

The CBC Pensioners  
National Association

Preserving our Future, Sharing our Past

L'Association nationale  
des retraités de la SRC

Assurer notre avenir, partager notre passé

# ***THE GOOD LIFE***

## ***NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO (SWO) CHAPTER OF THE CBC PNA***

### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD**

Welcome to another issue of your newsletter ***THE GOOD LIFE***. A great deal has happened since our last publication.

- Mainly our pension surplus has been distributed, but how was it calculated for me?
- Recruitment is always on the forefront and sometimes a good story thank you is required.
- Our newest member into our Chapter is well known by many locally and internationally.
- Hitting 49 years of CBC service is a feat in itself and also a very fulfilling one.
- Taking on a personal project can benefit many people locally, and especially new Canadians. When a small action can make a huge impact.
- Our vault is packed with literally thousands of articles and photos - this one came from a past member's son.
- At our 2023 Christmas party we celebrated our Centenarian member's birthday. Sadly, we recently lost her.
- Future pension surplus, The Good, The Bad & The Goal.
- Our continuing history here in Southwestern Ontario.
- You suggested, and we made the change.

#### **#3 - 2024 Summer**

Page – 2:

#### **How Was My Surplus \$\$ Determined?**

Dan Oldfield, PNA  
President

Page – 3:

#### **A BIG Thank You (Recruitment)**

By Phil Peck

Page – 3:

#### **New Member** David Compton

Page – 4:

#### **Happy Retirement** Joanne Hoppe

Page – 5/6:

#### **A Win for Canada** Barbara Peacock

Page – 6:

#### **Flashback / Obit**

Page – 7:

#### **2023 Pension Surplus** CBC PNA

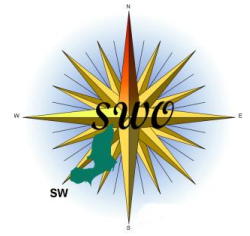
#### **How Did We Get Here?** Gerald Head

Page – 8:

#### **Calendar of Events 2024/ \*AGM Notice\***

Proof Editor: Brian Worrall

## **How was My Share of the Pension Surplus Determined?**



The process for determining entitlement involved a considerable amount of work by Pension Administration. Staff there should be congratulated for the effort and the quality of the work. A lot was learned through the process, and it is hoped that future payouts will be more efficient. What follows is an attempt to provide a simple explanation for how your share was calculated.

Several factors were taken into consideration to determine the amount each eligible contributor would receive. The total the amount of money shared was approximately \$130 million. It was accumulated over two separate years and was divided among more than 20,000 individuals.

Your individual share was based on a percentage of your lifetime contributions. Those contributions would vary by individual depending on how long you were employed, when you retired, what your pensionable salary was at the date of retirement (average of the best five of your last ten years of employment).

Some people have wondered why amounts varied in circumstances where two individuals had both contributed for the same number of years. There could be a variety of reasons, but it all comes down to how much money did the employee put into the pension plan (lifetime contributions) All of those factors were used to determine a percentage for each year of surplus (2021 and 2022) Each year was calculated separately, and the payout was the total yielded for both years.

For the first year the percentage was 4.361. So, if your lifetime contributions amounted to \$100,000 you would receive slightly more than \$4,300 for that year. In the second year the percentage 3.417 so based on a \$100,000 lifetime contribution you would have received slightly more than \$3,400. The percentage was determined based on the amount available in a given year and divided by the total amount of contributions.

NOTE: The same process was used to determine payouts for deferred pensioners – those who left their money in the pension plan but are not yet receiving a pension. In the case of surviving spouses, the calculations were made based on the pensioners lifetime contributions but the entitlement for surviving spouses was 60% of that amount (the same formula used to determine surviving spouse pensions).

Dan Oldfield, President CBC PNA

Visit the CBC PNA website for updates and many more articles:

<https://www.cbcpensioners.ca>



## **A BIG Thank You: Phil Peck**

Four CBC pensioners walked into a bar and sat down in the nice, cozy chairs. One had been an announcer. One had worked in technical maintenance. One used to work in administration. One had been a producer.

A bartender took their orders and returned with a martini, a beer, some wine and a glass of water.

The pensioners started talking about which jobs at CBC were most important. One suggested that on-air presenters were essential as they are the ones that the audience connects with. One pointed out that there would be no broadcasts unless the technical equipment was working properly. One argued that without writers and producers there would be no programs. One pointed out that nobody would work unless administration made sure they got paid.

They nodded at each other and agreed that all those jobs were important.

The bartender came by to collect payments. To the ones who had wine, beer, and the martini, the bartender expressed gratitude for their patronage. Then, turning to the one who had water, the bartender said, "no charge for the water". "I hope you say thank you to your colleagues. They're the ones who help keep this place in business."

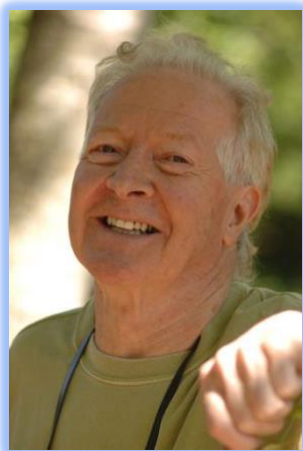
The bartender continued, 'you're always welcome here and we will always make sure you are taken care of properly, as long as we are here"

Now, to you kind reader, I say 'thank you' for being a member of the Pensioners National Association. Because of you, the interests of CBC pensioners are defended. Even those who can't afford to join, benefit from the association's efforts.

We hope that a non-member says thanks to you, for helping keep the association in business, and for the work it did to ensure the pension surplus was shared with pensioners.

Again, thank you for your support.

## **Welcome: *Our New Member to the SWO Chapter, David Compton***

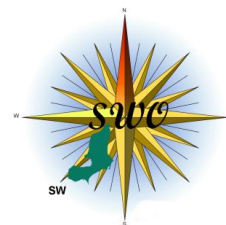


Many members of our Chapter will remember David Compton as one of the anchors of the supertime news on CBET Chanel 9 in Windsor. After leaving CBC, David worked for CNN in Atlanta from 1990 to 2007.

David has written books which involve P.E.I. where he lived as a youngster.

Although David is an out-of-country member of the PNA , he recently elected to be a member of the SWO Chapter. We're looking forward in seeing him at one of our functions down the road!

## **Darian Bernard: Video Editor, CBET Windsor: Joanne Hoppe**



I have been asked to look back on my years at CBC Windsor. I started September 15, 1975, as a film editor to cut TV news. Fred Stecher hired me, and Gerry Head was my trainer. On day one Gerry taught me how to cut a 6-minute single system current affairs item that ran that night. At that time the film department was in the basement. It was cold and damp. I once looked up and saw a snake slithering along the pipe above me. Gerry was a wonderful manager because he always assured me that if I missed a deadline, he'd back me up and I wouldn't get yelled at!

We soon moved up to the first floor and graduated to double system news editing. I cut news, current affairs and programs including Agriscope, Religious Scope, and a monthly documentary called TV 9 Reports. It was produced by Dick Sherman and shot by Gord Gilmore. Both tragically passed away at an early age and we were all heartbroken.

Later I cut a network documentary, part of the Seeing It Our Way series, on Kingsville artist Ron Vermeiren. I also worked for a time cutting down movies in procurement. Ruth Ann Laporte trained me. She was meticulous!

The TV station closed in 1990. However, I got backfill work in VTR and Master Control which were still operating. Sandy Tymczak trained me to make the commercial reel, and I was in awe of her ability to have 3 tape machines going at once. She was like a symphony conductor!

In 1994 news was reinstated and I trained as an Avid editor under the Windsor Experiment. That was the most fun of my career. Avid had all the precision and elegance of film editing without the exhaustive work. Avid asked me to demonstrate desktop editing to news directors across North America at the NAB convention in Las Vegas. That was a lot of fun, and since I was the only woman on the team, I had a 2-bedroom condo all to myself!

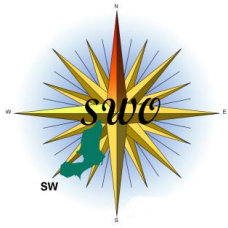
As part of my backfill work I also at times did Chyron and audio during the show. Gabe Menard trained me in Graphics, and I loved that job as much as editing. I also did backfill work in radio as a Tech /AP for Crosstown with host Barbara Peacock.

In 2006 I applied for a job as a part time media librarian to archive the news, dating back to the 1960's to present day. Joanne Hoppe compelled me to train as an Associate Director to back up Nancy Garant. I didn't want to do it. It scared me, but Nancy was meticulous in her training and so I did that for a few years with directors Neil Cornwall and Tom Addison. When that job ended, I continued as a part time media librarian, and went full time in 2016 until I retired at the end of this past March.

It has been pointed out that I was the first woman hired in the TV news editing department. But I didn't once think about that. I just thought editing was fun and couldn't believe how lucky I was to be able to do something I loved and get paid to do it!!

The best part of working 49 years at the station was all the wonderful people I was honoured to know.





## **A Win For Canada** : *Barbara Peacock*

At our SWO BBQ some of you noticed I collect beer and wine bottles - no, my CBC pension isn't that bad! I give the refund money to something I've been a member of since early 2016 - a Private Refugee Sponsorship Group.

Almost half of all refugees to Canada now are privately funded by groups of Canadian citizens. Such sponsorship is a Canadian concept that started 45 years ago and has become a model for several other Countries. A group of people sign an agreement with the Feds to take a Refugee family under their wing for their 1st year. We pay their start up and living costs. We give moral support and help them adjust to life here. This method gives newcomers a better chance for success. Better for them. Better for Canada !

Early in 2016 Windsor put out a call to citizens to help settle the Syrian refugees who came to our city. I donated clothing and home goods and drove people to appointments. What a joy it was to lace up skates for newcomer Syrian kids at a fun party for them at the former outdoor Rink by City Hall. So fun to watch! Some were actually skating, though wobbly, within a few minutes!

That's when I met a woman from one of the "Private Sponsorship" groups that had just formed locally. Canada resettled 25,000 Syrians that year. That ongoing Civil War is the 2nd deadliest conflict of the 21st century (the Congo War being #1).

Our Fundraising wasn't quick nor is the paperwork, so the family finally got here in May 2019. Last Fall our group, now reduced to only 8 people, decided to do it again.

It's daunting to raise the \$32,000 the Government requires us to have to support a family of 5 for one year - but we didn't hesitate. We are sponsoring the final brother of four Syrian siblings, two of whom we sponsored in 2019. He, his wife and 3 little kids will arrive next year. Until last year they wouldn't leave Syria because their elderly parents wouldn't. Their parents were caring for an Aunt who was too frail to leave. She died last summer, and the parents have since gone to the USA, living in Michigan with their eldest son and his wife and 2 teenagers.

With the Israel/Gaza crisis spreading chaos to the entire Middle East, and with 79% inflation in Syria last year, a "barely livable" situation became a crisis. The kidnapping of a neighbour's child was the final straw. As their parents are safe in the USA, it is time to flee.

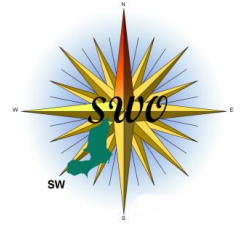
The paperwork is "in process" thanks to the Roman Catholic Diocese of London which is a "sponsorship agreement holder". It facilitates with 335 refugees coming to our area each year. Because of the possible danger to the family as they are still in the Middle East, I won't post a photo of them, but I do have this one from the celebration last summer where our 1st family received their Canadian Citizenship . Since the Pandemic most ceremonies are online so no Mounties in Red Serge!



Mary is in a red top, cutting the cake, flanked by her 2 daughters.

Sadly, in June 2019, her husband Imad, 52, whose dream it was to bring his family to Canada, died of a massive heart attack just 6 weeks after they got here. That left Mary a single mother. Gone was the dream she and Imad had for her to go back to school to retrain for a better job.

It took what savings the family had just to get here. Our group was able to arrange and pay for Imad's funeral, but can you imagine if they hadn't had their Canadian friends? We had also sponsored Mary's youngest brother, Hani (on the left) who took this selfie of us!



Life is still a challenge but they both have factory work, they have many friends, their parents are just across the border, Mary and Imad's eldest daughter Miral, an "A" student, starts Highschool next month, her nephew in Michigan got into Medical School there and next year their entire family will be reunited.

As for Canada, we gained some brainy, hardworking young people!

This time around the Rotary Club had agreed to help our group by accepting donations for our project. If you care in your heart to donate, you'll get a charitable receipt. To do that online go to:

**Syria Refugee Project**  
**DONATE NOW**

[www.rotary1918.com](http://www.rotary1918.com)

Closer to their arrival we'll be collecting furniture and household goods. I'll post photos once the family arrives next year and I'll do an update! Thanks you!



Take a moment to View, Click Like and Comment on all our posts on Facebook, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/SWOChapterCBCPensioners>

**Want more information/stories? Visit these sites:**

**National Website:** <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca>

**Southwestern Ontario Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SWOChapterCBCPensioners>

**Ontario Region Facebook Page:** Ontario CBC PNA



**In Memory:**



**Irene (Elizabeth) Orr October 12<sup>th</sup>, 1923 – July 11, 2024**



## UPDATE ON 2023 PENSION SURPLUS PAYOUT

### CBC PNA

Work is underway in order to distribute approximately \$55-million, our share of the 2023 pension surplus.

CBC officials have been meeting with representatives from the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) in an attempt to make the approval and distribution process for the 2023 surplus and future payouts simpler and quicker. Those meetings have yielded some positive results.

OSFI will oblige us to go through the same consultation and approval process as we did for the just completed (2021 and 2022) payout. In other words, it will require a mail-out of the so-called "first notice" and will ask eligible pensioners, survivor beneficiaries and deferred pensioners to respond yes or no. We will once again be required to achieve a 2/3rds approval rate. The good news is that OSFI has agreed that once completed, this approval will cover the next five years. So, if there is another payout for 2024 (which at this point seems very likely) the approval process beyond the first notice will not be required or for subsequent payouts. In other words, no vote.

The notice to pension plan contributors is being drafted by the CBC and will have to be approved by OSFI. It's hoped that the process can be completed within the next couple of months. The timelines for receipt, comment and approval remain in place which means distribution of the surplus will not likely take place until March or April.

**"What are we and how did we get to today.": Gerald Head**



We are all members of the CBC PNA specifically in the South Western Ontario Chapter. Did you know that this Chapter has 47 members living in Windsor; 36 members living in Essex County: 6 members live in London and there are members living in Sarnia (2), St. Thomas (1), Thamesville (1), Ridgetown (1) and Goderich (1). Looking at a map of Ontario, draw a line from Goderich down to Port Stanley passing East of London. This is the area that our Chapter covers.

Some people believe that the Association exists to be a social club. The truth is the Association works tirelessly on behalf of retirees. The best example of this is the recent payment of the pension surplus to all retirees. If the PNA had not pursued this situation, no one would have received anything.

The PNA was incorporated on May 9, 2000. The objects of the Association are:

To represent the interests and concerns of CBC pensioners;

- 1) To support the general and economic well-being of CBC pensioners.
- 2) To maintain a professional working relationship with CBC.
- 3) To develop alliances or partnerships with organizations sharing common vision and goals.
- 4) To negotiate a variety of group programs, products and services of benefit to members.

5) The CBC PNA Ontario Region was established in 1999 with Walter Wicks, President and John Dixon, Vice-President. It remained that way until Howard Simpson became President in 2004 to 2006. 2013 to 2016 Gerry Head was the Treasurer becoming President in 2016 ending in 2022.



## OUR 2024 SWO CALENDAR OF EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Wine Tour – October 5, 2024 (\$110/person, 3 wineries with 4 samplings at each, transportation and lunch)
- Frankenmuth Full Day Trips – November 13 and 16, 2024 (\$65/person includes transportation) (Please contact any Board member if you are interested in attending any of the above)
- **Save the Date: SWO Yearend Christmas Party – Saturday, December 7, 2024**

## NOTICE TO OUR SWO MEMBERS:

At our BBQ we heard your comments, and we've listened and have changed the format for this year's Christmas party. Our AGM will not be held at our Christmas party as in past years.

Instead, it will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at 1:00 PM at the Giovanni Caboto Club and we will be re-discussing some topics brought up at this year's BBQ and other suggestions made at the BBQ. A full agenda will be sent out in the coming weeks. If there is a topic you would like added to the Agenda, please send it into any of your Board members. Some areas of discussion will be the following:

- New Ontario Region Chapter Subsidy policy and what effect it will have on the SWO Chapter future events.
- Changing the hours of our Christmas Party.
- The future direction of our Chapter within the Ontario Region.



Gino



Sandy



Jackie



Gerry



Manny



Phil



Gerald

### The Southwestern Ontario Board

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Director/Past President: Gerald Head (519-995-0345 [gercarhead@gmail.com](mailto:gercarhead@gmail.com))

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