I think she only goes once a month or something like that.

Anna: *Oh, he's funny. Yes, he's trying to catch up to me and he can cause he goes every week. I go about every two weeks.*

Barb: *What's going to happen if Gino gets, like, within five of you?*

Anna: *I'll have to speed up and give every week!*

Barb: *All the better for Canadian blood services.*

Anna: *Yeah, yeah, ha ha ha!*

Barb: *You donated blood for decades so, from the donor's point of view, how does that differ from giving plasma?*

Gino: *The length of time. 15 minutes giving blood but plasma from beginning to end I'm about an hour and 15. I'm a slow bleeder. They draw your blood and then it goes in a centrifugal machine that separates your*

plasma from your red blood cells and once it's separated, your blood goes back into your system, so you never lose anything [just plasma]. And you may laugh at this, but I go on my phone to watch a movie or go on Facebook but sometimes I've dozed off and they had to come around to wake me up!



[Gino and I both laughed at that!]

Barb: Anna, Gino told me that in all these years of donating he's never known anyone personally who received blood or plasma, but you have.

Anna: Yes. When Rob was sick he needed blood donations and, amazing, I mean he was pale and weak before and then he perked up, you know, because now he got good, oxygenated blood; it didn't last long but you know it did work, and I thought oh, you know this is a great cause. Obviously, he didn't get my blood, but you know somebody else donated, so that gives a little bit of comfort to know that we have a good system in place that if we need blood, we can get it ...for free. And not just my husband Rob, my niece as well when she had surgery needed blood so yes, I do know people who needed blood.

Barb: It's obvious what your donations have done for the people who received blood and plasma but what does this do for YOU?

Gino: Oh, actually, makes me very happy it does. It makes me happy that I'm doing something really good. That I know it is helping somebody, somewhere. It's like when people donate financially to the cancer society or to the autism, they get a satisfaction knowing that they did some good....that's all really, it makes me happy.

Anna: It's just such a small thing I can do to help other people and I mean you can save lives doing this. What a small sacrifice, not even a sacrifice because when you go in there, they're all very pleasant it's relaxed, comfortable, they've got TVs, there are people to talk to and just a feeling that you know, I helped somebody. That's a good feeling, like "I got you". We need good feelings. We need to feel like we're contributing and helping other people and that's just one of the ways I've chosen to do it.

Barb: I like that, we need good feelings

Anna: Yeah, we do.

Gino: I was going to say one thing that I do is I always play a little game with my plasma donations. My lifelong donation partnership is with the Giovanni Caboto Club, and I put it on my Facebook page that if anybody signs up for the first time donation and they become a lifetime member I put a donation into their favourite charity. Right now, I'm getting close to 12 but Toni (Gino's spouse) thinks I'm going to go to the poor house!

Barb: Please, everybody, help Gino spend some of his pension surplus!

Gino: Ha ha. You got it! Toni keeps telling me we're gonna have to take out another mortgage if I keep donating.

Barb: Anna, did you know Gino has convinced about a dozen people to donate by donating to their favourite charity if they do?

Anna: Really? Oh, good for him that's excellent yeah. That's I think the toughest part especially for those who are afraid, it's to get them started and find out it's not hard to do.

Barb: CBC Pensioners are reading this so would you say they could do this?

Anna: Oh...so they may think they're too old. They're not! There is no (upper) age limit, as long as you're healthy you can give!!!

Gino: I encourage everybody to get in there and try it one time!

To become a donor or for more information call:  **Canadian Blood Services:** Toll-free phone: **1 888 2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283)**

or

Visit locally at: **3015 Howard Ave, Unit 1 in the Roundhouse Centre**



It's Nice to Remember – By Dan Kennedy – Former CBC Windsor Technician/Associate Producer



private group for people who worked with CBC and Radio-Canada in Windsor.

It began as an anniversary project, to reflect on the 75 years since CBE first went on air in Windsor, the 55 years that CBEF has been broadcasting, and the 50 years since TV9 became CBET. The Facebook page is a place to share memories about working there, and to reconnect with some of the people who worked with us.

I am one of the administrators for the group. I enjoy seeing the pictures of CBC Windsor staff from the past. Some make me smile, others make me sad and all of them remind me how lucky I was to work there.

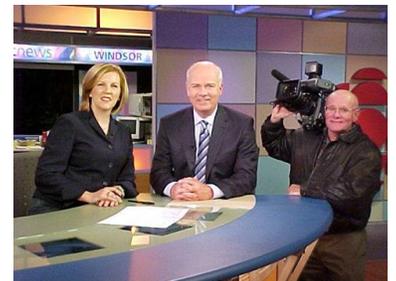
Windsor was often a starting place for people to begin their careers at CBC- Radio Canada. Many life-long friendships began there. And oh, some of the stories and characters too!!



As a retiree, sometimes I wish I could travel back in time to those good old days at CBC. Were they good?? Then I come to my senses. Like they say, you don't miss the work, but you do miss the people.

If you have any old work photos, documents or stories to share, please post them or email them to:

anniversarycbcwindsor@gmail.com



CBEF -55 ANNÉES/YEARS – By Lisette Leboeuf - Journaliste culturelle et Communautaire/Arts and Entertainment and Community Events Reporter Radio-Canada – Windsor & Phil Peck – Southwestern Ontario (SWO) Director

Le samedi 10 mai, 2025 est devenue une journée mémorable lorsque Radio-Canada Windsor a souligné ses 55 ans de diffusion dans le Sud-Ouest de l'Ontario.

Les membres de l'équipe habituelle qui travaillent du lundi au vendredi se sont réunis afin de présenter une émission spéciale d'une durée de deux heures. Le tout a commencé avec une chanson qui remonte à la fin des années 60, 'Sur un dinosaure' de Jacques Michel, un chanteur renommé du Québec.

(Front Row: L.Leboeuf, C.Lévesque, É.Dessureault-Paquette, Z.Atchia. Back Row: J.D.Ogobani, G.Bertrand, J.Rioux, É.Laguerre, E.Jeudy, A.J.Godbout, G.Nikundana & P.Mongrain)



C'était la première chanson à jouer sur les ondes de CBEF lorsque la station a lancé sa programmation, le 18 mai 1970. Au fil des ans, Radio-Canada (et CBC) ont connu des moments glorieux mais des pertes désastreuses notamment en 2009 avec l'annulation de la programmation locale de CBEF.

C'est à ce moment que la communauté francophone s'est ralliée et a formé le groupe 'SOS CBEF' qui organisa, entre autres, une manifestation exigeant le retour de la programmation locale en français à Windsor. Des centaines de francophones convaincus y ont participé.

En 2010, une portion d'une émission locale a été ajoutée. L'émission d'une heure par la suite a été prolongée à deux heures et c'est en 2013 que l'émission Matins sans frontières est revenue à sa programmation de 3 heures, animée par Charles Lévesque.

Afin de souligner le 55e anniversaire, Charles et Lisette Leboeuf ont co-animé, le samedi 10 mai de 9 h à 11 h, une émission spéciale devant public, auditeurs, amis, anciens employés de Radio-Canada et de CBC.

La foule à la station, et les fidèles auditeurs et auditrices à distance, écoutaient attentivement tout ce qui était dit et parfois ceux et celles présents se balançaient et applaudissaient à la musique.

Pour la communauté francophone, c'était une fête pour un ami proche et digne de confiance. Après l'émission, les gens sont restés pour rencontrer les animateurs et les invités.

Un barbecue et un gâteau d'anniversaire leur ont permis de continuer la fête à l'extérieur de l'édifice. Le soleil brillait sur tous et une atmosphère chaleureuse régnait parmi tous ceux et celles qui ont fait un beau et grand succès du 55e anniversaire de la radio-française dans le Sud-Ouest.

Lien de l'émission de deux heures diffusée le samedi 10 mai, 2025 :

<https://ici.radio-canada.ca/ohdio/premiere/emissions/speciale-windsor/episodes/1065492/55e-anniversaire-de-la-station-cbef>

Saturday, May 10th, 2025, was a memorable day as Radio-Canada Windsor celebrated 55 years of broadcasting in Southwestern Ontario.

The morning crew that normally work Mondays to Fridays gathered to present a special radio program that lasted two hours.

It started with a song going back to the late 60's entitled 'Sur un dinosaure' by Jacques Michel, a prolific Quebec singer/songwriter. The song translates to "On a dinosaur". It's an upbeat, pop song where Jaques tells his "honey" not to cry or worry because "I'll be back to pick you up on a dinosaur and we'll both go for a ride."

It has indeed been quite a ride since the day that same song was first played on CBEF, May 18, 1970, the day the station went on air.

Like the rest of Radio-Canada (and CBC) there have been glorious successes and devastating losses, in particular in 2009 when Radio-Canada canceled all local CBEF programs.

At that time, the Francophone community rallied and formed a group called "SOS CBEF" which, amongst other things, organized an extremely important and very well attended protest calling for the return of local French programming in Windsor.



(P.Jeflyn, G.Bertrand, P.Laprise-Haslip)



In 2010, CBEF regained a portion of a local morning radio program. The one-hour program later expanded to two hours and in 2013 the morning show *Matins sans frontières* (Mornings without borders) was reinstated to its original 3-hour slot hosted by Charles Lévesque.

To mark the special 55th anniversary program, Charles and Lisette Leboeuf co-hosted a two-hour show surrounded by listeners, friends, and former employees of Radio-Canada and CBC.



Everyone present, even fans tuned in from a distance, listened closely and caringly to every word. Those in attendance at times swayed and clapped with the music.

For the francophone community, it was a party for a close and trusted friend. After the program, the participants stayed to talk with the hosts and their interview guests. A barbecue and an anniversary cake followed outside.

The sun shone on all of them, and a warm and appreciative feeling was experienced amongst those who helped celebrate 55 years of French language radio in Windsor.

Coming up: Celebrating 75 years July-CBE Radio and 50 years September-CBET-TV. Details and celebration dates to follow.

Welcome: *The Newest Member to Our Southwestern Ontario Family*



Gary Cunliffe moved to London, Ontario, after he retired from CBC Edmonton as Managing Editor.

He had worked as Managing Editor with CBC in Windsor between 2006 and 2010. Prior to that he worked at CBC Charlottetown as Executive Producer TV News.

He started with CBC in Toronto with *NewsWorld International* as a writer/Producer in 1995. He spent his first ten years in the wilderness of private radio and tv. These days he and wife Jillian like to travel; day trip the region and spend time with their daughter Isleen.

SWO Membership Status: 98 and Growing

ATTENTION TO ALL SWO MEMBERS

THIS YEAR MARKS THE THIRD YEAR OF THE THREE-YEAR TERM. WHICH BRINGS US INTO AN ELECTION YEAR THAT WILL BE HELD THIS FALL. DETAILS WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN OUR EMAIL BLAST AND NEXT NEWSLETTER, ALONG WITH OUR AGM DATE.



Southwestern Ontario (SWO) 2025 BBQ – RAIN OR SHINE



The venue has changed, but the same great co-workers and friends have not. As mentioned in our previous newsletter and at the 2024 Christmas Party we were looking for a new gathering venue and we know that you will enjoy it.

When: Saturday, July 19th from 3:00 – 7:00PM

Where: under the Gazebo of the Optimist Memorial Park at 1075 Ypres Avenue.
Our great Chefs will be in attendance once again ready to show off their BBQing skills.

We will provide both regular and veggie burgers, sausages, soft drinks and water. A small pre-BBQ snack or dessert would be welcomed. Please bring personal utensils for serving and a chair.

RSVP by Wednesday July 16 to any of your Board Members.

Dietary Restrictions: Just let us know and we will take care of it



Gino



Sandy



Jackie



Gerry



Manny



Phil



Gerald

The Southwestern Ontario Board

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