

# Station Break / Pause-indicatif

CBC Pensioners Association  
Maritime Region Newsletter

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

Spring 2012

## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN



John McKay

Welcome to the first edition of Station Break in a number of years. We would like to thank Mary Wilcox and Marie Thompson for putting it together. Mary spent her career in the news business and more recently teaching at the King's School of Journalism. Marie is a former Television Producer of documentaries, more specifically Land and Sea. Marie has retired and now does freelance work.

At the end of March there were 487 members of the Association in the Maritimes. Almost half will receive this letter by e-mail and the other half by Canada Post.

The obvious reason for e-mail is cost. With the new postal rates, regular mailings run your association about \$1000 an issue. That covers stamps, envelopes and paper. Obviously the input is by volunteers.

Your Region has three chapters: Moncton, where the president is Maurice Olsen; Cape Breton, it's Bill Doyle; and in P.E.I it's Ian Petrie. These people will answer questions or direct you to someone who has an answer.

Halifax is the Region because of history and numbers. There are more members in the Halifax area than other locations. Halifax organized an association in late 1998/9, before the CBC Pensioners National Association was formed.

One area missing a chapter is greater New Brunswick. We hope a chapter will develop in the Fredericton area soon.

Finally, it is our intention to get at least two copies of Station Break out a year: spring and fall. The fall one will be in time to publish the date of the Christmas dinner normally held in early December. If you have ideas or contributions to add to the newsletter please send them along to our postal address: CBC Pensioners' Assoc. (Maritimes), 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M or e-mail: cbcpcam@gmail.com

**John F McKay**



Fredericton  
Moncton  
Saint John

**MONCTON REPORT**

**Maurice Olsen**

(English version follows)

La grande nouvelle, c'est le départ pour Montréal en avril de Michel Cormier, depuis un an le directeur de Radio-Canada Acadie. Il a été nommé chef de l'information au réseau national. Richard Simoens, directeur de Radio-Canada pour Ottawa et région, est désigné le directeur intérimaire en Acadie, en attendant que soit choisi le successeur de Michel. En plus, avec les coupures, il y a eu l'abolition de 5 postes à Moncton (radio et télé). Donc, une période de turbulence et d'incertitude jusqu'en septembre au moins. Reste à voir si la programmation en sera affectée.

Néanmoins, depuis un an, notre groupe de retraités s'est proposé en aide à Radio-Canada Acadie. En juin 2011 nous avons invité le nouveau directeur de Radio-Canada en Acadie, Michel Cormier, à donner sa vision d'avenir. C'était lors de notre party de homard, réunissant une soixantaine de convives – et accueillant aussi une délégation de retraité-e-s de Halifax.

Le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre marquait le 75<sup>e</sup> anniversaire avec la journée « Portes ouvertes » à Radio-Canada. Pendant les deux mois précédents, le designer à la retraite, Georges Goguen avait réuni des retraité-e-s pour préparer une exposition de fête, remplie de photos, d'affiches, de playbacks vidéo ou audio, en hommage à tout ce que la Société a réalisé en cette région. Fortement appréciée cette exposition était aussi le point de ralliement des 800 visiteurs le jour des « Portes ouvertes ». En plus, une douzaine de retraité-e-s ont aidé à guider le public à travers les studios, le mobile et les salles de contrôle pour assister à la production d'émissions.

En novembre, à la demande de Radio-Canada, pour le Festival international du cinéma francophone en Acadie, nous avons aussi préparé et présenté au public une grande rétrospective sur les quelque 2000 émissions du talkshow « Coup d'œil » produites et télédiffusées partout aux Maritimes durant les années 1979-88.

À l'heure actuelle, le groupe de Moncton compte environ 110 membres, dont 60 à 80 participent à nos soupers (Noël et party de homard en juin), 15 membres étaient en compétition à un tournoi de golf en septembre, et nos différentes réunions générales attirent de 20 à 25 participant-e-s.

Nous avons fait un sondage sur les attentes de notre groupe. D'après les résultats, le degré de satisfaction exprimé nous encourage à poursuivre tel quel les réunions, avec invités, mais aussi à renouveler les activités sociales.

Notre AGA aura lieu le mercredi 16 mai à 19h00 au Cercle des journalistes de Moncton. Nous voudrions y voir tous nos membres parce qu'il y aura les élections de tout le bureau (mandat de 3 ans) : président, vice président, secrétaire, trésorier, et deux directeur-e-s. Benoît Duguay est le président des élections. Vous pouvez lui soumettre vos nominations de candidat-e-s possibles soit en lui téléphonant au (506) 854 8781 ou en envoyant un courriel à : [benoit\\_duguay@yahoo.ca](mailto:benoit_duguay@yahoo.ca)

Enfin, nous vous attendons tous au Party de homard qui aura lieu au Club de curling Beauséjour le jeudi 14 juin, avec bar ouvert à 17h00, souper buffet à 18h30, 10\$ pour membres, 20\$ pour non membres. Réserver auprès de Ronald Cormier, [rcormier8563@rogers.com](mailto:rcormier8563@rogers.com) ou lui téléphoner au (506) 383 8563.

The big news is that in April, the Director of Radio-Canada Acadie, Michel Cormier, left Moncton after one year, to be named head of French SRC national news services based in Montreal. Richard Simoens, the SRC Ottawa Director, has taken on Michel's job until his successor can be found. So uncertainty and drift until this fall. In addition, budget cuts have hit five radio and TV staff positions locally. Changes to programming can be expected.

Nevertheless, over the past year, our pensioners have worked on closer ties with SRC Acadie and CBC. Michel Cormier was our featured speaker at our Lobster Party of last year, and he talked about his hopes for things to come. By the way, we had a delegation of 4 pensioners from Halifax attending, along with 60 of our own.

October 1<sup>st</sup> was party time at the Moncton plant, marking CBC's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Around 20 pensioners were involved. Retired designer George Goguen and his committee had spent 2 months producing a very fine showpiece of photos, posters, video and audio clips recalling all these years of regional radio and television programming in English and French. This show was the rallying point for the grand tour of the facilities, with 800 visitors, met and guided through radio and tv studios by a dozen staff and pensioners, to meet technicians, on-air personalities and see how shows are put together.

At SRC's request during the Acadian international francophone film festival of November, we prepared and presented in public a retrospective look at the talk show, "Coup d'Oeil", around 2000 shows televised from 1979 to 1988.

At present, Moncton Chapter has around 110 members. 60 to 80 of them attended our Christmas Supper and Lobster Party (June). In September, another 15 pensioners competed for prizes in a SRC organized golf tourney. To conclude, our membership meetings draw 20 to 25 participants.

We did a membership survey about the Chapter's needs and expectations. It told us to stay the course as well as come up with a few get-together surprises in the future. Also, guest speakers would be welcome.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Moncton Press Club. An important meeting because the whole board of directors is up for election: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 Directors. Benoît Duguay will preside over the elections committee. To nominate members, you can reach him by phone: (506) 854 8781 or e-mail : [benoit\\_duguay@yahoo.ca](mailto:benoit_duguay@yahoo.ca)

To conclude, our annual Lobster party will be held at the Beauséjour Curling Club on Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Happy hour from 5 p.m. and buffet supper at 6:30 p.m. \$10 per member, \$20 for non-members, reservations with Ronald Cormier [rcormier8563@rogers.com](mailto:rcormier8563@rogers.com) or phone him at (506) 383 8563.



# Charlottetown

**PEI REPORT**

**Ian Petrie**

PEI pensioners are not as active socially as those in Nova Scotia. It reflects a much different history of CBC here. CBC Radio on PEI only started broadcasting in 1977, and television hasn't been around much longer. It means there is just a handful of people who have retired, although layoffs and early retirement schemes are adding to those numbers yearly.

Unfortunately not everyone who is forced to leave CBC, even people with many years on the job, is eligible for pensions or to join the pensioner's association. Those who had real friendships have maintained them without the need for a pensioners association. Invitations to get information on the Employee Assistance Program for example have not been well attended. The bottom line is that the pensioners association has informed its members that it's available if needed. A poll amongst members about what to do with the money coming from national office was to leave it in case of a member's emergency, rather than donating it to a Christmas Charity for example.

There is a plan for the pensioner's association to meet this Spring to talk about what we might do to help save public broadcasting in Canada. We're clearly the fortunate ones who have been able to get out on our own terms and have some security as we age. It doesn't appear that this will always be the case in the future. We will have to be skillful and creative about how we go about lobbying because the government won't view our support for CBC as any big surprise. We will have to try to engage others in our community to help with this fight.



# Sydney

**CAPE BRETON REPORT**

**Bill Doyle**

There is relief here that there were no layoffs at CBC Cape Breton and no loss of programming. There are 29 members of the Cape Breton Chapter, 25 pensioners and 4 survivors of pensioners. None of at least the last 4 known retirees from CBC Cape Breton have joined the association.

This chapter has 2 meetings a year. The next one will take place on Thursday, May 10, at 1:30 p.m. at the Westmount Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. We have an annual Christmas dinner early in December and because we are new we are looking at events to involve the membership. CBC Cape Breton is moving to its new studios in downtown Sydney this summer. We will hold an EAP information session with staff that will provide pensioners a look at the new location.

All members were contacted for the newsletter. Many did not return messages. There are no major concerns here, except that members would like to have drugs covered on the health plan after they turn 65. There is an expectation that they can get drugs from the drug plan that would not be covered by Pharmacare Nova Scotia.

What people want most of all is a short specific description of what they can get from the drug plan and why. They also want a short and specific description of why they can't get other things.

People here did not raise any interest in a surplus in the pension plan and appeared to understand there would not be one any time soon. No one was concerned about shortfalls that would affect future income as retirees.

Some Cape Breton members have found satisfaction as community volunteers where they use skills they performed and used as CBC employees. Bill Doyle's recent book, "Cape Breton: Facts and Folklore," published by Nimbus, continues to do well.



# Halifax

NOVA SCOTIA REPORT

Marie Thompson

The latest CBC cuts include 26 jobs in Halifax, including a TV studio crew and the closure of both the Bell Road TV building and the Sackville Street radio building in two years.

## Surf or Turf!

We are pleased to announce the inaugural summer lobster bash in Halifax, in June. We hope it will draw folks from city, suburb and seaside to enjoy lobster (or steak for those who prefer turf rather than surf!) as well as renew old acquaintances. All (spouses/significant others) are welcome!

So mark **Saturday June 16** on your calendar. Come to the **Royal Canadian Legion, 50 Hillcrest (corner of Main Street), Fairview, Halifax** around **4 pm and expect to eat at 5**. Bert Skinner and Claire Brownell will be presiding over the preparation of the main course, while our regular caterer Barb Boudreau will look after salads, rolls and dessert.

**Cost is \$10 – cash or cheque** – at the door - as well as a cash bar. Please let **Dave Carr** know if you will be attending by emailing him at [davidscribe@aol.com](mailto:davidscribe@aol.com) or by snail mail c/o CBC Pensioners (Maritime), 413 -50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS, B3M 4H8.

Moncton has been doing these lobster parties for several years now – that's where Halifax got the idea!



## SPECIAL REPORTS

### Trip Traps by Marie Thompson

**There's** nothing worse than finding out 6 months after an international trip that the medical care you required at the time has come at an enormous cost. The medical insurance you thought you had has been declined. Yet Canadian seniors are experiencing this potentially disastrous situation more and more.

**Medical** trip insurance relieves you of worry that you won't be bankrupted by hospital bills in a foreign country. In order to get that insurance, the companies require you to answer questions about your health. And once you're older than 60, the questionnaires are longer, more detailed and more complicated. It's not hard to be tripped up and answer a question one way, only to be disqualified later because the question should have been answered differently (at least in the opinion of the insurer.)

**CBC Marketplace** provides tips for getting through the maze of complicated questions.

- Consult your doctor and ask to see your medical records, so you better understand the questions.
- Consult your pharmacist (s) for a list of prescriptions: There may be one which is still in effect but which you no longer take. An insurance company will see that and could deny your claim if you don't list it.
- It's better to over-report than under-report your health issues: You may have to pay a higher premium but you'll be covered.

**For more tips and advice**, consult the CBC Marketplace website at

<http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/2012/trippedup/tips.html>

**Now**, have a great trip!

### Voyager sans pièges by Marie Thompson (traduit par Maurice Olsen)

**Rien de pire** que d'apprendre six mois après un voyage international que les soins médicaux dont vous aviez besoin vont maintenant vous coûter les yeux de la tête. L'assurance santé que vous pensiez avoir pour une telle malchance, vous est refusée. En fait, de plus en plus de Canadiens âgés font face à ce genre de situation désastreuse. ....

**L'assurance santé** vous évite la crainte de vous retrouver financièrement ruiné par des factures d'hôpital encourues à l'étranger. Afin d'obtenir cette assurance, les assureurs vous imposent de répondre à des questions sur votre santé. À partir de la soixantaine, vous voilà devant des questionnaires de plus en plus longs, détaillés et compliqués. Pas difficile de tomber dans l'à peu près, et plus tard vous êtes disqualifié parce que vous auriez dû répondre autrement (du moins c'est l'avis de l'assureur).

**L'émission** de la CBC, MARKETPLACE, propose des conseils pour passer à travers le casse-tête des questions compliquées.

- Consulter votre médecin et demander de voir votre dossier médical afin de mieux comprendre ces questions.
- Consulter aussi votre pharmacien pour la liste de vos prescriptions. Il pourrait y en avoir une qui est toujours inscrite mais que vous avez arrêté de prendre. En voyant cela sur la liste une compagnie d'assurance pourrait refuser votre réclamation.
- Mieux vaut en divulguer trop que pas assez quand il s'agit de vos questions de santé. Vous devrez peut-être payer une prime plus élevée mais au moins vous serez protégé.

Pour d'autres trucs et conseils, consulter le site *Marketplace* :

<http://www.cbc.ca/marketplace/2012/trippedup/tips.html>

**Bon voyage!**



## **The Good Old Days??? by Don Tremaine**

I often wish that a documentary had been made of those first days of television 1954-56. Today's staff wouldn't believe what we had to put up with. It may be well known that the birth took place in the old College Street school, (long abandoned and condemned.) I don't know what the CBC paid for it but ten bucks would have been way over the top!

Here's a short list of some of the things we experienced 58 years ago that would drive today's staff to serious substance abuse!!

- A film editing suite that once housed the furnace. (The smell of oil never left.)
- A 'Ladies' toilet (three stalls but only two working) where the ceiling collapsed early on. Thankfully no one had to go at the time. The 'gents' directly above became gender non-specific for a couple of weeks.
- A make-up room that had been a cloak room with space for one make-up artist, one client, one mirror and one shelf for paint, powder and Kleenex and one lamp.
- Master control was in the cellar. It was always damp and cold and home to a colony of rats. A telecine operator came on for the night shift, laid his lunch on a table while hanging up his coat and came back to find two beasts having a banquet! He called his wife to bring down a new lunch and said emphatically "No cheese sandwiches!" Next night he trapped 24 and solved the problem.

From the top floor to the cellar the smell of cigarette and pipe smoke (to which we all contributed) was thick enough to slice.

It's a wonder we all lived to see Bell Road open!!!



## **Employee Assistance Program**

For information on the Employee Assistance Program, go to EAP Information on the CBC's national web page. It's called iO! and here's a refresher on how to get to it:

\*\*\*\*\* To access the portal, please go to <http://io.cbc.ca>  
enter the following

username: pension-iO! (letter i, capital letter O, exclamation mark)

password: services0 (0 is zero, the number, not the letter O).

To get EAP news and information, click on the EAP icon at the bottom right hand side of the iO! web page.



## FORMING A NEW CHAPTER

### A Special Note for New Brunswick:

A chapter has to have 25 members but all those members don't have to live in the exact location. People expressing an interest in a Fredericton Chapter, for example, could be from Saint John or some other New Brunswick location for that matter.

If there is interest, Halifax will help with the start up. After that the National Association will reimburse dues to the newly formed chapter in the amount of \$100 a month or \$1200 a year. Contact John MacKay or Maurice Olsen for more information.

### EVENTS & DATES:

**CBCPAM Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at the Fairview Legion in Halifax. The Board meets at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is served from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The Meeting starts at 12:45 p.m.

There will be **elections** for the positions of PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, and FIVE (5) DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE. Nominations for these positions go to David Carr, [davidscribe@aol.com](mailto:davidscribe@aol.com), Chair - Election Committee. Any member can nominate another member, including themselves, with no seconder required. These nominations can be made, even though you might not attend the meeting. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the meeting.

The Financial Statement and a Budget will be approved for the coming year.

**Free Buffet Lunch.** To provide lunch, we need the number of people attending. Please send the info to [davidscribe@aol.com](mailto:davidscribe@aol.com) and include how many. The numbers must go to our caterer by the last week in April.

**CBCPA National Convention** will be held in Ottawa on May 30 & 31. John McKay, Geoff Turnbull, Maurice Olsen and Wayne Stay will be attending as representatives of our Maritimes Branch.

**CONTACTS:** CBC Maritime Pensioners Association E-Mail: [cbcpam@gmail.com](mailto:cbcpam@gmail.com)  
Postal mail: CBC Pensioners' Assoc. (Maritimes), 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8  
CBC Pensioners Association – Maritimes: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>  
CBC Pensioners Association – Maritimes: <http://cbcpam.yolasite.com/>  
CBC Pensioners Association – Maritimes – Moncton Chapter: <http://cbcpamc.yolasite.com/>  
CBC Pensioners Association – Maritimes – Charlottetown Chapter: <http://cbcpacc.yolasite.com/>  
CBC Pensioners Association – Maritimes – Sydney Chapter: <http://cbcpasc.yolasite.com/>  
CBC Pensioners National Assoc - English: <http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/index.php?lang=en>  
CBC Pensioners National Assoc - French: <http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/index.php?lang=fr>

### WHO SAID THIS?

"The tide has turned and I'm still eating Sugar Pops. Astute readers might see this as a good time to buy Kellogg's stock."

That's a bit of advice from Ivan Munn, the founder of the original Station Break/Pause-indicatif.

Why does he say that? Solve that mystery by checking out Ivan's blog at <http://ivanmunn.ca/2012---january-1-to-june-30.php> It's also part of our website.

### Your CBCPAM Newsletter crew:

Clarie Brownell

Bill Doyle

John McKay

Bill Mackenzie

David McClafferty

Maurice Olsen

Ian Petrie

Marie Thompson

Geoff Turnbull

Mary Wilcox

A Special Thanks this issue to Don Tremaine for the memories.

We are preparing this newsletter for members who will be reading it in paper format, as an e-mail, and in online format. We hope it is clearly presented and readable to all of you. Let us know if you have problems. Thanks.

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

Marie Thompson [m.thompson@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:m.thompson@ns.sympatico.ca)

Mary Wilcox [mary.wilcox@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:mary.wilcox@ns.sympatico.ca)

Postal: CBC Pensioners' Assoc. (Maritimes), 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8

C'est le premier numéro du bulletin régional des Maritimes. Nous lisons avec plaisir vos commentaires, vos suggestions d'articles futurs et vos contributions.

Marie Thompson [m.thompson@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:m.thompson@ns.sympatico.ca)

Mary Wilcox [mary.wilcox@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:mary.wilcox@ns.sympatico.ca)

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