

# LIVEWIRE

CBC PNA ONTARIO REGION

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL ONTARIO MEMBERS

BY PNA ONTARIO PRESIDENT BARBARA SAXBERG



As we begin 2026, momentum is building at the PNA. Nationally, we're taking our advocacy work to Parliament Hill; and we're meeting with decision-makers to push for stable CBC funding and to champion seniors' issues. This spring, we'll be launching a refreshed brand identity and website to better reflect who we are—a vibrant, engaged, and forward-thinking group.

**Front left to right:** PNA Ontario Board members Mike Darley, Talin Vartanian, Ben Daube, Barbara Saxberg, Sophia Hadzipetros, Lise Lareau. **Back:** Sheyfali Saujani and National VP Gail Carducci. Absent, Susan Helwig (Photo by Neith MacDonald)

I'm honoured to continue as your regional president for another three years, alongside VP Talin Vartanian. Mike Darley is moving into the treasurer role, and we're pleased to welcome a new member of our team, Sheyfali Saujani, as secretary.

But here's the thing—our volunteer window doesn't last forever. The clock is ticking for all of us. We want the PNA to thrive, so we're always on the lookout for fresh voices and new energy.

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR, CONT'D...**

Succession planning isn't about stepping aside—it's about building something that lasts. We all have incredible knowledge, connections, and passion. Let's work together to share it and make the PNA the best it can be.

In Ontario, we'll keep doing what we do best—bringing members together through social events, and finding new ways to stay connected.

If you have ideas for gatherings or activities, or would like to share a story in Livewire, we're interested. And if you've been thinking about getting involved, now's the time. Please get in touch.

Here's to a strong 2026.

## HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY FROM ACROSS ONTARIO BEGINS ON PAGE 27

**PNA PICS INSIDE FROM**

- BURLINGTON
- OSHAWA
- THUNDER BAY
- TORONTO
- WINDSOR

Maureen Brosnahan and Gail Carducci at the PNA Ontario holiday lunch in Toronto. Maureen won half the proceeds of the 50/50 draw, and the remainder was donated to the food rescue organization Second Harvest and to the Joan Leishman Memorial Fund at PEN Canada. It was a serendipitous win because Brosnahan and Leishman were newsroom colleagues. See the next page for details about Joan's fund. (Photo by Neith MacDonald)



## PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF JOAN LEISHMAN

BY MARGO KELLY

In August, we lost a remarkable CBC journalist, humanitarian, mother, and grandmother, Joan Leishman. Just 67, Joan died after a fall at home, a tragedy that rocked her family, friends, and colleagues at CBC and PEN Canada.

As a journalist, Joan was an engaging storyteller, determined to get at the truth and context of events shaping history. She set up CBC Radio's first bureau in South Africa and covered Nelson Mandela's release from prison and election as President. She also reported on the genocide in Rwanda. Later, Joan became CBC TV's Bureau Chief in Latin America and, upon her return to Toronto, created documentaries for *The National* for a decade. Before retiring, she returned to radio, reporting on international stories from her desk in Toronto.

*...continued*

Joan Leishman, early in her CBC career (CBC Still Photo Collection)



**JOAN LEISHMAN, CONT'D...**

While our paths crossed at the CBC, I came to know Joan in a more profound way when we were volunteer mentors with PEN's Writers in Exile group. She had deep empathy for journalists and writers forced to flee their countries due to a growing number of repressive regimes. They faced threats of imprisonment, torture, and death in countries such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Venezuela. They came to Canada with little, leaving behind their careers and often, their families.

Joan was a fierce advocate for these refugees and exceptionally generous. Some got their start in Canada living in her home, including Iranian writer Hoda Karimi Sadr. Joan helped bring Hoda's son to Canada, a situation that took harrowing turns, and she never gave up. In 2023, PEN Canada awarded Joan with the Marie-Ange Garrigue Prize for bringing refugee writers to Canada. In the days following Joan's death, Hoda called her "a quiet revolution—the kind that doesn't shout but transforms."

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***Livewire is the Ontario Region newsletter of the PNA***

**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*

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**Feedback and ideas are welcome.  
Please write to [pnalivewire@gmail.com](mailto:pnalivewire@gmail.com)**

## **JOAN LEISHMAN, CONT'D...**

She wrote: "Joan listened with rare generosity, creating space for stories too often silenced by fear or displacement. She never sought recognition; her impact came from presence—steady, kind, and luminously wise. Even in silence, her voice resonated with strength."

We were all shocked by Joan's sudden death and the sense that she left us too soon—her life and work with her family, friends, and PEN Canada was not finished. Now, to honour Joan's memory and keep her generous spirit with us, PEN has created The Joan Leishman Memorial Fund to protect and assist writers in exile. The money will be used for urgent situations, academic courses, and occasional awards of merit. We hope you'll honour Joan's memory with a donation.

Starting a new life as a refugee in Canada is difficult; finding the time and encouragement to write while trying to survive is daunting. Small gestures of support can lift these writers' spirits and increase their chances of success.

PEN is taking this step with the blessing of Joan's daughters, Thandiwe and Lauren, who would like to see their mother's influence continue for years to come.

*Margo Kelly was a colleague of Joan's and a CBC journalist for almost three decades. She spearheaded the establishment of the Joan Leishman Memorial Fund.*

*PEN Canada will be launching a special webpage for the  
Joan Leishman Memorial Fund.*

*Please contribute now by following these instructions:*

*Go to [pencanada.ca](http://pencanada.ca) and select "Donate."*

*Select "General Donation."*

*In the comment box, write "Joan Leishman Memorial Fund."*

## MY MEMORABLE MOMENT AT THE CBC

BY PAT SCHOFIELD

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAT SCHOFIELD



Pat Schofield and the crew shooting at the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia.

The cameraman on our crew turned on a sungun one night in a sandy little cove in Nova Scotia. That's what made us realize the tide seriously was on its way in.

Ours was one of the first crews to use VR3000 remote tape equipment housed in a metal suitcase. It was like film but used 20-minute videotapes which were transferred onto 90-minute tapes back in Toronto, for editing. Computers were not in play, so we identified shots using a pattern of repeat beeps on the cue track, which made it challenging: "Wait for the thirty-second set of three beeps in section B."

*...continued*

**MEMORABLE MOMENT, CONT'D...**

Our crew consisted of writer Jim McLean, producer/director Rena Elmer, and me. Plus we had a four-person technical team: technical producer Merv Curley, cameraman Dick Ewing, Derek Edgely on lighting, and Phil Burnett on audio. We had spent a different summer taping across Canada for TV Schools & Youth, for a series called *History is Alive and Well and Living In....*

This particular shoot was at the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia, which was still being restored in the early 1970s. Footage was shot on location, and in Toronto they superimposed a "ghost host."

There was no blue screen at that time—we had to cover everything in black velvet to achieve the effect. This required measurements of room distances, furniture height, etc. for the "ghost host" to walk from one side of a room to the other and sit down.



Pat Schofield at work, circa 1970.

The crew was one. We all pitched in to get the job done, from creating on-location special effects, sound effects, securing props, arranging interviews, and doing makeup. It was a unique experience and a great way to experience all aspects of production.

On the night of the last location shoot, Jim and I (we also did the catering), found a little cove. We bought live lobsters and borrowed a lobster pot from the archaeology team. The shoot ran well into the evening, then we drove to the cove and used the sunglasses to find our way down the rocks.

The guys built a fire, rolled up their jeans, and lugged sea water to fill the pot. We had not considered the time it would take cold sea

*...continued*

**MEMORABLE MOMENT, CONT'D...**

water to boil, nor how we would crack the lobster shells or melt butter over an open fire. It was a long wait, and a good thing we had bought hotdogs for Dick, who did not care for seafood. We chatted about the different directions we were all heading in the morning, and laughed at how silly we must have looked to the tourists at the Fort as we walked around the museum dining room table, clanking utensils, pouring wine and mumbling.

We shot without revealing ourselves—it was off-camera audio and video for our “ghost host” to appear to attend a dinner party. Finally, the water boiled and we threw in the lobsters. Thank goodness they cooked in a few minutes, because the sound of waves became louder, then we felt the first tickle of tide water on our toes. On went the sunglasses, starting a mad scramble. We retrieved the lobsters, threw cold water on the boiling lobster pot, gathered our things and climbed up the rocks carrying dinner.

By time we got back to the motel it was well after midnight. We sat around Rena's room and enjoyed lobster and drinks while playing back the daily rushes, our routine at night. There were two lobsters left. We named them Mary and Jane and left them in the bathtub, with a note for the maid.

*Pat Schofield was at the CBC for 36 years, beginning at age 16. She worked in a wide range of roles, from human resources to production, production management, and creative development. She is a member of the North Central Chapter of the PNA.*



## A DAY OF ART, HISTORY, AND CONNECTION AT THE McMICHAEL GALLERY

BY KEEBLE MCFARLANE

In mid-November, 34 CBC retirees and their guests gathered at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, Ontario, for a tour of the Early Days exhibit, showcasing the work of Indigenous artists.

It was sponsored by the PNA and the group soon became totally immersed in the commentary provided by the gallery's Chief Curator, Sarah Milroy, who displayed a knowledgeable and passionate connection to her subject.



PNA tour of the McMichael Gallery's Indigenous exhibit, Early Days (Photo by John Johnston)

The exhibition features more than 100 works from the gallery's collection, which spans well over two centuries. They range from items the First Nations people traded with white settlers in the early days, to tribal regalia, to masks favoured by people on the northwestern coast. The ground-breaking work of artists from the 1960s through the 1980s form most of the exhibition, which is open until the end of March.

For the most part, the show features paintings, but it also showcases sculpture, printmaking, textiles, and videos, revealing what the gallery calls "the cultural continuity, resilience and innovation of Indigenous artistic practices across generations."

*...continued*

**McMICHAEL TOUR, CONT'D...**

The group raptly absorbed Milroy's commentary and busily snapped pictures of the items on display. One takes up an entire wall of the gallery, and a couple of the sculptures stand two stories high.

After the tour, the visitors moved through displays of the works of the Group of Seven—another focus of the McMichael, as well as works by children, which are part of the gallery's outreach program.

The event ended with a lunch sponsored by the PNA in the gallery's main restaurant, Cabin. All agreed it was a morning beautifully spent.

**This spring, the PNA plans to host one more tour at the McMichael Gallery before it closes for renovations for three years. Stay tuned for details.**



Ceremonial transformation mask by Art Thompson, made of red cedar, cedar bark, horsehair, abalone, paint, metal hinges and strings. (Photo by Talin Vartanian)



McMichael tour participants Kathryn von Bezold, Ronda Bruce, Jessica Vanderhyden, her grandfather Keeble McFarlane, Karen Matthews, and Kent Hoffman (Photo by Kathryn von Bezold)

## FROM THE VAULT

BY RHODA GRYFE

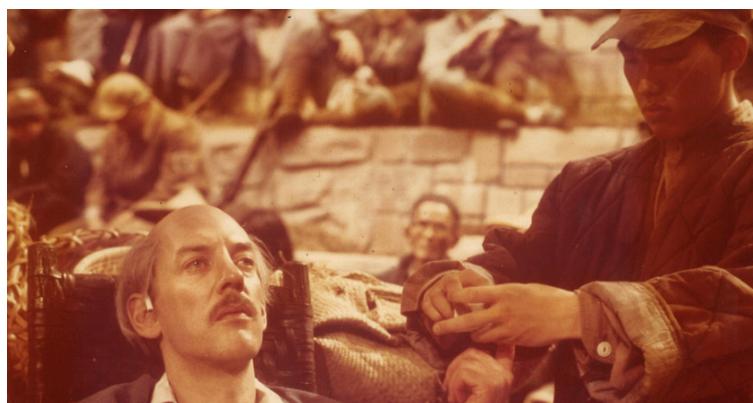
ALL PHOTOS FROM THE ALBUMS OF HENK VAN HASSEL

Revered as a hero by more than a billion Chinese, Norman Bethune is better known in China than in Canada. An accomplished thoracic surgeon, Bethune helped the Chinese Red Army fight the Japanese in the late 1930s. Following his death from septicemia after accidentally cutting his finger during surgery, Mao Zedong penned an essay, "In Memory of Norman Bethune." It became required reading in China.

Born in Gravenhurst, Ontario, in 1890, Bethune was an inventor and an early advocate for universal healthcare. Before serving in China, he fought in the Spanish Civil War where he developed the world's first frontline mobile blood transfusion unit.

His compelling story was told in *Bethune*, a CBC TV drama shot over the course of one week and broadcast in 1977. As China was not very receptive to foreign visitors and CBC's production funds were no doubt limited, *Bethune* was not taped on location but in studio, using papier mâché sets. It was directed by Eric Till, produced by Robert Sherrin and Duncan Lamb, and starred Donald Sutherland, Kate Nelligan, David Gardner, James Hong, Gerard Parkes, and Patrick Watson.

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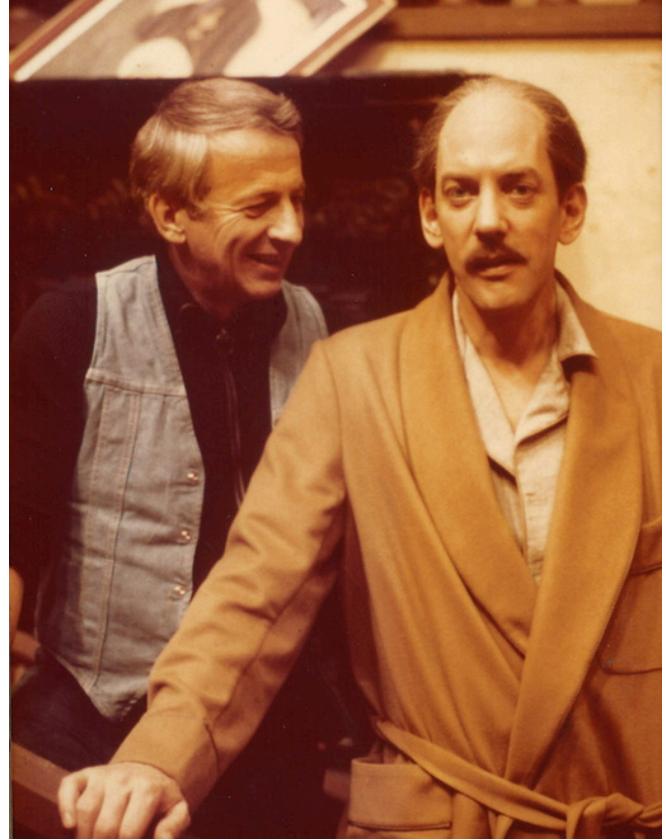
Donald Sutherland in the 1977 CBC drama *Bethune*

FROM THE VAULT, CONT'D...



Kate Nelligan co-starred as Frances Penney Bethune

**You can watch Donald Sutherland being grilled by the Front Page Challenge panel or in conversation with Peter Gzowski in 1977.**



Donald Sutherland as Bethune and Patrick Watson as R. E. Colman, a friend who married Frances Penney after Bethune and Penney's second divorce in 1933. Bethune attended their wedding.

## IN SEARCH OF...

Both the PNA and the CBC Pension Administration Centre are looking for a pensioner named **Monica Gallardo**. If you have current contact information for her, please write to [info@cbc pensioners.ca](mailto:info@cbc pensioners.ca).



## MEET A MEMBER: GERARD BUECHE

BY BONNIE HEWITT

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GERARD BUECHE

Gerard Bueche was the CBC's Creative Director of Design when he retired in 2011. It was the end of a remarkable, 35-year career that began by chance, over fondue at a Swiss ski chalet.

Bueche grew up in Switzerland and had just graduated university with a design degree. While relaxing at the ski chalet, he met Canadian entrepreneur and philanthropist Peter Munk, who was so impressed with Bueche that he persuaded the young man to come to Canada, even pulling some strings at the Canadian embassy to get him a landed immigrant stamp on his passport.



Ines Maibach, Gerard Bueche, D.J. Anderson, and Sheila Swerling-Purritt

Bueche arrived in Toronto, where his first job was making labels for Procter & Gamble. Then, in the spring of 1971, he applied for a graphics job at the CBC and was hired, reporting to work at the old CBC building on Sumach Street. In the pre-computer era, on-air graphics were created with cut-outs, collages, air brushing, and drawings. Bueche says he worked with a wonderful group of creative designers, creating content for News, Current Affairs, Drama, Children, Sports and Entertainment. A highlight: "I was fortunate enough to learn the art of animation, frame by frame. It was a slow but very satisfying process."

After many years, and just as technology was evolving, Bueche was promoted to head the Graphics Department. The focus shifted to electronic graphic creation, and he expanded his scope, becoming responsible for set designers and decorators, then costumes, makeup and hair.

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**GERARD BUECHE, CONT'D...**

When talk began about the new state-of-the-art Broadcast Centre on Front Street, Bueche was involved in the many discussions about layout and space allocation. He recalls it as a "very interesting process." For the first time, all the design departments would be under one roof, including construction, scenic painting, set decorations and costumes. The big move happened from 1992 to '93.



Makeup artist Mario Cacioppo, Bueche, and Linda Litwack

Gallery, installing monthly exhibitions of local artists' creations. Bueche is also indulging his love of travel, and just celebrated his 80th birthday in Puglia, Italy, with eight close friends and his partner/husband of 50 years.

Bueche moving into the CBC Broadcasting Centre in 1993. (Can you identify the woman who's with him in this photo?)

In 2005, Bueche was promoted to Creative Director of Design. When times changed and budget cuts became the new reality, the CBC began outsourcing, and Bueche's staff of 400 was reduced to only 80 by the time he decided to retire.

In the 14 years since, he's been busy. He created and managed his own art gallery in Toronto and still dabbles in residential and commercial interior design. He built a designer home in Thornbury, Ontario, where he enjoys gardening, and volunteering with the Arts Council at the Thornbury Library



# ON THE GROUND WITH BRIAN STEWART

PHOTOS BY TED HACKBORN AND TALIN VARTANIAN

Colleagues, friends, and fans of Brian Stewart, one of the CBC's most respected journalists, gathered at the University of Toronto in October to celebrate his new memoir, *On the Ground: My Life as a Foreign Correspondent*.

Former news editor and occasional network host Helen Mann interviewed Stewart, who said, "It's so moving to see so many familiar faces and to have a shared CBC connection here."



Left, Susan Helwig and Joe Lawlor, who are leading the Legacy Project, which has preserved the Stewart interview.

Above, Stewart with former CBC VP Harold Redekopp and his wife Erna.



## BEYOND THE BIN: DISPOSING OF OLD ELECTRONICS

BY BONNIE HEWITT

When I recently purchased a new laptop computer, I wondered what to do with my old one. Throwing it out wasn't an option. Computers, smartphones and other electronics contain hazardous chemicals that can break down, and leak into landfills. They produce toxic emissions that pose a threat to our health and the environment. E-waste is a growing problem in our technology-driven world.



In some municipalities, it's illegal to throw away your old electronics. Manufacturers and retailers are responsible for collecting and recycling them, so returning them to a retailer is an easy option.

Here are some other ways to deal with end-of-life electronics:

- Most municipalities have electronic recycling programs, with drop-off depots and, in some locations, pick-up services.
- You can donate your used devices to shelters, schools, or any number of charities that could use them.
- Some private recycling companies buy used electronics, to salvage the useable parts and recycle the waste.

A quick Google search will provide more information on recycling and donation options in your community.

### Take precautions

Before donating, selling, or dropping off your old devices, it's crucial to remove any personal information. It's not enough to simply delete your files, because the data can still be retrieved. Look online for computer programs that will delete your data, then overwrite or wipe the information from the hard drive. Some experts recommend physically destroying the hard drive with a hammer or mallet (safety goggles please) as

*...continued*

## OLD ELECTRONICS, CONT'D...

a way to secure your privacy and release some aggression at the same time.

If all that is a bit daunting, many recycling companies include secure data wiping and destruction, as a service.

Do your research, find the best option that works for you, then pat yourself on the back for doing your part to reduce e-waste.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR (SORT OF)

PNA member Agnes Macpherson shared her feedback during a courtesy home delivery of *Livewire*. It was in response to a “From the Vault” feature we published about the many buildings across the city that were consolidated into the Toronto Broadcasting Centre (*Livewire*, June 2025, page 12).

Author Rhoda Gryfe noted that the photos of four buildings were missing and asked readers whether they could identify them. In the September issue, we ran a letter from



PNA member Agnes Macpherson, who recently turned 97.

Ginny Huebsch, who said one of them was at 22 Front Street West, where she worked in TV Film Services.

Macpherson shared her memories of CBC buildings: She worked at Elizabeth Street and Gerrard, formerly Hester How School, overseeing the information bureau of Audience Relations, in the CBC's Press and Information department. She remembers that Scenic Design was also in the building. Another CBC location was at Wellesley and Yonge Streets, near the Orthopedic Hospital. And Archives was in the basement of 111 Gerrard, near the Radio building on Jarvis Street. She remembers when it was flooded.

Many thanks to Macpherson for those recollections. She left the CBC in 1986 and recently celebrated her 97th birthday.

## PNA MEETING OF THE MINDS



The PNA's national board members, committee chairs, and staff meet in person from time to time. In October, it was in Port Credit, Ontario.

**Left bottom to top:** Jon Soper, Lutz Walsh, Frank Machovec, Geoff Turnbull, Suzie Bougie, Réjean Labrie.

**Centre bottom to top:** Adrien Caissie, Linda Gillan Young, Talin Vartanian, Micheline Provost, Jean-Claude Labrecque, Barbara Saxberg, Lilia Rassoul, Jeanitta Richard, Renato Sicoli

**Right bottom to top:** Dan Oldfield, Gail Carducci, Marc-Philippe Laurin, Pierre-Léon Lafrance, John Mang, Ron Charles

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF LIVEWIRE?

Let us know what you like, and don't like, about our Ontario Region newsletter. Care to suggest someone for our "Meet a Member" feature? Would you like to write for *Livewire*?

**Contact us at [pnalivewire@gmail.com](mailto:pnalivewire@gmail.com)**

## FALL COLOURS ON GEORGIAN BAY

PHOTOS BY TALIN VARTANIAN

The North-Central Chapter hosted a 90-minute sightseeing cruise aboard the Wenonah 2, a replica of the steamships that used to travel the Muskoka lakes. A merry band of PNA members met at the Muskoka Wharf in Gravenhurst.



**Left to right,  
back row:** Mick  
Burke, Rita  
Scagnetti, Cathy  
Kreaver, Dave  
Field, Phil Park.

**Middle:** Brian  
Dawes, Archie  
Reid.

**Front:** Helen  
Hoffman, Paul  
Hoffman, Talin  
Vartanian Margo  
Robbie, Pat  
Schofield, Carol  
Dawes, Ruth  
Baranowski, Gail  
Brownell, Bridget  
O'Toole, Konrad  
Ejbich

## SHH...JUST BETWEEN US

All indications are that we'll have another pension surplus payment this year, thanks to the stellar state of our pension plan in 2024 and to the hard work of the PNA.



## BY THE NUMBERS: THE BEST INVESTMENT YOU NEVER KNEW YOU MADE

BY MIKE DARLEY

We all know our membership dues aren't just pocket change, they're the fuel that helped the PNA win arbitration and deliver not one, not two, but three surplus payments to each of us. The latest landed in November 2025, and rumor has it we're on track for another payout in 2026. Cue the confetti!

Sparked by curiosity, I crunched the numbers on my own cost vs. benefit of membership. The results? Let's just say I nearly fell off my chair.



My after-tax surpluses have already outpaced the cost of my dues. I'd have to live to 152 before my dues catch up. And if that 2026 payment comes through, well, I'll need to stick around until the year 2160, which means I'll be blowing out candles on my 200th birthday cake.

If you're wondering how your numbers stack up, here's the scoop: Surplus payments are based on personal contributions during our working years. Mine weren't anything flashy—I paid into the pension plan most years, but I also enjoyed plenty of "pension holidays," when I didn't contribute at all. And I never had to buy back years of service. Both of those factors lowered my surplus payments. My "average" contributions still turned into thousands of dollars back in my pocket.

...continued

### BY THE NUMBERS, CONT'D...

Big thanks to the PNA team for being our watchdog and our voice, and for delivering the gift that keeps on giving. Together, we're not just celebrating past wins, we're shaping the next ones.

## FROM THE VAULT: As It Happens



The late Dennis Trudeau (obituary page 40) hosted *As It Happens* from 1987 to 1993. This cropped photo recently appeared on Facebook. We have been unable to find the full version.

Pictured left to right, back row: Hal Doran, Doug Caldwell, Marijka Hurko, Daniel Gelfant, and Pauline Janitch.

Front row: Dennis Trudeau, Karen Levine, Alan Maitland, and Helen Knight.

## WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU

Have you moved? Do you have a new email address? Changed your phone number? The PNA needs to know.

We want to share news about your pension, remind you of the benefits you have as a CBC pensioner, and tell you about PNA events.

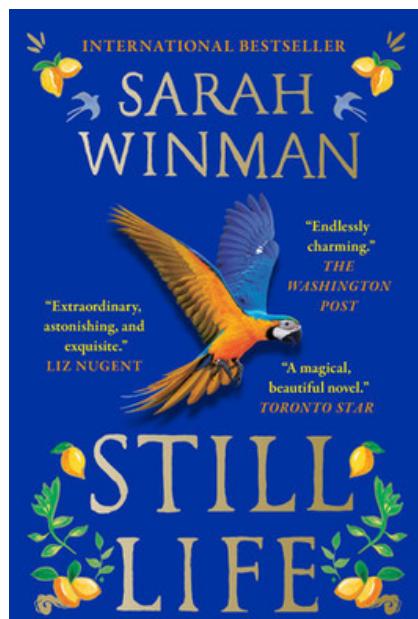
Please write to [info@cbc pensioners.ca](mailto:info@cbc pensioners.ca) with any changes in your coordinates. And add the address [pension@cbc.ca](mailto:pension@cbc.ca) to make sure the Pension Administration Centre knows where to find you, too.

# THE INSIDE WIRE: A STORY OF STRANGERS SET IN WAR-RAVAGED TUSCANY

BY LIZ JENNER

*Still Life* by Sarah Winman is an enthralling and charming story, rich and sweeping, filled with interesting characters and demonstrating an exuberant love of life.

The book begins in 1944 outside Florence, where Evelyn Skinner, an art historian, meets Ulysses Temper, a British soldier. She's 64 and he's 24. Their meeting is brief, but it will shape the rest of their lives. There are other characters, of course, each portrayed with depth, insight and understanding. And there's lots of humour and humanity.



Much of the novel is set in a *pensione* and neighbourhood where friendships are forged, rediscovered, and lives are lived amid tragedy and laughter. Ulysses and Evelyn are joined by Peggy, Ulysses' wife in England. There's Alys, Col, Cress, and Pete; and even Claude, a parrot from the Stoat and Parrot pub, who likes to quote Shakespeare. E. M. Forster makes an appearance, as Evelyn meets him and his mother in Florence on her first unchaperoned trip to Italy in her youth. (*Still Life* inspired me to finally read *Room with a View*.)

The book is rooted in intimate moments and closely observed lives. As Evelyn explains when she first meets Ulysses, "Those

little moments that nobody else notices. Little sacred moments of the everyday."

It's a welcoming read, leavened with humour and good will. Food and wine, conversations and art take centre stage, while politics and social change are in the background. You don't want it to end.

An adaptation of *Still Life* to a television series is in development, and Winman herself is co-writing the script. Do try to read the book first.

...continued

**THE INSIDE WIRE, CONT'D...**

P.S. I just want to mention another book, John Irving's *A Prayer for Owen Meany*. I reread it this summer for the first time in about three decades. It is a beautiful novel, astonishingly written, with bits that make you laugh out loud, a beautiful and magical story. A BIG book in all senses of the word.

*Liz Jenner worked at the CBC for 34 years, beginning in the Reference Library in 1972, when it was located above Mac's Milk at 500 Church Street. She became head librarian, then director of Business Affairs, and a business leader for the Vision Project, streamlining systems for contracting and scheduling. She has been a PNA member since 2006.*



## MY MEMORABLE MOMENT AT THE CBC

BY CONNIE DAYE

During the 35 years I worked for CBC, the highlights were always travel-related. In 2000, shortly after I took a news directing course, a six-month directing opportunity came up in Yellowknife. That was my favourite time at the CBC.

It started in June, with 24 hours of sunlight, and ended at Christmas, with about 20 hours of darkness every day. I was living in a house with three long-time Yellowknifers: a doctor, an architect and the quirky character who owned the house. I was never sure what he did. It felt as though I was living in an episode of *Northern Exposure*.

When colleagues came for short stints, we'd enjoy the town together, hike at Cameron Falls, or go fishing at one of many lakes. My roommates and I hired a guy to take us out on his boat to the east arm of Great Slave Lake for a three-day camping and fishing trip. Beautiful. Not a soul around, but there were osprey and a lot of mosquitoes and no-see-ums. We had gas tank issues and trespassed at a private, remote fishing lodge. They were not very welcoming, but they did sell us gas at twice the price. Phew.

*...continued*

**MY MEMORABLE MOMENT, CONT'D...**

A house party in one of the floating homes was interesting. There was even a canoe-in movie "theatre" on the lake, with a screen and speakers set up on a small rock island.

The three-day summer Folk on the Rocks music festival was awesome, with First Nations, Inuit, and rock bands from various Canadian provinces. There was even one from Sweden. Most of the musicians stayed at people's homes and had before-and-after parties, singing around campfires. It was an amazing summer.

By October, I had to move to another house right on the lake. It was in Old Town, right next to the famous Wild Cat Cafe. I became obsessed with the aurora borealis. My roommate, who was also from away, shared my obsession. We'd put on seven layers of winter gear and lie down on the frozen lake to watch beautiful, coloured curtains of light bobbing and weaving right over our heads. Snowshoeing and dogsledding were highlights, too.

I loved the nightlife. The Strange Range had some wild characters. The Black Knight Pub was more my speed. Bullock's had the best fish and chips I've ever had. There was a dance club, and a variety of restaurants: Mexican, Indian, Japanese, French, Italian, Chinese, Ethiopian.

And yes, I was there to work, too. I directed the 30-minute daily newscast *Igalaaq*, in both English and Inuktitut, for all three territories. The job included a lot of pre-production and set design, including graphics. It was hectic.

The following year, I had an opportunity to return for the month of March, and the year after in May and October but, sadly, never realized my dream to move to Yellowknife for a couple of years.



*Connie Daye worked at the CBC for about 35 years. She began at CBOT in Ottawa as a video editor and left her role as editing supervisor at the end of 2023.*

*This photo is from 2000, when she worked in Yellowknife.*

## WRITTEN ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Our members write books and we'd like you to know about them. If you're an author and would like to share news about your book, write to [pnalivewire@gmail.com](mailto:pnalivewire@gmail.com).

**Brolies** by Peter Hayman and John Rahme  
Fiction, published in 2025

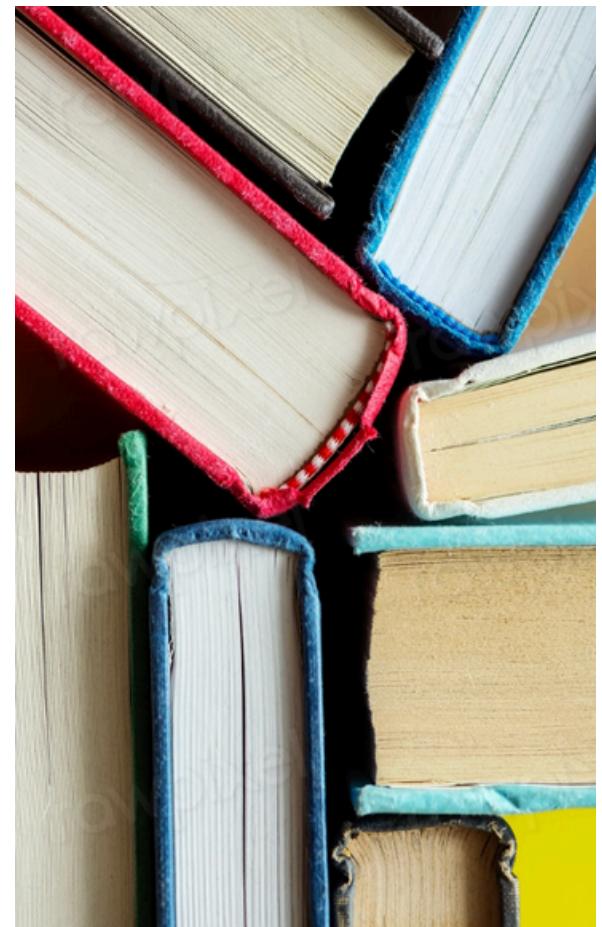
In this work of speculative fiction that has current resonance, the Brolies are a group of brilliant, activist, young tech wizards. They resist the uber-wealthy and politically powerful "Garchs" who control the economy, the media, the environment, and the future.

**Land of the Golden River: An epic-length story told by a singing bard** by Brenda E. F. Beck  
Fiction, published in 2023

An epic legend that presents a view of Tamil folk history. It combines poetic songs with conversations and narrative passages.

**Hidden Paradigms: Comparing epic themes, characters and plot structures** by Brenda E. F. Beck  
Non-fiction, published in 2023

The author, an anthropologist, describes "The Legend of Ponnivala," a South Indian oral folk epic, and compares it to five other universally significant literary works including the Bible, the Mahabharata and the Epic of Gilgamesh.

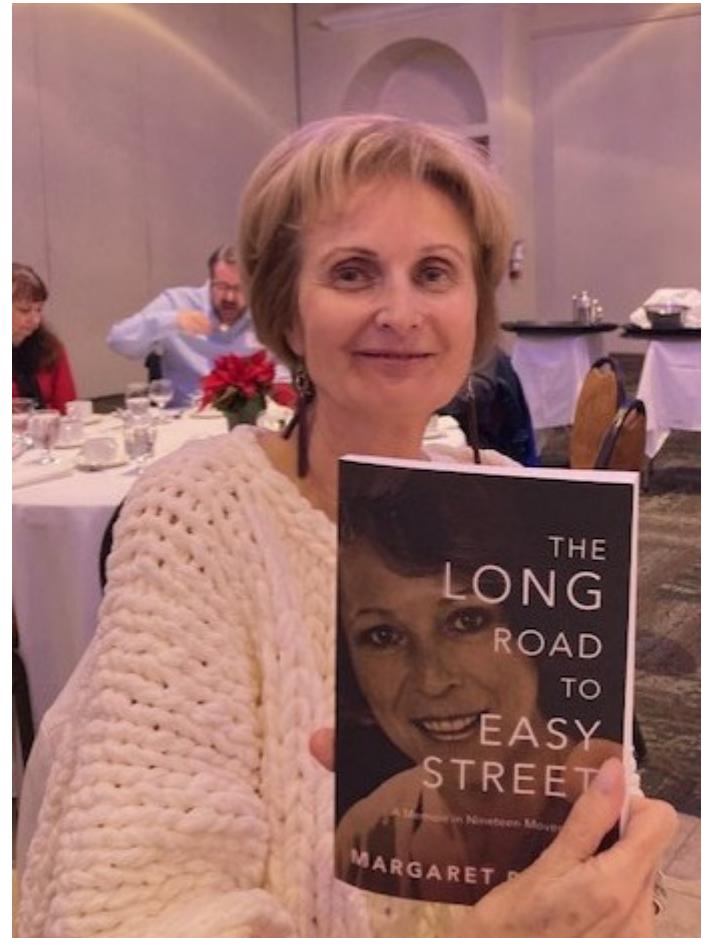


### GROW YOUR VOCABULARY

**logodaedalus** (log-uh-DEE-duh-luhs) Definition: One who is skilled with words.

## HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY: BURLINGTON, OSHAWA, THUNDER BAY, WINDSOR, AND TORONTO

PNA members gathered in cities across Ontario to celebrate the season. In Burlington, at the holiday lunch and annual general meeting of the Golden Horseshoe Chapter, Havoc Franklin became the new president, as Bob Waller stepped down. He served for 12 years on the Golden Horseshoe Board—as director, as VP and for two terms as president. The Ontario Board thanks Bob for his enormous contribution.



**Top left:** Outgoing and incoming presidents Bob Waller and Havoc Franklin.

**Bottom left:** Board members Bob Waller, Bridget O'Toole, Marie Clark-Davies, Cindy Beatty, and Tony Tosti.

**Top:** Sheila Manese, who won a copy of Margaret Pacsu's memoir.  
(Photos by Ted Hackborn)

## HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY, CONT'D...



Durham-Trent members gathered in November in Oshawa.

Left to right: The Chapter's VP Barrie Burhoe, President Effy Terry, Secretary Glenn Gray, Treasurer Randy Blyth, Ontario VP Talin Vartanian, and Durham-Trent Director Joe Solway



Holiday lunch in Thunder Bay. **Left front to back:** Joan Howrigan, Gloria Edwards, Don Edwards, Shane Judge, and Maureen Judge. **Right front to back:** Donna Morrow, Randy Creighton, Dan Oldfield, Barbara Saxberg, Gene Balec, and Shawn Carney.

...continued

HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY, CONT'D...

CBC Windsor hired Sue Prestedge as TV news anchor in 1978, and she remained at the station until 1983. She was the guest speaker at the Southwestern Ontario holiday lunch in Windsor.

(All photos by Michael Fitzsimmons)



Long-serving SWO Board Member Manny Pacheco received a thank you gift from Chapter President Gino Piazza



*...continued*

## HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY, CONT'D...



About 125 members attended the PNA Ontario holiday lunch in Toronto, an entertaining and raucous affair.

(Photos by Neith MacDonald, Ted Hackborn, Konrad Ejbich, and Talin Vartanian)

Left: Allan Bonner photobombs Sheyfali Saujani and James Seabrook



Right: John Badcock, Grazyna Krupa, and Nigel Hunt



Clockwise from left: Barbara Saxberg and Dan Oldfield, with guest greeters Jo Nieuwkerk, Ronda Clanfield, Gail Carducci, and Susan Helwig

*...continued*

HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY, CONT'D...



Left to right: Ian Cooper, former PNA Ontario President John Dixon, and James Hay

Photographer Neith Macdonald in action



Barbara Saxberg, Dan Oldfield, Ted Hackborn and party MC Lise Lareau

*...continued*

HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY, CONT'D...



Meegan Beeckmans (back right) and Lisa Ellenwood at the authors' table with (back to front) Cate Cochran, Karin Wells, and Margaret Pacsu

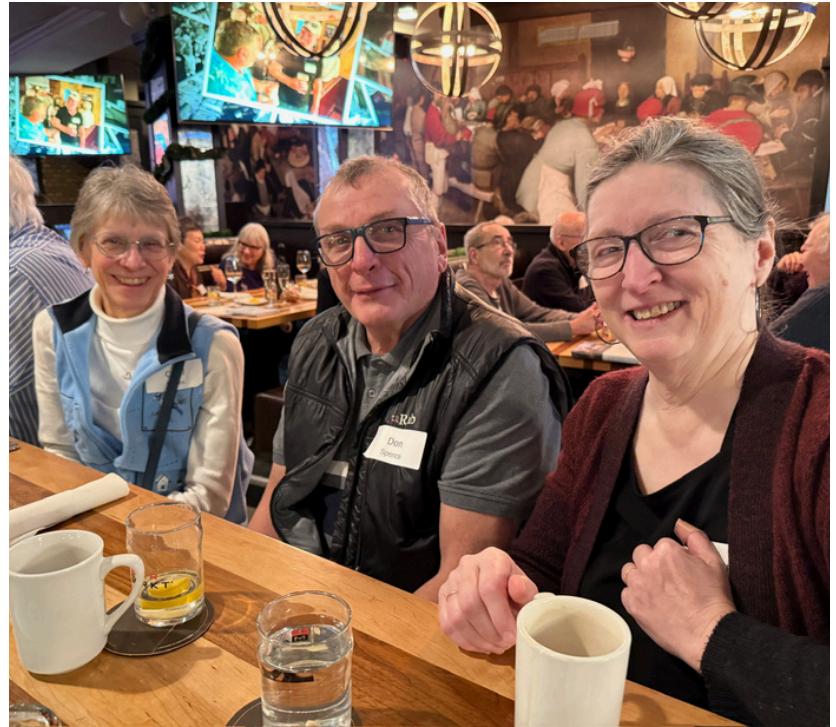
Right, Ben Daube, hamming it up



Left: Neil Avey, Michael Martin Sue Heddle, and Phil Kawasoe

...continued

HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY, CONT'D...



Left to right: Carol Dawes, Don Spence, and Susan Spence



Clockwise from left:  
Kathryn von Bezold,  
Floyd Burrell,  
Monica Walker, and  
Ronda Bruce

*...continued*

HOLIDAY LUNCH PHOTO GALLERY, CONT'D...



Ronda Clanfield and Petrona Martin



Left to right: Nicole Morrison, Renée Moreau, and Terry Alexis



Don Spandier and Lynn Burgess

## MORE MEMBERS MEANS A STRONGER VOICE FOR THE PNA

COMPILED BY SOPHIA HADZIPETROS

More than 100 new members joined the Ontario Region of the PNA in 2025. If you spot the names of former colleagues on this list, be sure to welcome them. And if you know one of about 4,000 CBC pensioners who have yet to sign up, please share the excellent video on the ["Join Us" page of our website](#). It sums up why it's smart to be a PNA member.

The PNA is the only organization that protects the rights of all CBC pensioners, and there is strength in numbers. That's why it's essential to keep welcoming new members to the PNA. Our numbers will dwindle if we don't encourage others to join. So, if you care about protecting your pension, recruit new members.

We're listing each person's last role, and their final year at the CBC, acknowledging that some people returned to work after becoming a pensioner.

**John Adams** – Stagehand, 1996

**Analisa Amoroso** – Senior Project Manager, 2023

**Roma Andrusiak** – Producer, News, 2024

**Donna Lee Aprile** – Senior Producer, Arts

**Hector Aviles** – Information not available

**Leslie Barnes** – Coordinating Associate Director, 2025

**Francisca Barsonyi** – TV Assistant, 1998

**Catherine Basaraba** – Senior Graphic Designer, 2023

**Patricia Beswick** – Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, Communications, 2016

**John Bozzo** – Executive Director, Communications and Marketing, 2010

**James Bracken** – Coordinating Media Librarian, 2007

**Pascale Breniel** – Producer/Réalisatrice, 2025



*...continued*

## NEW MEMBERS, CONT'D...

**Joey Bruni** – Art Director, Communications, 2025

**Wendy Buckingham** – Senior Manager, Scheduling and Business Operations, 2025

**Jeff Buttle** – Producer, TV News, 2025

**Daniel Caissie** – Senior Manager, Glenn Gould Studio, 2024

**Gina Cali** – Archive Producer, *Nature of Things*, 2015

**Lynda Calvert** – Information not available

**Faye Carson** – Spouse of Winston Carson, Lighting Technician, who died in 2015

**France Casey** – Payroll Administrator, 1996

**Fiona Christensen** – Executive Producer, Radio, 2024

**Brian Christie** – Foreign Assignment Editor, News, 2016

**Robin Christmas** – Producer, *Man Alive*, 2010



**Gord Cochrane** – Studio Director/Associate Producer, *Metro Morning*, 2017

**Gary Cunliffe** – Managing Editor, Edmonton, 2018

**Susan Dando** – Executive in Charge of *The Nature of Things*, 2025

**Doug Doctor** – Recording Engineer/Producer, 2024

**Rufo Domingo** – Partner of the late Raphael Berk, Lighting Technician, retired in 1995

**Maureen Dunn** – Receptionist, 1995

**Frank Durrant** – Information not available

**Judith Fantham** – Director of Learning & Development, 2004

**Evelyn Fenwick** – HR Manager, 2015

**Kathleen Fraser** – Director, Financial Services, 2009

**Eileen Fuller** – Spouse of the late Joe Fuller, Technical Operator, *The National*, who died in 2024

**Claude Gagnon** – Journalist, Sudbury, 2017

**Ian Godfrey** – Administrative Assistant, 2025

**Deborah Goodwin** – Producer, Television, 2010

**Gary Gornik** – Senior Systems Designer, Engineering, 2025

*...continued*

## NEW MEMBERS, CONT'D...

**Havard Gould** - Reporter, 2025

**Murray Green** - Senior Post-Production Editor, 2025

**Brenda Hanna** - Producer, TV News and Current Affairs, 2014

**Tom Harrington** - Host, *The World This Hour/Your World Tonight*, 2025

**Jennifer Harrison** - Managing Editor, News, 2024

**Mark Harrison** - Executive Producer, News, 2024

**Michael John Haslam** - (Hybrid) Videographer/Editor/Production, 2014

**Elizabeth Headlam** - Librarian, 2020

**Bryan Hill** - Radio Producer, 2005

**Roger Hupman** - Graphic Artist, 2006

**Paul Jones** - Senior Producer, News Network, 2025

**Anna Jurak** - Spouse of the late Robert James Miller, Reporter for more than 30 years, then Executive Producer, he died in 2025

**Josef Jurisevic** - Financial Coordinator, 1995

**Carol Anne Jutras** - Props Master, 2007

**Stephanie Kerr** - Audience Engagement, Digital Strategy, 2025

**Nanci King** - Co-ordinating Associate Director, 2025

**Robert Kuntz** - Toronto Media Presentation Center, Master Control, 2025

**Robert Lack** - Executive Producer, News Network, 2025

**William Laht** - Director, Real Estate/Chief Architect, 2010

**Nancy Lee** - Head, TV Sports, 2006

**Mary Ellen Lefebvre** - Administrator, Sales, 2002

**Christine Lemieux** - Information not available

**Andy Libby** - Administrator, Technological Services, 2017

**Richard Lyon** - Stagehand, 2005



...continued

## NEW MEMBERS, CONT'D...

**Ann MacKeigan** - Executive Producer *Q/Commotion*, 2025

**Heather McLennan** - Senior Producer, *The National*, 2020

**Helen Mann** - Senior Writer, News Network, 2025

**Margaret Marcoux** - Information not available

**Petrona Martin** - Senior Administrator, Content Development and Production, 2024

**Mary Mather** - Producer, *The National*, 2016

**Neil McEneany** - Chief Business Officer, 2015

**Marianne McGrath** - Administrative Support, Finance and Strategy, 2025

**Joanne McPherson** - Managing Editor, Program Content and Strategies, 2025

**Gordon McOuat** - International Sales, 2008

**Cathy Merritt** - Spouse of the late Ray Riz, Graphic Artist, National News, died in 1999

**Dale Molnar** - Video Journalist, 2025

**Renée Moreau** - Associate Director, Television, 2025

**Madeline Morris** - Information not available

JULY 14, 2019	JULY 21, 2019	JULY 28, 2019	JUNE 30, 2019	JULY 1, 2019
Gillian guest-host 43:00 Talin A.E.	Peter hosts 43:00 Talin A.E.	Kevin hosts 43:00 Pauline A.E.	Peter A. guest-host 43:00	Gillian/A.E. 43:00 Talin.
Climate Change + Journalism (D2) O-DISC	Internet & Democracy (CW) ♀ O-DISC	Gay referee (CC) O-DISC	Schizophrenia (PH) 30-35 O-STING 30secs MAIL: WOODSTOCK ~ 5 10. O-DISC "NEIL YOUNG" ~ 4 min	Paternity book (PH)
HOUR 2	Hour 2	Hour 2	HOUR 2	HOUR 2
DOC: 8 conditions 50:00 (ALZHEIMER'S & M.A.D.) ♀ needs update ~ 30 O-DISC/s - 6' BRAD AEON - PRODUCTIVITY (CW) 14 min.	Fleishman 50:00 Author (TV) ♀ O-DISC-3 23' Repeat: Boris Johnson (tele in July 22) 23:12 + intro	Michael Coren 50:00 (CC) 33' O-DISC/s - 6' Doclet: Beautiful Instruments 11'	DOC: Jenny gets her voice back 50:00 18 O-STING 1 min Doris Kearns Goodwin - 32 min Great US Leader (CW)	Saudis 50:00 O-DISC Esi Edugyan (CC) 27:34
HOUR 3	Hour 3	Hour 3	HOUR 3	HOUR 3 2017
Carl Cederstrom- 50:00 (Reads feminist books 24:24 #MeToo) (CC) O.	DOC: Late-life PhDs (D2) 35:41 O-DISC	Bedtime stories for Grownups 50:00 (CC) ♀ 14:46 Dr. Thelma Resser 24:44	T.A. Cloth vs. plastics 50:00 (TV) ~ 9 ♀. 11 min. - O Canada ~ 29	DOC: Persuasive Technology (IB) 42'

**Beryl Ann Murray** - Producer, Newsworld, 2001

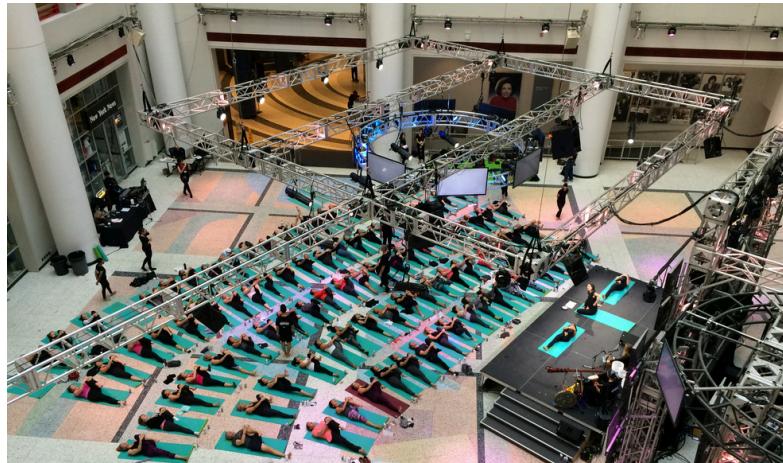
**Jack Nagler** - Ombudsman, 2025

**Pamela Ng** - Information not available

**David Oliver** - Information not available

**Margaret O'Sullivan** - Producer, Newsworld International, 2001

## NEW MEMBERS, CONT'D...



**Robert Owczarz** - Scenic Construction, 2015

**Sandra Peppler** - Senior Graphic Designer, 2025

**John Rahme** - Media Solutions, 2020

**Leonardus (Leo) Eduard Egbert Rampen** - Director of Television, Montreal, 1985

**Diana Redegeld** - Reference Librarian, 2025

**Richard Rogers** - Producer and Director, News and Current Affairs, 2013

**Cathy Ross** - Director, Budgeting and Internal Reporting Finance, 2025

**Paul Seeler** - Videographer, 2015

**Yasmine Shamsie** - Spouse of the late Michael Colton, National Reporter, Radio, who died in 2019

**Guy Smith** - Information not available

**Patricia Softly** - Producer, *The National*, 2012

**Marete Spears** - Spouse of the late Robert Spears, Gaffer/Lighting Director, who died in 2017

**Lynn Stone** - Spouse of the late Merv Stone, Manager, Program Purchasing, who died in 2016

**Maureen Taylor** - National Reporter, 2008

**David Towers** - Information not available

**Martin Trainor** - Producer/Videographer, 2024

**Anna Maria Tremonti** - Host, *The Current*, 2019

**Sandra Varanesi** - Senior News Producer, 2016

**Ruth Ann Waffle** - Spouse of the late Robert Waffle, Master Control, who died in 2025

**Mary Werner** - Spouse of the late Albert Werner, who worked in Finance, and died in 2024

**Pauline Williams** - Senior Clerk, 2015

**Victor Winteler** - Stagehand, 1985

**Donald Winton** - Switcher, 2024

**Donald Witt** - Radio Technician, 2009

**Laurence Wright** - Editor, Newsworld, 2008

...and six new members who  
wish to remain anonymous

## IN MEMORIAM



COMPILED BY LEONE EARLS

**Branislava Perak** died on August 14, at age 87. We have no information on her role at the CBC.

**Margaret Beattam** died on August 15, on her 99th birthday. She worked for many years in Audience Relations in Toronto.

**Daniel "Lock" Johnston** died on September 12, at age 93. He worked for CBC television in the Jarvis Street studios during the very early '50s. He returned to the CBC in the mid-'60s, as a Sound Editor.

**Brent Thomas** died on September 28, at age 67. He worked at CBC Toronto for 32 years as a Video Production Editor.

**Kim Kristy** died on September 30, at the age of 74. He worked for many decades as a Television Reporter, Investigative Journalist and Producer at CBC Windsor.

**Dennis Trudeau** died on October 6, at age 77. He was a reporter and news anchor in Montreal for many years. For eight years, Trudeau was host of the radio morning show *Daybreak*. He became a national radio host at *As It Happens* and *Cross Country Checkup*.

**John MacLellan** died on October 7, at age 91. He spent his 30-plus-year career as a graphic designer for CBC Television. MacLellan created story boards and props for many programs, including *Mr. Dressup*.

...continued

**IN MEMORIAM, CONTINUED...**

**David Amer** died on October 15, at age 89. He was the music producer for *This Country in the Morning* and *Morningside* and founding producer of *The Vinyl Café*.

**John McCord** died on Wednesday, November 26, at age 90, in Barrie. He worked for many years in TV Network Traffic.

**Wayne Smith** has died. We have no further information on when he died or what he did for the CBC.

## **THERE'S A WORD FOR THAT!**

**aristology** (ar-uh-STOL-uh-jee) Definition: the art of dining

**umbriferous** (uhm-BRIF-uh-ruhs) Definition: casting a shadow

**proprioception** (pro-pree-uh/oh-SEP-shuhn) Definition: the awareness of location of parts of one's body

**macrosmatic** (mak-rahz-MAT-ik) Definition: having a well-developed sense of smell

**photophobia** (fo-tuh-FO-bee-uh) Definition: an abnormal sensitivity to light

**amusia** (ay-MYOO-zee-uh) Definition: The inability to recognize, reproduce, or appreciate music

**psychrophobia** (sy-kruh-FO-bee-uh) Definition: an abnormal fear of cold

**Chekhov's gun** (chek-ofs GUHN) Definition: the literary principle that if an element is introduced in a story, it must be shown to have a purpose or an element introduced in a story that is revealed to have a purpose later on.

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**Visit the Ontario page of the PNA website for information  
about upcoming events, and to read our bylaws and  
minutes of our Annual General Meeting.**

**<https://www.cbc pensioners.ca/regions/ontario/>**



**The CBC Pensioners  
National Association**

*Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past*

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to join the CBC Pensioners National Association and hereby authorize the CBC to deduct monthly membership dues from my pension cheque and remit them to the Association. I also authorize the CBC to provide the Association with such personal information relating to me as the Association may require to facilitate the administration of dues and other services related to the welfare of pensioners.

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Preferred language	Date of retirement (dd/mm/yyyy)				
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