

# Station Break / Pause-indicatif

CBC Pensioners Association  
Maritime Region Newsletter

Association des retraité(e)s de la SRC  
Bulletin régional des Maritimes

Fall / automne 2013

## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN



John McKay

I hope you all have had a great summer and fall. But now it's on to the winter months. A reminder that all members of the Maritimes Region and their spouse/partner are welcome to attend the Christmas dinner in Halifax on December 4.

Moncton hosted the National Board meeting in May. Moncton also saw the change of local leadership. Maurice Olson stepped down and was replaced by Don Langis.

Late October the National Board met in Ottawa. The discussions included the Supplementary Health Care Contract (SHC), a brief report on the health of our pension fund, the status of the Memoriam of Understanding (MOU) with the CBC, and a presentation by Johnson Insurance

The news on SHC (Great West Life) is positive for most Maritime members. Rates will be falling in all categories. In some cases a noticeable amount. The reason for the reduction is that usage declined in 2012/13. The plan is self-financing so if the usage goes up over the base amount then rates will increase. This year will see a drop in fees. The same can't be said for the other regions. Almost all other regions will see an increase in 2014.

The pension fund is still in good shape and the solvency deficit is reducing.

Our MOU with the CBC is about to expire. Pierre Racicot has renegotiated a new and better agreement with the CBC. It would appear that the CBC finally recognizes that the PNA has a very positive role to play for both the pensioners and the CBC.

Johnson Insurance gave an overview of how the travel industry is changing its policy for health and cancellation insurance. It would be wise to make sure your coverage meets your needs by discussing all aspects with an agent.

In late November or early December the CBC will confirm these rates when they issue the annual information slips. At the same time the CBC Pension Trust will announce the percentage of any cost of living allowance we might get on our pension. There will be a Contact News Letter from our Ottawa office detailing more of this information sometime in November.

I hope you have a pleasant and happy holiday season.

## RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT RÉGIONAL

J'espère que vous avez tous et toutes passé un bel été et un bel automne. À l'approche de l'hiver, il y a lieu de vous rappeler que tous les membres de la région des Maritimes sont invités avec leurs conjoints, conjointes ou partenaires de participer au dîner de Noël à Halifax le 4 décembre.

Moncton était l'hôte de la réunion du conseil national en mai dernier. Au sujet de Moncton, soulignons qu'il y a eu changement au niveau de la présidence locale où Donald Langis succède à Maurice Olson.

Le conseil national a tenu une réunion à Ottawa, fin octobre. Les discussions ont porté entre autres sur le régime d'assurance-maladie complémentaire (RAMC), l'état de santé de notre caisse de retraite, le statut du protocole d'entente avec la Société et une présentation par la compagnie d'assurance Johnson Inc.

Il y a de bonnes nouvelles pour la plupart des membres du RCAM (la Great West compagnie d'assurance-vie). Nos primes vont diminuer pour toutes les catégories et ce, de façon importante dans certains cas. C'est qu'il y a eu moins de réclamations de la part des usagers en 2012/2013. Et puisque le régime s'autofinance, les primes augmentent seulement lorsque les réclamations dépassent le montant de base. Or les primes vont être réduites cette année, ce qui n'est pas le cas pour toutes les autres régions dont la plupart auront à absorber une augmentation de leurs primes en 2014.

La caisse de retraite est encore en bonne santé et le déficit de solvabilité diminue.

Le protocole d'entente actuel avec la Société prendra bientôt fin. Pierre Racicot vient de négocier une nouvelle et meilleure entente. Il semble que la Société reconnaît enfin que l'ANR (l'Association nationale des retraités) a un rôle très positif à jouer autant pour les retraités que pour la Société.

La compagnie d'assurance Johnson Inc. a brossé un tableau des changements de politiques mises en place par l'industrie touristique pour les polices d'assurance-maladie et d'annulation. Je vous conseille d'avoir une rencontre avec votre conseiller en voyages pour vous assurer que votre police réponde bien à vos besoins.

La Société confirmera les nouveaux tarifs du RCAM lorsqu'elle émettra les talons annuels d'information à la fin novembre ou au début décembre. La fiducie de la caisse de retraite de la Société annonce à la même occasion le rajustement des pensions au coût de la vie s'il y a lieu. L'édition de novembre du bulletin Contact en provenance de notre bureau d'Ottawa contiendra de plus amples détails à ce sujet.

Je vous souhaite des fêtes agréables et heureuses.

Un voyage de courte ou de longue durée à l'extérieur de la province ou du pays peut rapidement se transformer en cauchemar à moins d'avoir pris les précautions nécessaires. Qui n'a pas entendu les histoires d'horreur de voyageurs appelés à s'acquitter de factures corsées à la suite d'un bref séjour à l'hôpital.

C'est l'essentiel du message qu'a livré Rachelle Diotte, conseillère chez l'agence de voyages Harvey's Travel à Dieppe, aux membres du chapitre de Moncton de l'Association nationale des retraités de Radio-Canada lors de leur déjeuner-causerie du 21 octobre.

Mme Diotte a abordé plusieurs points dont le permis de conduire international, l'assurance-voyage, l'assurance santé privée ou privée, le passeport, le visa, les vaccins, les besoins spéciaux, les vols partagés, les délais d'embarquement, les bagages, les cartes de crédit et ainsi de suite.

La session avait été organisée à la demande des membres dont l'intérêt était palpable. C'était la deuxième activité automnale.

Le tournoi annuel de golf au club Royal Oaks a ouvert saison. Des 37 participants, il y avait 18 retraités. Le tournoi est un projet conjoint entre le personnel et les retraités. Représentant l'association sur le comité organisateur, Robert Poirier, a décrit l'événement comme 'une superbe journée sous le signe du soleil et de la bonne humeur'. La date du tournoi avait été reportée en raison de mauvais temps.

Le comité des activités sociales sous la direction de Sylvie St-Onge s'affaire à préparer le dîner de Noël qui aura lieu au club Beauséjour le jeudi 5 décembre. Il y aura accueil dès 17 h suivi du dîner à 18 h. Il y aura tirage de prix.

Trois autres activités sont prévues après le Nouvel an : un dîner-causerie le lundi 31 mars, l'assemblée générale annuelle le lundi 12 mai, et le souper au homard dont la date sera annoncée à une date ultérieure.

## Moncton Report - version anglaise

A short or extended trip outside the province or the country can quite rapidly become a nightmare if one doesn't take all the necessary precautions before leaving. Each one of us has undoubtedly heard of the misfortunes of a friend or relative who received a stiff bill after a short stay at a hospital.

Travel consultant Rachelle Diotte from Harvey's Travel in Dieppe had many words of advice for members of the Moncton chapter of the CBC Pensioners National Association at their October 21st luncheon.

Mrs. Diotte touched on a number of points such as the international driver's licence, travel insurance, provincial and private health insurance, passports, visas, vaccinations, special needs, shared flights, registration requirements, baggage, credit cards and so on.

The session had been organized at the request of the members, who showed a great deal of interest in the subject. This was the second activity this Fall.

The activities opened with the annual tournament at Royal Oaks Golf Club on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Out of the 37 participants, 18 were retirees. The tournament is a joint effort involving staff and retirees. The chapter's representative on the organizing committee was Robert Poitier who said that it was a 'splendid day with plenty of sunshine and good humour'. The tournament had been postponed from an earlier date due to inclement weather.

The social activities committee chaired by Sylvie St-Onge is hard at work preparing the annual Christmas supper which will take place at the Beauséjour Curling Club on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. There is usually a large turnout for the activity. A meet and greet begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by the Christmas dinner at 6:00 p.m. There will be prizes for participants.

Another luncheon is planned for Monday, March 31. The general annual meeting will be held on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, and the annual lobster supper at a date not yet set.

## **RADIO-CANADA ACADIE ET CBC-MONCTON DOIVENT DÉMÉNAGER**

Le jeudi 24 octobre 2013: Radio-Canada Acadie et CBC-Moncton déménageront en mars 2015. Après avoir eu pignon sur l'avenue Université, à Moncton, pendant plus de 45 ans, le centre de production régional s'installera dans l'édifice du Atlantic Superstore de la rue Main.

La décision fait suite à une évaluation des besoins futurs : l'édifice actuel dont le tiers est inoccupé, ne se prête pas à la nouvelle technologie et aux nouvelles méthodes de travail.

Le nouveau centre de production régional sera doté d'un équipement à la fine pointe de la technologie et permettra une meilleure intégration des ressources pour répondre aux besoins des trois plates-formes : radio, télévision et Internet. Il occupera 23,000 pi. ca. comparativement aux 55,000 pi. ca. disponibles dans l'édifice actuel.

Des groupes de travail composés de gestionnaires et de personnel venant de chaque secteur s'affairent actuellement à définir les besoins et l'organisation du travail dans le nouvel environnement.

Selon le directeur régional Richard Simeons, ce déménagement est une occasion de repenser sans contraintes l'utilisation de toutes les ressources pour créer une synergie entre les trois plateformes.

### **MONCTON RELOCATION**

Thursday, October 24, 2013: Radio-Canada Acadie and CBC-Moncton will move to a new location in March 2015. The University Avenue facility for more than 45 years will be relocating to East Main Street in what is known as the Atlantic Superstore building.

The move follows an evaluation of future needs: the present facility is less than two thirds occupied and is no longer a viable alternative for the new technology and changes in the workplace.

The new facility will have state of the art equipment and will allow for a better integration of resources for all media : radio, television, and Internet. It will occupy 23,000 sq. ft. compared to the 55,000 sq. ft. available in the present location.

Management and staff members from each department are presently working together to determine the needs and the work flow in the new environment.

Regional Manager Richard Simeons says the move offers the regional production centre a unique opportunity to have an unfettered look at how resources can best be utilised to create a synergy between each media.

# **Charlottetown**

**PEI REPORT**

**Ian Petrie**

The PEI branch is slowly evolving. A half dozen CBC employees have reached, or are within spitting distance of retiring, and most have expressed an interest in joining the association.

Until then, the EAP did invite retirees to a family picnic day in late September. The retiree association made a contribution to the EAP committee in return, which was appreciated.

While there are other programs available, the PEI branch has decided to use some of its funds to directly help members. One of the challenges of living on PEI is that many medical services that are needed are in Halifax, Saint John, or Moncton. We've set up a program that will help cover some of these transportation costs. We canvassed members and there was wide support. Obviously this won't stop members from using existing programs for exceptional costs.

# Sydney

## CAPE BRETON REPORT

Bill Doyle

The Cape Breton chapter has a very small membership. There are only 29 of us, made up of 25 retirees and 4 survivors. We are not attracting new members as employees retire from CBC Cape Breton.

We meet twice a year. The first one takes place in May, a week after the regional AGM and explains to the membership what happened there. The second takes place in November and provides information on expected, but unofficial, changes in health premiums or in pension benefits for the upcoming year. Our fall meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 19, at 2:00 p.m., at the Westmount Legion, which is our usual location for these gatherings. We will discuss the possibility of moving to the Steelworkers and Sydney Pensioners Club for our next meeting.

Our chapter has only one social event each year, but it is always very well attended. It's the annual Christmas Party and it takes place on Thursday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on the Esplanade in Sydney. We expect a strong turnout once again.

This year we made a special effort to revive EAP at CBC Cape Breton where the committee had lapsed. We took the initiative and invited the provider for an information session with pensioners and staff. We cannot sustain our initial effort but we have now successfully lobbied to have an EAP committee re-established at CBC Cape Breton. The first meeting will likely take place in early December. The first event will be an information session with the provider.

# Halifax

## NOVA SCOTIA REPORT

Marie Thompson

Summer's just a memory now so why not kick off the Christmas season by attending the annual tasty turkey dinner at the Fairview Legion 50 Hillcrest Ave. in Halifax on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 11 and dinner will be served at noon. Due to some belt-tightening, there'll be no free drink, but thanks to Bert Skinner's efforts there WILL be door prizes. We know people like the draw. It's not so much because everyone hopes to be a winner (which they do.) It's more because of the joking and camaraderie that goes with it. So thanks Bert. Don't forget to contact Dave Carr at [davidscribe@aol.com](mailto:davidscribe@aol.com) and let him know you're coming to the party. The snail mail address is 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8 or phone 902-457-1837 and leave a message.

The belt-tightening in 2013 is a reflection of the fact that so many members are reaching the age of 85 and no longer need to pay dues. That seems to be appropriate, but it also means a lot fewer dollars in the coffers. So recruitment is being stepped up: There's been a slight increase in membership in the Maritimes, but Paul Murray and Max Gallagher hope to convince some long time retirees and potential new ones to bring their presence and their ideas to the Nova Scotia mainland group. The hope is that a way can be found to revive a spring surf'n'turf party as well as revitalize the Christmas party.

The monthly meetings continue on the first Wednesday of every month at the Legion. It's been good to hear that more pensioners are starting to take advantage of the Special Assistance Fund. It's jointly supported by the CBC, the unions and pensioners. Retirees can access up to \$12,500 in a lifetime to pay for such things as hearing aids, walkers or other items necessary to maintain a quality of life. It applies generally to items or services which are not covered by other insurance. If you wish to know more please contact David or John McKay (see the contacts information in the newsletter) or consult the National Pensioners Association website here.: (You'll have to be registered as a member, though, to use the site.) [http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=56&lang=en](http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=29&Itemid=56&lang=en) It's not a rubber-stamp operation. But applications are kept confidential and the fund is providing crucial assistance to people who need it.

If you can't get to the meetings and you have something on your mind, don't hesitate to contact us. It's your association!

"CBC is looking for volunteers to help with the **ANNUAL FOOD BANK DRIVE** on **Friday, December 13** between 6 am and 6 pm at the Sackville Street location in Halifax. If you can help, please contact Chantale Bernard at 420-4306 or [chantale.bernard@CBC.ca](mailto:chantale.bernard@CBC.ca)."

**RICHARD MacAULAY**

**Bill Doyle**

ED NOTE: Richard MacAulay is retired from CBC Sydney, where he was known as Dick. Now he's a busy Richard.

Richard MacAulay is making a big difference for challenged teens in his community. The former Sydney radio and television technician is the treasurer of the Cape Breton Chapter of the CBCPA.

For the past eight summers he has been the driving force behind a summer camp in Sydney for challenged kids 12 years of age and older. Richard's grandson, who is legally blind and legally deaf and totally dependent on adult care, is one of them.

Richard got involved when the boy turned 12 and was too old to participate in existing programmes. Richard was unhappy that his grandson would be confined at home in the summer, "when I wanted him to be with other kids his own age."

The camp runs for eight weeks. The challenged teens engage in one-on-one relationships with students who are hired for the summer. They learn social skills such as sharing, taking turns, self-discipline, and how to appropriately express themselves through recreational activities including video games, dancing, crafts and playing soccer outdoors. These youngsters swim every day because the exercise vastly improves their motor skills. On Tuesday's there are excursions for bowling, visits to a petting zoo, wildlife park, the farmers' exhibition and what we Cape Bretoners still call the circus - Hinchey's rides and amusements.

Richard says a summer camp for these challenged teens must adhere to stringent standards. Although he is responsible for the camp's existence, he does not run it. He works with a foundation whose volunteers closely monitor the operation, which includes careful attention to providing legal and financial accountability, ensuring the confidentiality and safety of the participants, and adherence to high standards of care for challenged children. The foundation also hires summer students who are enthusiastic about working with challenged children, willing to learning new skills such as earning certified lifeguard skills for the swimming programme, and who are pursuing careers such as nursing or social work.

Richard says that the hardest part is financing the eight-week summer camp. He does all the fundraising himself and he finds that every year it gets harder because governments are cutting back and potential private donors are struggling in a slow economy, "The policies and rules on giving are changing so much that I'm never sure of being able to raise enough money from year to year." But, somehow, he does.

Even when everything falls into place, Richard must depend on a partnership with a local organization that has similar goals as his, along with staff and facilities to ensure the success of the summer camp. First, it was with the YMCA, where the swimming programme still takes place. Now, it is the Autism Society of Sydney.

It is impossible to know how many challenged youth have attended the summer camp because there is a high turnover of participants from week to week. However, there's a hidden benefit in this high turnover because these teens get to meet more people their own age and make even more friends, which is the primary objective of the summer camp. Richard says he gets satisfaction because "I know that I've helped some disadvantaged children have a happy eight weeks in the summer and not just my own grandson. As long as I'm able to do it, I'll do it."



**BILL HANRAHAN**

**Mary Wilcox**

Is there Life After CBC? For Bill Hanrahan there certainly is: "It's great. You can do what you like." What Bill likes to do is paint and write. Born in Halifax, he first painted in his thirties, when he took a couple of classes in Hamilton where he was working at the newspaper. He had married Pearl, his high school sweetheart, and they had four children - not much time for painting. Eventually, they moved back to Halifax, where Bill worked for CBC television and radio. He was National Reporter for Radio and ended his broadcasting career as an editor.

After retirement, Bill moved to Tatamagouche. One winter, with not much to do, he painted Pearl hanging out the wash as well as the scenes out all the windows in their house. They moved back to Halifax and eventually Bill got serious about his art.



"At 65, I really started painting," Bill says. At 70, he went to the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and took three painting courses - all he could. He had "really good teachers, really good painters ... I wish I'd started 50 years ago. It takes about 20 years to really get started."

He was always interested in art and artists, realist more than abstract, "In visual art, I like to have a feeling, an emotion. Journalism does that to you - you want to catch what's going on. I try to get that into a painting. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't."

It's still working - and Bill's 82 now. He exhibits his painting at the Art Sales and Rental Gallery at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. His work is in private and corporate collections. A Western Canadian collector has 16 of his paintings, and he has won the Mayor's Award three times at the Annual Juried Show of the Contemporary Art Society.

When he's not painting, he may be writing, usually poetry these days. *Writing the Common*, commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Halifax Common, has one of his poems. Open Heart Forgery, a free monthly poetry journal in Halifax, often carries poetry by Bill. Check it out at <http://ohforgery.com/>.

He still has that infectious smile and laugh we remember in the newsroom.

(Mary Wilcox claims Bill was her mentor in the newsroom but he denies it.)



## Christmas Dinner / Souper de Noël

### Moncton:

Jeudi 5 décembre à partir de 17 h accueil: souper à 18 h.

S.V.P. Réserver d'ici le vendredi 30 Novembre

Pour réserver, téléphoner à : Sylvie St-Onge 383-8653 ou

envoyer un courriel à Ronald Cormier, [rcormier8563@rogers.com](mailto:rcormier8563@rogers.com)

Prix: 10 \$ pour les membres et leurs conjoint e s ou partenaire; 20 \$ pour les non-membres

Thursday, December 5, from 5 p.m. welcoming; 6 p.m. supper

Reserve By Friday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> Or December 3<sup>rd</sup> At The Latest

To reserve, telephone: Sylvie St-Onge at 383-8653 or

e-mail Ronald Cormier: [rcormier8563@rogers.com](mailto:rcormier8563@rogers.com)

Price: \$ 10 for members and their spouse or partner; \$ 20 for non-members

### Sydney:

Thursday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on the Esplanade in Sydney

### Halifax:

Wednesday, December 4. Cash Bar opens 11:00 a.m. for a Meet and Greet. Dinner at noon.

Royal Canadian Legion, 50 Hillcrest Avenue (at Main Street), Halifax.

The dinner is free to members and their spouse or companion. Non-members (family and friends) are also welcome but must pay \$20 for the meal (cash please).

If you intend to come, please contact David Carr at:

Postal: 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8

Phone: (902) 457-1837

E-Mail: [davidscribe@aol.com](mailto:davidscribe@aol.com)

## Merry Christmas & Happy 2014!

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This is the fourth issue of the new CBCPAM regional newsletter. We welcome comments, suggestions for future items, and contributions.

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Voici le quatrième numéro du bulletin régional des Maritimes. Nous aimerions lire vos commentaires, vos suggestions d'articles futurs et vos contributions.  
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