

**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***

2025 was an excellent year for the SWO Family

- National Pensioners Headlines
- An Eventful Year
- Another 1st for our Chapter!
- Fishing: Patience Please!
- The Ring Connection
- Membership: Why It Matters!
- Newest Member
- Christmas 2025!!!!

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Proof Editor: Brian Worrall

Headlines: From the National Website



Want to become more informed about The CBC Pensioners National Association (PNA), click the link below. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- January 2026 Pension Cost of Living Increase
- Supplementary Health Care Plan Premiums Reduced
- How to Access Your Surplus Payout Information
- Enjoy a Multitude of Benefits, Become a PNA Member

<https://www.cbcpensioners.ca>

Southwestern Ontario (SWO) – UPDATE

2026 - Upcoming Events

- July Summer BBQ
- Summer Tour of The Aviation Museum
- September Annual General Membership Meeting
- December Christmas Party

Details and dates will follow in our upcoming newsletters and email blasts

Numbers Update:

- Since our 2025 Christmas photo post, we have generated 539 views to date.
 - Our Facebook page has been extremely busy. Thank you!
- We currently have 115 followers on Facebook, click below, 'LIKE' our page and become a follower. <https://www.facebook.com/SWOChapterCBCPensioners>
 - The SWO membership increased to 102 (more to come)



SPOUSAL CONNECTIONS – *by Phil Peck*

Once again SWO takes the lead to Connect and Inform!

Improving Communications

Not long ago, my wife asked, *“When is the Pensioners’ Christmas dinner?”*

I quickly realized two things: I hadn’t put the date on our shared Google calendar, and I hadn’t forwarded the Chapter newsletter to her. I regretted that because if she had received it directly, the answer would have been easy. <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/>

That moment led to an *aha* realization: **why aren’t our newsletters and important information shared with spouses as well as members?**

Our Pensioners’ Association provides timely, relevant information about activities, events, and initiatives that matter to retirees. Sharing this information with spouses makes sense—and can only strengthen communication and participation.

As a result, the Board of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter has decided to send its newsletter, along with other important chapter communications, directly to spouses as well as members.

The only challenge is that we don’t currently have email addresses for spouses. While a few members share an email account with their spouse, most do not.

I’ve volunteered to help gather this information and update our chapter mailing list. **We are asking members to please email the following details:**

- Member’s name
- Spouse’s name
- Spouse’s email address

Please send this information to **ginojohnpiazza@gmail.com** and **cc: ppeck@kelcom.net**. Including both addresses helps us ensure no unnecessary reminders are sent.

Our hope is that spouses will stay informed about chapter initiatives—and perhaps encourage, remind, entice, nudge, inspire, or otherwise convince members to reconnect with former colleagues and take part in chapter events.

Thank you for helping us improve communication within our chapter.

Got Hooked on History – by Laur Pray (Member, CBC Windsor Anniversary Planning Group)



Fishing, like most things in life, requires patience, a plan of attack, and perseverance.

When I was asked to join the group planning to mark 75 years of CBC Radio and 50 years of CBC Television in Windsor, I was excited to be part of the effort. Our group of retired CBC colleagues set out to create a celebration worthy of the milestone,

knowing it would also be a journey filled with memories.

From our very first meeting, ideas were cast in every direction. It quickly became clear that many of our former colleagues had held on to remarkable pieces of CBC history—photographs, equipment used in earlier days, and promotional materials. With that in mind, Windsor's Chimczuk Museum generously agreed to host an exhibition showcasing the memorabilia we were able to collect.

When the exhibition opened on October 25, 2025, former radio and television employees gathered once again. Old friendships



were renewed, new connections were made, and stories flowed freely as people reflected on their time at CBC Windsor and the role it played in their lives and careers.



Publisher's Note: Laur Pray is an avid angler who is always fishing for a good story. He is a former CBC cameraman and video journalist.



Ringside to the Control Room (1960–1965) – by Gerald Head

In the early 1960s, I was a student at J. L. Forster Collegiate Institute on the west side of Windsor. My father, Clifford, worked for the City of Windsor as a stationary engineer at the Peabody Building on Riverside Drive East, near Hiram Walker.

In addition to his city job, my father and his business partner, Blake Robertson a local barber held the professional wrestling licence for Southwestern Ontario, including Windsor. Most matches were held at the Windsor Market on Pitt Street, with occasional events in nearby communities such as Wallaceburg, Chatham, and Bothwell. CKLW TV also aired a weekly wrestling program from its studios on Thursday nights.

My father was paid \$30 per night to use his licence. When matches were held at the Windsor Market, he was responsible for setting up the ring, preparing the venue for the evening, and selling tickets at the box office. However, when CKLW TV used his licence, union jurisdiction prevented him from doing any physical work at the studio. This restriction unexpectedly freed him to pursue another opportunity.



In those days, liquor could not be purchased without a government-issued card. Many of the wrestlers were from the United States, so they paid my father to purchase liquor for them while they were “working” at the studio, entertaining audiences with what appeared to be all-out combat.

As for where I fit into all of this, I often accompanied my father to the CKLW studios on Thursday nights. I stayed in the background, quietly observing and getting to know the station staff.

In the fall of 1964, I took a job at *The Windsor Star*. Around the same time, I began to toy with the idea of becoming a radio announcer. I enrolled in an announcer’s course run by Art Gadd of CHYR in Leamington and started exploring that career path.

In the spring of 1965, I submitted an application to CKLW, looking for any position available. I was interviewed on a Friday and hired to work in the mailroom beginning the following Monday, April 6, 1965, coincidentally, my father’s birthday. I left *The Windsor Star*, where I worked six days a week (with Saturdays paid at time and a half) earning \$50 per week, for a five-day workweek at CKLW earning \$55 per week.

Working in the mailroom proved to be an invaluable introduction to the broadcasting business and to people in general. Within my first week, I realized that I did not want to pursue a career as an announcer. Instead, I discovered a deep appreciation for the behind-the-scenes roles I would go on to hold during my 35 years at CKLW and later at the CBC.

During my years as a film editor, I was privileged to meet many well-known personalities who appeared alongside Bill Kennedy, Tom Shannon, Robin Seymour (*Swingin’ Time*), Mary Morgan, and others. I was also subpoenaed to appear in court in Toronto following the Charlie Brooks murder, as well as on a few other occasions—an experience that could easily become a story of its own for a future newsletter.

Returning to my father’s wrestling ventures, I often assisted him with setting up the ring for out-of-town matches. While watching the bouts was exciting, the real fun came afterward, driving back to Windsor with wrestling legends such as Dick the Bruiser, The Sheik, or Bobo Brazil. My brother, Clifford, still recalls many of those famous wrestlers joining us for dinner at our home.

Looking back, I truly believe that getting to know so many station staff members during those early years made it easier for me to be hired at CKLW and ultimately helped shape a career I greatly enjoyed.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS – by Phil Peck



Quite often, I'm asked why some former co-workers don't attend association activities? It happened again at the recent pensioners' Christmas party. The answer always varies with the individual.

In this case, the individual in question was ill. She planned to attend but was struck by a bug.

In other cases, people didn't attend because of other commitments, or the timing wasn't convenient. That's one of the reasons why the SWO chapter experimented with a different start time this year. Would mid-day be more convenient than evening, for some people.

Another reason why some former colleagues don't attend is that they have not enrolled in the pensioners association. That answer prompts another question – why not? Again, a wide range of reasons.

There are people who are angry with the CBC and want nothing to do with it. They mistakenly think the CBC Pensioners National Association is part of the CBC. The association maintains a relationship with CBC in order to advocate on behalf of pensioners. At times it's an adversarial relationship. If a non-member is against CBC, they should be with us.

There are people who don't think the organization is worth the cost of membership. It's \$3.20 for every \$1,000.00 paid by the pension; that's 32 cents for every \$100 received in pension payments. The dues keep the organization going, to fight for things such as the sharing of the pension surplus with the those who contributed to the fund. Most of the work of the association is done by volunteers, that's why the dues can be so low.

There are also people who don't know much about the pensioners association, what it stands for and what it does on behalf of retirees. Some have not been offered a chance to enrol. That's why I take time to explain it and invite pensioners to join - to make the association stronger as it works on our behalf.

I hope you can do the same.

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



The SWO Chapter is pleased to welcome Mary Ann Kristy to the CBC Pensioners National Association.

Mary Ann was married to Kim Kristy, whom she met in high school.

In her earlier years, she worked as an elementary school teacher. While studying early childhood education in Toronto, Mary Ann had the opportunity to work with a young student named Megan Follows, who later went on to star as Anne in the CBC television miniseries *Anne of Green Gables*.



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025 – by Barbara Peacock

My husband, Lee Rabideau, made an observation after our party - whenever he's at one of our events he sees and feels the sense of camaraderie, and he also feels welcome and comfortable being with us.

Joanne Hoppe put her finger on it after the party when she said: "The older I get, the more I treasure our connection to one another."

I'm sure all of us who came to the party feel that too.

And this year we had a special guest who worked here decades ago when she, and we, were young!



After her years in Windsor Sue Prestedge went on to become one of Canada's first and most influential female sports journalists.

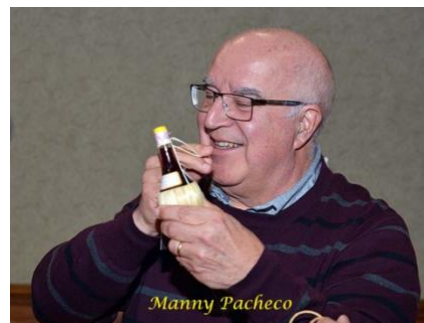
Sue spoke to us of her career highlights and shared several entertaining stories about things she was in the middle of over the years. It was a treat to see Sue standing with her former, fellow presenter from the CBET anchor desk, Don Daly, who looked as tall, slim and dapper as ever in his 1976 Orange Olympic blazer and tie! Not many people could wear it that

well!

What fun Gino Piazza had at the microphone with Manny Pacheco who stepped down from our Pensioner's board last year. The bottle of wine Gino gave Manny as a Thank You was so huge it could almost fill a shot glass!

Manny, Thank You for your years of dedication on the Pensioners board and before that at work when we enjoyed those hearty Breakfasts, potluck lunches and BBQs together.

The tiny wine bottle (as well as an LCBO Gift Card) that was given to Manny was dwarfed by the dozens of door prizes and fabulous raffle prizes including the impressive gift basket given to us by one of Windsor's premier retirement homes, Amica Riverside. Don and Kathy Daly took that one home. Many of us had our fingers crossed hoping to win one of the Honey Bee Ham gift certificates given to us by former CBC'ers Kevin Brode and Nancy Lauzon who used to own that popular, long-standing Windsor business.



The latest Christmas party featured a delightful slideshow, a trip down Memory Lane thanks to Ed, Fitz, and Dan. As a person who worked mostly at Radio I have to say that while watching those old photos it hit me that our TV colleagues were party animals back in the day and I bet those parties went late into the night!

These days I don't think many of us still "Party like it's 1999!" to quote that old Prince song so the big change for our 2025 event was that your board members decided to experiment with having the party at noon rather than at the supper hour. Of course, we had the classic Caboto banquet meal with the antipasto, salad, main course and dessert which would make the nutritionists happy as

decades of research has shown the many benefits of having your big meal in the middle of the day rather than at night. That's not why the board experimented with the time change though, it was partly so some of our members could skip the nighttime winter driving. The time change sure didn't affect the attendance - this was the best ever apart from 2019 when we had many extra guests who used to work with us in Windsor but have since moved elsewhere and came back for the reunion.



Sadly 2025 took several former friends and colleagues from us: **Bob Knowles, Bob Waffle, Daniel Proulx, Mona Quesnel, Rob Miller, Nancy Dimenna, Ted Lindsay and Kim Kristy. So many losses in such a short time!**

As we make our way through this unusually cold winter one of the many things I'm looking forward to during 2026 is our summer BBQ, so we hope to see you at Memorial Park!

A few of the Winners. Check out our Facebook page for all the photos courtesy of Fitz



The Southwestern Ontario Board

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