

Station Break / Pause-indicatif

CBC Pensioners Association
Maritime Region Newsletter

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

Spring / printemps 2017

PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT



President John McKay

Since our last report, we have seen the snow come and hopefully GO.... Maybe! It seems all the Maritime locations had a great Christmas outing. Moncton did a Christmas dinner as well as Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island. Both Geoff Turnbull and I were able to join the PEI membership at the Inn on the Hill on December 3rd.

We met old friends and made some new ones. All these events were very well attended and fulfilled our basic social commitment to keep in touch with all our former colleagues and "to meet and greet".

Halifax monthly meetings are still being held on the first Wednesday of the month and we normally see about 35 to 40 CBC pensioners at the luncheon meeting. Please keep in mind that we welcome any and all members to attend these meetings. They are held at Legion Branch 142 Halifax, on Main Ave, Fairview. Lunch is about noon and the meeting normally starts at 12:45.

There are now a number of new retirees who joined our ranks in the past year. All locations have seen an increase in membership.

The Pension Plan has a new Trustee representing Pensioners. Our National President, Paul Gaffney, after nine years, decided to step down and has been replaced by Alain Pineau. Alain's had his first board meeting and the report should be out next month. All indications are that the plan is still doing very well and as of December/January was valued at \$6,836 million. For the past four years, the annualized return was slightly over 10%.

The coalition on Spousal Fairness is moving forward. Rick Inglis (BC), Maurice Gill (PQ) and their group have been meeting with Parliamentarians. It appears that the government is listening. The committee wrote to the three political parties and received three positive responses. In all cases, they have managed to connect with senior personnel such as Chiefs of

Depuis mon dernier rapport, la neige est venue et, souhaitons-le, disparue... pour de bon! » Tout indique que les sections locales des Maritimes ont organisé de belles fêtes de Noël. Moncton avait un dîner de Noël tout comme le Cap-Breton et l'Île-du-Prince-Edouard. Geoff Turnbull et moi, nous nous sommes rendus au *Inn on the Hill* le 3 décembre pour se joindre aux membres de la section de l'Île-du-Prince-Edouard. Nous avons rencontré d'anciens et de nouveaux amis. La participation à ces fêtes a été bonne et remplissait notre engagement social de maintenir un lien avec nos anciens collègues et « de se rencontrer et de se saluer ».

Halifax continue de tenir ses réunions mensuelles le premier mercredi du mois. Entre 35 et 40 retraités participent normalement à ces déjeuners. Rappelons-nous que tous nos membres sont invités à ces rencontres qui ont lieu à la section 142 Halifax de la Légion canadienne située sur l'avenue Main à Fairview. Le lunch est servi dès midi et la réunion débute vers 12h45.

De nombreux nouveaux retraités ont joint l'association au cours de la dernière année. En réalité, toutes les sections locales ont vu leur membership augmenter.

Un nouveau fiduciaire représente maintenant les retraités au Conseil de fiducie. Alain Pineau a remplacé notre président national, Paul Gaffney, qui avait siégé au conseil pendant 9 ans. Alain a participé à sa première réunion au conseil et le rapport devrait paraître le mois prochain. Tout indique que la caisse de retraite se porte très, très bien et avait une valeur de 6,836 millions \$ pour la période de décembre/janvier. Le retour annuel a légèrement dépassé 10% au cours de 4 dernières années.

La coalition équité des pensions aux conjoints survivants a fait du progrès. Rick Inglis (C.-B.), Maurice Gill (Qc) et le groupe ont rencontré des parlementaires. Il semble que le gouvernement serait à l'écoute. Le comité a écrit aux 3 partis politiques et a reçu 3 réponses positives.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2

Staff, Policy Advisors, et cetera. In every meeting, they were well received.

A major issue with Pension Plans in general has arisen, as most of you know. The Federal Government is pushing to abandon DB (Defined Benefit) plans with Bill C27 and to replace DBs with a Defined Contribution Plan. Our Association has registered its opposition to this move. Our President wrote a letter, along with many other groups, to the Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau. Not long ago, Paul Gaffney had a response indicating that the Government is shelving the idea and now has agreed to hear from various groups. Paul Gaffney and Dan Oldfield (former Canadian Media Guild) will be presenting a brief to the Government later this year.

Also, a note that two of our members have published books.

Frank Cameron's **I Owe It All to Rock & Roll (and the CBC)** is a memoir, his life and career, from childhood to retirement. Published in 2015, it has memories of his days in radio and television in Halifax.

Geoff Hussey, a former executive producer at CBC-TV Charlottetown, has written his first novel, **Charlie of Île Saint Jean**. It's a story of life on Prince Edward Island in the 18th century. It won a PEI Heritage Award 2015. Geoff has also written a play, *Lucky 19*, which won first prize in the island's New Voices Playwriting Competition.

If you have not done so, please take the time to write to your Member of Parliament and express your displeasure. A template of a letter is on our website front page and at the end of my report.

Finally, please make sure we have all your latest personal information: address, phone number and e-mail address.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 3
12:00 noon – free buffet lunch
12:45 meeting starts
Legion, 50 Hillcrest St.,
off Main Ave., Fairview, Halifax

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

le mercredi 3 mai
Midi – buffet
12h45 début de l'assemblée
Légion, 50, rue Hillcrest (coin de la rue Main)
Fairview, Halifax

RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT – 2

En tout cas, ils ont réussi à communiquer avec les hauts fonctionnaires, les conseillers politiques et autres. Ils ont été bien accueillis à chacune de leurs rencontres.

Comme vous le savez déjà, un problème majeur avec les régimes de retraite en général est survenu. Le gouvernement fédéral veut aller de l'avant avec le projet de loi C27 qui remplacerait les régimes à prestations déterminées par des régimes de retraite à prestations ciblées. Notre association s'oppose à ce changement. Notre président ainsi que plusieurs autres groupes ont envoyé des lettres à ce sujet au ministre des Finances, Bill Morneau. Plus tôt, le gouvernement avait indiqué à notre président, Paul Gaffney, qu'il avait abandonné ce projet mais accepte maintenant de consulter plusieurs groupes. Paul Gaffney et Dan Oldfield (anciennement de la Guilde canadienne des médias) présenteront des mémoires au gouvernement plus tard cette année.

À noter : deux de nos membres ont publié des livres.

Le livre de Frank Cameron, « *I Owe It All To Rock & Roll (and the CBC)* », est une œuvre autobiographique qui résume sa vie et sa carrière à partir de son enfance jusqu'à sa retraite. Publié en 2015, le livre raconte son passage à la radio et à la télévision à Halifax. Geoff Hussey, un ancien réalisateur à la télévision de la CBC à Charlottetown, a écrit son premier roman, « *Charlie of Île Saint Jean* ». C'est le récit de la vie sur l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard pendant le 18^e siècle. Ce livre a remporté le prix du patrimoine de l'IPE en 2015. Geoff a également écrit la pièce, « *Lucky 19* », qui a remporté le premier prix au concours *New Voices Playwriting* de l'IPE.

Si ce n'est pas encore fait, prière de prendre une minute pour écrire à votre député fédéral pour lui faire connaître votre mécontentement face au projet de loi C27. Vous trouverez une ébauche de lettre à cet effet à la page d'ouverture de notre site Web ainsi que des copies à la fin de mon rapport.

Enfin, assurez-vous que nous avons vos coordonnées les plus récentes : adresse, numéro de téléphone et adresse courriel.

TEMPLATE – Letter to MP

Dear [Member of Parliament]:

I am writing to express my concern, and that of many of my fellow retirees, about the content of Bill C-27, introduced by the government in October, 2016.

I understand that, in response to concerns raised by various unions and associations representing retirees, the government has decided not to move forward with the legislation until further consultations have been undertaken. I support this decision and I urge you to consider the objections raised here and to do what you can to assure the proposed legislation is amended accordingly.

According to the Minister of Finance, the objective of the Bill – An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985 – is to increase the number of pension options available to employers in the federally regulated industries and encourage them to provide as much retirement security for their employees as possible. Given that almost two-thirds of Canadian workers do not benefit from workplace pension plans, this would appear to be a laudable goal.

Unfortunately, I am worried that this legislation, as proposed, could have precisely the opposite effect.

Bill C-27 would expand the Pension Benefits Standards Act (the Act governing federally regulated pension plans) to include Target Benefit Plans (TBPs) along with the existing Defined Benefit Plans (DBPs) and Defined Contribution Plans (DCPs). Although they resemble DBPs in many ways, TBPs (also known as "shared risk plans") do not guarantee to provide any promised level of retirement security. If the plan's assets are not well managed and do not produce sufficient income, the plan sponsor can reduce the benefits being paid, increase the contributions of employees, or both. Properly managed, TBPs are clearly better than Defined Contribution Plans, but they fail to keep the promise of a Defined Benefit Plan's retirement income.

Had the legislation only introduced TBPs as an additional option for employers, I would not be so concerned. However, the legislation, as presented, includes a mechanism whereby an employer in the federally regulated area could, with the consent of plan members, convert a DB plan to a TB plan. This could be a very enticing option for an employer since it would relieve the employer of several of the costs and obligations currently inherent in the sponsorship of a DB plan. Proponents argue that this is not a serious threat since the legislation clearly requires the employer to gain the consent of plan members before implementing such a change. How likely is it that the retirees would give up their promised and guaranteed benefits? Not likely. However, the legislation also allows a union, representing the active members of the plan, to bargain away the DB plan, either in exchange for other benefits, or in capitulation in a strike/lock-out scenario. Should that happen, the DB plan would likely be closed and, lacking the contributions of employees and the employer, the plan's viability would be at risk, as would the pensions of retirees.

During the 2015 election campaign, Justin Trudeau stated publicly and in writing, that Defined Benefit Plans "... which have been earned and paid for by employees and pensioners should not be retroactively changed" into TB plans or anything else.

I am a retired employee of a crown corporation and am currently in receipt of a Defined Benefit Pension. It is the centrepiece of my retirement income. Should it change, I have no ability to replace the lost income.

Bill C-27 may be seen as the thin edge of a wedge that would ultimately mean the end of Defined Benefit Pension plans in Canada. A socially responsible country like ours, with an advanced economy, should be able to provide and support an appropriate level of retirement security for its citizens. I strongly urge you to hold the government to its leader's commitment and to oppose Bill C-27 in its present form.

The Minister of Finance's invitation to further consultation solicits proposals for addressing these concerns. This is not a simple matter and will, no doubt, require careful thought if any resulting legislation is to achieve the objectives originally set for it. However, at the very least, the provision permitting the downward conversion of existing Defined Benefit pension plans should be removed from the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

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Madame\Monsieur [nom du député],

Je vous écris pour vous faire part de ma préoccupation, et de celle de bon nombre de mes collègues retraités, quant au contenu du projet de loi C-27, déposé en octobre 2016 par le gouvernement.

Je crois comprendre qu'en réponse aux préoccupations soulevées par divers syndicats et associations représentant des retraités, le gouvernement a décidé de ne pas aller de l'avant avec cette législation tant que d'autres consultations n'auront pas été menées. Je suis d'accord avec cette décision et je vous invite à prendre connaissance des objections soulevées dans les présentes et de faire ce que vous pouvez pour garantir que le projet de loi soit modifié en conséquence.

Selon le ministre des Finances, le but du projet de loi – intitulé *Loi modifiant la Loi de 1985 sur les normes de prestation de pension* – est d'augmenter le nombre d'options de régimes de retraite qui s'offrent aux employeurs dans les secteurs de compétence fédérale et de les encourager à offrir à leurs employés la plus grande sécurité possible à la retraite. Étant donné que près des deux tiers des travailleurs canadiens ne bénéficient pas d'un régime de retraite d'employeur, un tel but semble des plus louables.

Malheureusement, je crains que ce projet de loi, tel que proposé, n'ait exactement l'effet contraire.

Le projet de loi C-27 élargirait la portée de la *Loi sur les normes de prestation de pension* (la loi qui régit les régimes de retraite de compétence fédérale) afin d'y inclure les régimes de retraite à prestations cibles, de concert avec les régimes de retraite à prestations déterminées (PD) et les régimes de retraite à cotisations déterminées (CD) existants. Bien qu'ils ressemblent de bien des façons aux régimes de retraite à prestations déterminées, les régimes de retraite à prestations cibles (aussi connus sous le nom de régimes à « risque partagé ») ne garantissent aucun niveau de sécurité de la retraite. Si les actifs du régime ne sont pas bien gérés et ne produisent pas suffisamment de revenus, son promoteur peut réduire les prestations versées aux retraités, accroître les cotisations des employés ou les deux. Correctement gérés, les régimes de retraite à prestations cibles sont nettement supérieurs aux régimes à cotisations déterminées, mais ils ne peuvent tenir la promesse d'un revenu de retraite garanti des régimes à prestations déterminées.

Si le projet de loi proposait seulement d'introduire les régimes de retraite à prestations cibles comme option supplémentaire pour les employeurs, je ne serais pas aussi préoccupé. Tel que présenté, le projet de loi comprend toutefois un mécanisme en vertu duquel un employeur dans un secteur de compétence fédérale pourrait, avec le consentement des participants, convertir un régime à prestations déterminées en régime à prestations cibles. Une telle option pourrait être très attrayante pour un employeur puisque cela le soulagerait de plusieurs des coûts et des obligations actuellement inhérents à un régime à prestations déterminées. Les partisans d'une telle mesure soutiennent qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une menace sérieuse puisque le projet de loi stipule clairement que l'employeur doit obtenir le consentement des participants au régime avant de mettre en œuvre un tel changement. Quelle est la probabilité que des retraités renoncent à leurs prestations promises et garanties? C'est peu probable. Cependant, le projet de loi permet aussi à un syndicat, représentant les participants actifs à un régime de retraite, de renoncer à un régime à prestations déterminées dans le cadre d'une négociation collective, soit en échange d'autres avantages ou à la suite d'une capitulation dans un scénario de grève ou de lock-out. Si cela devait se produire, le régime à prestations déterminées serait probablement fermé et, faute de cotisations des employés et de l'employeur, sa viabilité serait menacée, tout comme les pensions des retraités.

Lors de la campagne électorale de 2015, Justin Trudeau a déclaré publiquement et par écrit que les régimes à prestations déterminées « ...qui ont déjà été payés par les employés et les pensionnés, ne devraient pas être transformés rétroactivement » en régimes à prestations cibles ni en quoi que ce soit d'autre.

Je suis un employé retraité d'une société de la Couronne et je bénéficie actuellement d'une pension à prestations déterminées. Il s'agit de l'essentiel de mon revenu de retraite. Si elle devait être modifiée, je n'aurais aucune façon de remplacer le revenu perdu.

Le projet de loi C-27 peut être perçu comme le début de la fin éventuelle des régimes à prestations déterminées au Canada. Un pays socialement responsable comme le nôtre, avec une économie évoluée, devrait être en mesure d'offrir et de soutenir un niveau approprié de sécurité de la retraite pour ses citoyens. Je vous invite donc fortement à obliger le gouvernement à respecter l'engagement de son leader et à vous opposer au projet de loi C-27 dans sa forme actuelle.

En nous invitant à d'autres consultations, le ministre des Finances sollicite des propositions pour soulager ces préoccupations. La question n'est pas simple et elle nécessitera, à n'en pas douter, une réflexion approfondie afin que toute loi résultante atteigne les objectifs fixés à l'origine. Toutefois, à tout le moins, les dispositions du projet de loi permettant la conversion à la baisse des régimes de retraite à prestations déterminées existants devraient être retirées du projet de loi.

Sincèrement,

Le directeur régional de Radio-Canada Acadie, M. Richard Simoens, quittera son poste à la fin juin.

Son départ après un mandat de 5 ans à Moncton met terme à une carrière d'une quarantaine d'années avec la Société d'État.

Pendant ce mandat, il a piloté le projet de modernisation des installations techniques et de décroisement des équipes de Radio-Canada Acadie. Il a fallu 3 ans pour réaliser ce projet : la station a déménagé en 2015 de l'édifice de l'avenue Université qu'elle avait occupé pendant 45 ans, au 165, rue Main, dans une partie de l'espace autrefois occupé par le magasin Zeller's. Au moment de son ouverture, M. Simoens décrivait la station comme une des plus modernes au pays.

Franco-manitobain, M. Simoens a entamé sa carrière à Radio-Canada en 1976. Au nombre de ses réalisations, soulignons sa contribution à la mise en place du Centre de l'information à Montréal et à la nouvelle station au centre-ville d'Ottawa.

Il a fait carrière en tant que réalisateur à Montréal, Vancouver et Winnipeg et a occupé le poste de directeur de Radio-Canada Ottawa-Gatineau pendant 8 ans avant de s'installer en Acadie.

D'après un article paru dans le quotidien *L'Acadie Nouvelle*, il dit, à l'approche de la soixantaine, vouloir faire autre chose et se propose de demeurer dans la région afin de « faire de la réalisation et du contenu multimédia » avec sa compagnie Risim Communications.

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes, le concours pour combler son poste n'avait pas encore été ouvert.

Reprise des activités

Le thème du premier déjeuner-causerie depuis le début du Nouvel an a eu lieu le 29 mars et portait sur les services que le gouvernement provincial offre aux personnes âgées. La préposée aux Évaluations sociales au ministère du Développement social, Gisèle Arsenault, a tracé un portrait de ces services.

Mme Arsenault a expliqué que 5 évaluateurs sont affectés à la Région 1 qui couvre tout le sud-est de la province et qui compte le plus grand nombre de personnes âgées dans la province.

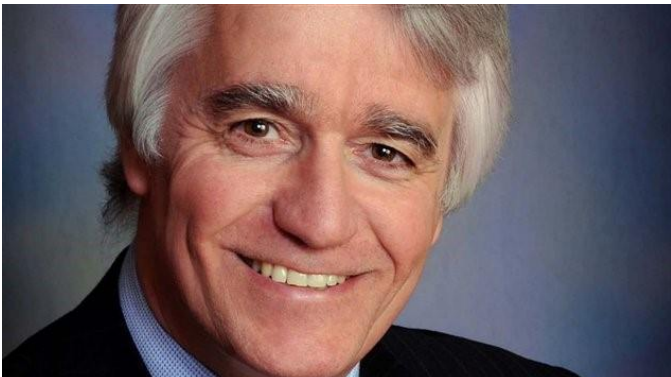
Après avoir reçu une demande de la part d'un client, le service fait une évaluation de sa situation afin de déterminer à quel niveau il ou elle se situe et quels sont ses besoins. L'objectif premier, dit-elle, c'est de voir quels services sont nécessaires afin de permettre au client de demeurer autonome dans son logis.

Normalement, c'est le client qui fait la demande d'évaluation. Dans certains cas, c'est un membre de la famille puisque le client en n'est pas capable en raison de son état de santé. Toujours est-il que ce sont les clients, la personne concernée, qui fait habituellement la demande d'évaluation et qui donne les autorisations nécessaires. Son état de santé détermine si c'est possible.

À la fin de sa présentation, Mme Arsenault a distribué un guide qui donne un aperçu de tous les programmes provinciaux et fédéraux disponibles, une carte énumérant quelques-uns des programmes disponibles et un numéro d'appel centralisé ainsi qu'un formulaire de demande de subvention financière.

Les prochains rendez-vous

M. Simoens sera notre invité à notre prochain déjeuner-causerie aura lieu le mercredi 26 avril. L'assemblée générale annuelle aura lieu le mercredi 24 mai et le souper annuel au homard au mois de juin à une date à être déterminée.



Richard Simoens

Le directeur régional de Radio-Canada Acadie

The regional director for French-language services in the Atlantic Provinces

The regional director for French-language services in the Atlantic Provinces, Mr. Richard Simoens, is leaving the Corporation at the end of June.

His departure after a 5-year mandate in Moncton marks the end of some 40 years with the Corporation.

During his mandate with Radio-Canada Acadie, he brought about the project that led to the modernization of the technical installations as well as the decompartmentalizing of work teams at the regional production centre. The project took 3 years: in 2015, the station moved from the University Avenue building it had occupied for 45 years to its new location, part of the space formerly occupied by the Zeller's store at 165 Main St. At the time of its opening, Mr. Simoens said that it was one of the most up to date stations in the country.

Mr. Simoens, a Franco-Manitoban, began his career with Radio-Canada in 1976. Among his many accomplishments, we can mention his contribution to the news operations centre in Montréal and to the new Radio-Canada/CBC building in downtown Ottawa.

His career as a producer brought him to Montréal, Vancouver and Winnipeg. He was regional director of the Ottawa-Gatineau operation for 8 years before coming to Moncton.

In a story published in the French-language daily *L'Acadie Nouvelle*, he says that as he approaches his sixties, he would like a change and that he intends to remain in the area "to do some production and multimedia content" (tr.) with his company Risim Communications.

As we write this report, the position has not yet been posted.

Activities resume

The theme of our first luncheon since the beginning of the New Year took place on March 29th and the topic was the services the provincial government makes available to seniors. The invited guest speaker was Gisèle Arsenault, a social needs assessment specialist with the Department of Social Development.

Ms. Arsenault said that 5 specialists cover Region 1, the south-eastern part of the province, that has the highest number of seniors in the province.

Once a request for financial help is received, the service does an evaluation of the situation to determine the client's situation and needs. The first objective, she said, is to determine which services are necessary to allow the client to remain autonomous in his or her home.

The request for an evaluation usually comes from the person concerned. In certain cases, it can be a member of the family since the person concerned is incapable of making the request because of his or her health. But it is the person concerned who normally requests an evaluation and takes the necessary authorizations. His or her health will determine if that is possible.

After her presentation, Ms. Arsenault took a number of questions and left a guide explaining all the services available from both the provincial and federal governments, a card listing some of the services available and a centralized telephone number, and a form to request financial help.

Mr. Simoens will be our guest at our next luncheon on Wednesday, April 26th. The annual general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24th, and the annual lobster party in June at a date that has yet to be determined.

Charlottetown

PEI REPORT

Kathy Large

CBC Pensioners in PEI gather for festive lunch

The CBC Pensioners National Association brought together more than forty former CBC Prince Edward Island employees for a festive luncheon on Saturday, December 3rd, 2016 at the Inn on the Hill in Charlottetown. Members of the Association hosted a wider group of people, including spouses and friends for a complimentary meal with the hope that some who haven't already joined the organization would sign up. It was the first time in several years that the group gathered.

The hot roast turkey dinner was an attraction but the company of former coworkers turned out to be the big draw. There were lots of hugs and greetings as people recognized long-time friends from the office. There have been numerous retirements in the past five years and many of those people joined earlier retirees for the first time.



1 Maritime Branch members John McKay and Geoff Turnbull brought everyone up to date on the work of the Pensioners Association.

2 Retired Supervising Technician Bob MacWilliams chats with Shannon Murray, former graphic artist in PEI.

3 Retired Operations manager John Stewart and co-worker Rena Pratt enjoy a Christmas visit.

4 Retired network cameraman Richard Furlong and retired technical manager Bob MacDonald share some memories.

Maritime Branch president and national board member, John McKay and Maritime board member Geoff Turnbull made a presentation about the work of the CBC Pensioners National Association and in particular reviewed the many features of the Association's website to show how it can help members with various issues. McKay also encouraged CBC PEI retirees to continue to use an annual allotment from the national organization for the benefit of all members through social gatherings or other projects.



Former CBC employees Connie Clark, Marilyn Crozier, Reg Peters, Ian Hunter, Robin Jenkins and Kathy Manning plus friends and spouses share lunch.

Thanks to PEI senior manager Jim Ferguson, there were numerous CBC branded items handed out for prizes plus a couple of books published by former CBC PEI employees. Former executive producer Geoff Hussey was on hand to offer a copy of his book: "Charlie of Ile Saint Jean" and Glen Deir's "The Money Shot" was also provided.

New board members for the Island chapter are being recruited. Those interested can contact Ian Petrie by email: peipete@hotmail.com.

Sydney

CAPE BRETON REPORT

Bill Doyle

Our annual dinner was well attended as usual. In previous years, thanks to former news reporter Frank King, we showed a video taking us down memory lane featuring staff members no longer with us, as well as television outtakes from more than 30 years ago. This year, attendees received a DVD of the production.

At our November meeting, we decided to ask the CBC to restore Radio 2 programming to 105.1 FM from 6 to 9 a.m. weekdays for listeners in Cape Breton. This programming was replaced many years ago with Information Morning from CBC Cape Breton because of an unsatisfactory AM signal for Radio 1. Last fall, the CBC launched a "nested FM" radio signal that vastly improved Radio 1 reception, so it was expected that the scheduled Radio 2 programming would be reinstated.

We sent a letter to CBC President Hubert Lacroix who passed it on to Allison MacLachlan, Director of Marketing, Communications and Publicity for CBC/Radio-Canada. Ms. MacLachlan informed us that our letter went to Susan Marjetti, Executive Director of CBC Radio who, we were assured, would "speak to your concerns on behalf of the Corporation." We are still waiting to hear from Susan, who is from Sydney. We'll be addressing her non-response at our May meeting.

Through the initiative of recording secretary Russ Powell, members of the Cape Breton chapter of the CBCPNA are being encouraged to sign a petition from Friends of Canadian Broadcasting, urging Prime Minister Trudeau "to act on his promise to reform CBC's governance so that it is merit-based and independent." For others who may be interested, here's the link: <http://www.friends.ca/reformtheboard/>

The Cape Breton chapter of the CBCPA will hold this year's AGM at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, at the Westmount Legion.

Halifax

NOVA SCOTIA REPORT

Geoff Turnbull

There now are 486 members on our regional list, up 10 from last month, a really good sign.

Regional membership has grown by 18 new members in the past year. That means \$1,800 in new money from the national office which will be shared: 800 to the region, 600 to Moncton chapter, and 200 to each of the Sydney and PEI Chapters. Regional membership (as of January was 477.)

Supplementary Health Care Plans

Changes are definitely coming to your Supplementary Health Care Plan. The Corporation wants a new, more evenly provided national version in place of the 11 different plans now in effect. There will still be some variations across the country but there will be fewer of them. The idea is to try to level the playing field. Quebec has the best plan to date and the others will do their best to raise their levels too. But as John McKay reminded us, "You get what you pay for". And there probably will be some minor increases in costs for some planholders, probably in the realm of 10 to 20 dollars a month in this region. George Mount is asking the committee to recommend that any changes will be subject to a vote rather than simply decided on by the corporation.

Harry Roberts, one of our retirees from Halifax, left us a 500 dollar bequest in his will last year. We still have not decided how to use it despite much discussion. So far, we do have support for the idea that we use the money in support of our own members who are in need. If you have any ideas, please pass them along to John McKay or another board member. It turns out it is in the category of an embarrassment of riches. But we are sure the perfect idea will arise and we will all remember Harry and his generosity when that time comes.



TREASURER'S REPORT - CBC Pensioners' National Association (Maritimes)

David Carr

With a few unexpected expenses, we ended the fiscal year with a small deficit of -\$174.76. Unexpected Chapter activity along with a change of caterer for our monthly meetings, certainly contributed to this.

All expenses go through and are approved by the Board at its monthly meetings (with much discussion) and duly presented to each General meeting for further approval.

As of 31 March, our bank balance stands at a healthy \$11,808.00.

The Yearly Financial report along with all the financials are now in the hands of the auditor and the audited statement will be presented to our Annual General Meeting 03 May, 2017 for approval.

I expect a healthy financial year ahead.

If anyone would like more information and/or a copy of the audited statement, I can be reached at financialwonk@aol.com – 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H6 – 902-457-1837

Respectfully

David Carr, Treasurer (Maritimes)

31 March, 2017

RAPPORT DU TRÉSORIER

Quelques dépenses imprévues ont contribué à un léger déficit de 174,76 \$ à la fin de l'année financière. Des activités imprévues ainsi que le recours à un nouveau traiteur pour nos réunions mensuelles ont certainement contribué à ce déficit.

Toutes les dépenses font l'objet d'un examen de la part du bureau de direction qui les approuve lors de ses réunions mensuelles (après beaucoup de discussion) et les présente dûment pour fins d'approbation à la réunion générale annuelle.

Au 31 mars, le solde de notre compte bancaire était un beau 11 808,00 \$.

Le rapport financier annuel ainsi que tous les détails financiers sont maintenant entre les mains du vérificateur et le rapport financier annuel sera présenté à l'Assemblée générale annuelle le 3 mai 2017 pour approbation.

Je prévois une bonne situation financière l'an prochain.

Si vous désirez de plus amples informations et/ou une copie des états financiers vérifiés, vous pouvez me joindre par courriel à financialwonk@aol.com – ou par courrier à 413-50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NÉ B3M 4H6 – 902-457-1837

Respectueusement

David Carr, trésorier (Maritimes)

le 31 mars 2017



WEBSITE UPDATE

Many of the functions of our website: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/CBCPensioners/> have been taken over by email and by the national website: <http://www.cbcpensioners.ca/>

There were far more photos on our site than the national site could handle. I am now working on moving all the photos back to Chebucto.

Meantime, **"where are the pictures?"**. There is a link to connect to the Picasa albums archive but the pictures are now in random order. I have added a link "Chebucto Archives" which will take you to the older pictures that remained on Chebucto.

I am building a completely **new site** which will have only pictures and newsletters. It will not be uploaded right away as we are awaiting a technical upgrade at Chebucto.

I will send out a notice via email when the above changes have been made.

David McClafferty, CBCPAM webmaster

Mise à jour du site WEB

Plusieurs fonctions de notre site Web: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/CBCPensioners/> ont été remplacées par des courriels ou le site national : <http://www.retraitessrc.ca/>

Malheureusement le nombre de photos sur notre site dépassait de beaucoup la capacité du site national. C'est pourquoi je suis présentement en train de remettre toutes nos photos sur le site Chebucto.

Entre temps, **"où peut-on trouver les photos?"**. Il y a un lien pour accéder aux archives des albums Picasa mais il n'y a pas d'ordre dans les photos. J'ai ajouté un lien « Chebucto Archives » qui vous dirigera vers les plus anciennes photos qui sont restées sur le site Chebucto.

Je prépare un tout nouveau site qui contiendra seulement des photos et les éditions de « Pause-indicatif ». Ce site sera mis en ligne dès que la mise à jour technique du site Chebucto sera terminée.

Je vous enverrai un courriel à cet effet.

David McClafferty, webmestre CBCPAM



RETIREMENT DAY

Tom Pottie

As I recall, the date was Friday, March 8, 1990. I arrived at the CBC Finance Dept. just before 9 am, ready to put in a full day's work. Our office was in the Radio Building on Sackville Street, having recently moved from the Bell Road CBHT building to make room for another department. Technical, I recall. We were very flexible in those days, moving the Finance Dept. every so often.

There were several people in the room. As I sat down to my work, I saw a very officious-looking envelope on my desk addressed to me. I opened it and saw it was from Peter McElroy from Human

Resources. A big smile crossed my face as I realized what it was ... it informed me that my position in the Corp was redundant. Reading on, I was eligible for another position or I could take early retirement. I opted for the latter.

I let out a "Whoop" and "Yeees" and announced to those present the good news that I would be taking early retirement...WOW! What a great way to start my day!

There were handshakes offered and pats on the back for my good fortune....Early retirement at age 55!! It was hard to get back to my daily work...doling out cheques to TV and Radio performers and preparing the usual daily reports.

So, the day passed and back home later, my wife Mary was thrilled to hear the good news. WOW!! What a day!



IT TAKES A WHILE TO REALLY RETIRE...

Sue Dexter, Producer, Halifax Radio

I have been retired for a long time. It has been at least ten years, probably longer. The point is it has taken me a long time to get used to retirement. By that I mean enjoying all those things I thought retirement was about when I was working, like sleeping in, reading all day, taking as long as I wanted to do nothing in particular. I expect I also imagined tropical island destinations, learning a language, playing the piano, painting. But after I left I couldn't settle down to any of it. The canvases remained blank and the travel brochures unopened.

I was bored. Mealtimes were the only reference points in a long day. After years of unrelenting deadlines, the calm came as a shock. I thought I wanted an end to endlessly checking the clock to see how much time I had left before I had to go to studio, do this. Seconds counted literally, ten, nine, eight.... But instead of feeling relieved when it was all over, I felt deflated. I entered a netherworld of anxiety and bad dreams. There was nothing I wanted to do.

For a long time, I had nightmares nearly every night. I was back at work in a place where no-one talked to me, where I had no desk, and I didn't know the computer passwords. Other nights I'd dream that I was running to the studio. I was late. The show had started but no-one was there. I didn't have any scripts or tapes. All the show folders were missing. The panic was awful.

I couldn't figure out where the dreams came from. Sure, there had been times when the pressure at work was intense. But that seemed part of the game, acing it in spite of the close calls. And besides, everyone felt the pressure.

But I'd wonder about those dreams. They made me realize I'd been lying to myself. All that rushing about, barely making deadlines, day in day out. I thought it was the price of doing a job I loved. And I did love it for a long time. Until somewhere along the line I didn't.

After I left I had to admit that I hadn't enjoyed the final few years. I kept hoping it would be like it was at the beginning, full of promise and exciting. It couldn't be, of course. It was a different work place by then. Also, I was burnt out. The realization came during a story meeting. We were going around the table talking about ideas for the show. It was my turn. I didn't have any ideas for that show, for the next day or the day after that. I'd always had ideas, hadn't I?

CBC was offering early retirement. I took it. It felt like the biggest mistake of my life. Everyone congratulated me, "Now you'll have time to travel, to paint, to..." well, fill in the blanks. A brave new future if only I could stop moping about and make plans, make A plan. Lately it's dawned on me that I was grieving during those first years of retirement – for a job I loved but couldn't do anymore.

It may sound like I spent all my time rehashing my life at the CBC. I did for a while but that starts to get boring too. I did other things. For a while, I worked in the floral department at a Superstore. That was when the workers in the floral department did most of the flower arrangements. I liked that. But change comes to floral

departments as well as the CBC. Bouquets started to come in ready-made. The cash register was moved to the checkout lines. No more customers really, just watering and dumping dead flowers. Boredom bloomed. I left.

I took courses in gardening at the Agriculture College. I landed a job as a gardener with the city parks department. This seemed perfect. It was, too. Most of the time I was left to my own devices. I had my own truck, my own garden area, and a summer student. I was working outside with all the plants I could ever want. In the winter, I drove a sidewalk plow on the night shift. That was lots of fun when I wasn't knocking down fences or sliding out of control down icy hills.

A few years of shovelling out truckloads of soil or carrying grass sods was starting to tell on my body. It was time to quit, but I was OK with it this time. I was feeling my limitations, especially in the morning.

These days I seem to be doing what I daydreamed about when I was working at the CBC. I'm reading a lot, sometimes in a focussed way. Reading is a pleasure again. No more obligatory review copies, newspapers, magazines, reports and government papers. I still read a lot of newspapers, a CBC habit I happily keep. I sleep until I wake up, or the cat wakes me. I don't dream about the CBC very often anymore. I am attending a few SCANS courses. If you don't know about SCANS, the Seniors' College, check out their web site. These days I'm taking a course on "seeing art". I haven't talked about art and painting so much since I was at the art school. I also garden, rather like my father used to, that is, somewhat obsessively. I look for rocks (for the garden). I take long walks, trying to identify wild plants. Most days I do pretty much what I like. Sometimes I'm reminded of when I was a child. I'd come home hungry and grubby to discover a whole day had passed in a wonderful blur. I'm happy about retirement now. Finally, it feels like a good fit.



Catching up with

Marie Thompson in South America

My Spanish has improved marginally, she reports, after a 4-week course in Peru. She was in Cusco, learning a lot about Peru's history and culture. "The weather in Cusco - at 3300 meters is cool and very changeable. It's the rainy season, so even when a day dawns warm and sunny you must always travel with a rain poncho because the downpours are never far away! We spent a few days in Lima which is the exact opposite - sunny, hot and oppressively humid." It's on to Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, La Paz, and Santiago before heading home. Get more details and wonderful pictures on Marie's blog www.notretiring.wordpress.com.



Inca stones ... good for leaning on





Regional Annual General Meeting

When: May 3 Time: 12:00 for free buffet lunch 12:45 for business meeting
Where: Royal Canadian Legion, Corner of Hillcrest Street and Main Avenue in Fairview, Halifax
Agenda: Meet and greet with old friends.
This is our most important meeting of the year. We hope everyone will try to attend .
Topics include finances past and future, reports, updates, activities.

Buffet is free to member + one family member. Let us know how many are coming.

RSVP to: Email: davidscribe@aol.com
Phone: 902 457 1837 and leave a message Halifax,
Postal: CBC Pensioners, 413-50 Barkton Lane, NS B3M 4H8

SEE YOU THERE

Assemblée générale annuelle régionale

Date : le mercredi 3 mai Midi – buffet 12h45 début de l'assemblée
Où : Légion, 50, rue Hillcrest (coin de la rue Main) Fairview, Halifax
Ordre du jour : Venez rencontrer des ami.e.s de longue date.
C'est notre plus importante réunion de l'année. Faites un effort pour y participer.
À l'ordre du jour : les finances le passé et l'avenir, les rapports, les mises à jours et les activités.

Le buffet est gratuit pour les membres de l'ANRSRC et 1 membre de la famille

RSVP à financialwonk@aol.com OU
laisser un message au 902-457-1837



NDLR

J'ai reçu dans mon courrier, il y a quelques jours, une lettre de la part de Tom Pottie. J'ai me suis dit voilà une lettre de la Société – mais pourquoi m'écrit-il? En réalité, c'était un article pour cette édition de *Pause-indicatif*. Magnifique! Ça va rendre ma journée agréable! Sue Dexter et Marie Thompson m'ont elles aussi agréablement surprise. Merci beaucoup. Continuez de m'envoyer des articles. Notre bulletin a besoin de vous. – Mary Wilcox marywilcox@eastlink.ca

Editor's Note:

I checked my mailbox the other day and found a letter from Tom Pottie. I thought CBC – wonder why he is writing me. He was sending his story for this issue. Wonderful! Made my day! Sue Dexter and Marie Thompson also were pleasant surprises. Thanks so much. Keep them coming, please. Our Newsletter needs you. – Mary Wilcox marywilcox@eastlink.ca



REJOINDRE NOTRE RÉGION PAR COURRIER, COURRIEL ET INTERNET

Courrier: Assoc. Retraités SRC (Maritimes), 413 - 50 Barkton Lane, Halifax, NS B3M 4H8

Courriel: cbcpam@gmail.com

Site Internet : Maritimes: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>

Page internet: section Moncton : <http://cbcpamc.yolasite.com/>

Page internet: section Charlottetown: <http://cbcpacc.yolasite.com/>

Page internet: section Sydney: <http://cbcpasc.yolasite.com/>

Page internet: section Halifax : <http://cbcpam.yolasite.com/>

Lien Internet (photos) – Maritimes: lien dans <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>

Great West Life (GWL): www.greatwestlife.com Télérer au: 1 877 340-9082

Centre d'administration des pensions (CAP) Télérer au: 1 888 604 9258

STAY CONNECTED

Keep your Association informed:

If you move, change your phone number or e-mail address, please make sure you notify both the National office and the Regional office of your new contact information, especially your e-mail address so we can keep in touch with you by newsletters.

Dites-le à votre association:

Si vous déménagez, changer de numéro de téléphone ou d'adresse courriel, assurez-vous d'en informer les bureaux national et régional. Votre adresse courriel nous permet de rester en contact avec vous à l'aide de notre bulletin.

national: cbcpensioners@on.aibn.com

613-724-3003

1-877-361-9242

régional: cbcpam@gmail.com

HOW TO CONNECT WITH OUR REGION BY MAIL, E-MAIL, AND INTERNET

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

E-Mail: cbcpam@gmail.com

Internet : Maritimes: <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>

Website: Moncton Chapter: <http://cbcpamc.yolasite.com/>

Website: Charlottetown Chapter: <http://cbcpacc.yolasite.com/>

Website: Sydney Chapter: <http://cbcpasc.yolasite.com/>

Website: Halifax Chapter: <http://cbcpam.yolasite.com/>

Internet (photos) – Maritimes: link from <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/culture/cbcpensioners/>

Great West Life (GWL): www.greatwestlife.com Telephone: 1 877 340-9082

Pensioners Administration Center (PAC) Telephone: 1 888 604 9258



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Mary Wilcox

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

Mary Wilcox marywilcox@eastlink.ca

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

Voici la onzième édition du bulletin régional des Maritimes. Nous aimerions recevoir vos commentaires, vos suggestions d'articles futurs et vos contributions.

Mary Wilcox marywilcox@eastlink.ca

Adresse postale: Assoc. des retraités SRC(Maritimes)
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