

LIVEWIRE

CBC PNA ONTARIO REGION

MEET A MEMBER: DON SPENCE

BY TALIN VARTANIAN



Don Spence on assignment for *The Amazing Race Canada*, in 2019 (Photo by Alex Spence)

“Basically, we landed Gretzky.” In his recent memoir *The Road Years*, Rick Mercer describes the coup of hiring cameraman Don Spence. Initially, he agreed to a brief gig on *Rick Mercer’s Monday Report*. Management moved the show to Tuesdays, it was reincarnated as *The Rick Mercer Report (RMR)*, and Spence stayed for its entire 15-year run, effectively taking himself out of commission as a draft pick for other producers. It sucked to be them.

Continued...

MEET A MEMBER: DON SPENCE, CONT'D...

Spence is one of the most talented and respected television professionals in the country. In addition to *RMR*, his credits include *The Amazing Race Canada*, *Hoarders Canada*, and *Drag Race Canada*. For more than four decades, he has worked on seven Olympic Games broadcasts, three Commonwealth Games, the World Cup, awards ceremonies (Junos, Genies, Geminis), more than two dozen Canada Day specials, *Canadian Idol*, royal visits, papal visits, D-Day celebrations, the final Tragically Hip



Don Spence
(Photo by Susan Spence)

concert, and countless political conventions. Spence's work has even been included in a video tribute that aired on the 1997 Academy Awards. But his beginnings were in TV Sports.

Hockey was an early passion. He joined the Ryerson team during his years in the Radio and TV Arts program, and his teammates became lifelong friends. Spence says he thought of university as grades 14, 15, and 16, a continuation of high school. He was "the kid with the camera," wandering the halls with his \$69 Russian Zenit B,

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Livewire is the Ontario Region newsletter of the PNA

**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

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Feedback and ideas are welcome. Please write to pنالivewire@gmail.com.

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developing black-and-white prints in a makeshift darkroom at home. Trays sat on the family washer and dryer, and photos hung from a clothesline. Ryerson focused mainly on production, not technical skills.

One assignment was to write a profile of someone in the media. Spence chose their down-the-street neighbour Jack Urquhart, who managed the CBC film library, a connection that helped him get a foot in the Corporation's door. Spence graduated in 1976, the Montreal Olympics had just ended, and the CBC was on a hiring spree.



Spence at the 2008 Paralympics, filming from the 92nd floor observation deck of the China World Trade Center in Beijing. "I sometimes do dumb things," he admits. (Photo by Mike Grajewski)

"We were just a bunch of kids in the studios, pulling cables," Spence says. He developed an early fascination with the enormous cameras, and made it clear he wanted to be a camera operator. There was no formal camera training at the time. He learned from colleagues, some of whom were trained by the BBC, where many camera operators wore a jacket and tie. An early mentor, Tom Farquharson, helped guide Spence's career.

"You sort of learned on your own, talking to people," Spence recalls. "The good part of working at the CBC was that you could make mistakes and not get fired."

He remained a NABET Group 1 TVA (television assistant) for five years and was

Continued...

MEET A MEMBER: DON SPENCE, CONT'D...

beginning to lose faith he'd ever move up the ladder, when it finally happened. Eventually, he was assigned to the hockey crew, working Saturday nights. They'd unload their gear from Tech Stores and rolled everything on old metal carts in through the back doors of Maple Leaf Gardens, and haul the equipment up to the rafters.

"I shot hockey for so many of the bad years of the Leafs," Spence recalls. "It was fun, but hockey's exhausting."

He worked his way into the entertainment area, focusing on music, documentaries and children's programming. He'd shoot *Mr. Dressup* on Monday; Tuesday and Wednesday would be his days off; then he'd do *Tommy Hunter* on Thursday and Friday, and sports on the weekend.

"*The Tommy Hunter Show* was one of my first non-hockey gigs," Spence says. "It was a great music show, complicated and sophisticated for its day." He met many of the world's great country music stars there, including Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell, Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, and k.d. lang.

He says *Mr. Dressup* was challenging, but it was "like a training show" because the producers gave people a chance

to do different jobs, such as lighting and audio. Spence loved working with Ernie Coombs: "He was wonderful, exactly as he appeared on camera."

Another fond early memory was working on *Adrienne Clarkson Presents*. For an episode about Michael Ondaatje and the making of *The English Patient*, they took three



Shooting in 1995 for *Man Alive* in Ecuador, with sound engineer Joe Passeratti. (Photo courtesy of Don Spence)

Continued...

MEET A MEMBER: DON SPENCE, CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

separate trips to Tunisia, Tuscany and Venice: "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life," says Spence. He remembers Clarkson's travel savvy, including her charm offensives with customs agents, and how she knew all the best restaurants.

Spence is best known for his mastery of the handheld camera.

"I love the flexibility, the freedom, the creativity, and the muscle," he says, "and you have to have a high pain threshold because it's like holding a 15- or 20-pound squirmy child on your shoulder."

He says the trick to holding steady with handheld work is to be conscious of your heart rate, your breathing, even how you stand. Spence recalls that directors would sometimes yell through his headphones, "Hold steady! I can see your heartbeat."

Rick Mercer's signature rant first aired on *Midday*, then on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, before it became a weekly feature on *RMR*. Spence shot 277 rants, walking backwards at a steady clip, and tilting the camera at pre-arranged times to emphasize points in the script. Spence describes it as choreography.



Spence shot 277 of Rick Mercer's rants. This photo was taken after the final one, on April 5, 2018. Left to right, director John Marshall, Mercer, Spence, and associate producer Matt Tosoni. (Photo by Jon Sturge)

"It was like a dance, with many rehearsals," he says. "Every one of those rants was planned in detail, with the camera emphasizing the comedy. And it wasn't edited. We did it in one long take, and in all kinds of weather. Sometimes, we'd take 20 or 30 takes to get one rant."

At first, when rants were recorded on the road, finding

Continued...

MEET A MEMBER: DON SPENCE, CONT'D...

a location where they wouldn't be chased away by security people was a challenge. Then they discovered a signature location in Toronto, the graffitied alleys on the south side of Queen Street West.



Operating a shoulder camera in Tunisia for *Adrienne Clarkson Presents*, in 1996. (Photo by Alex Spence)

Throughout his career, Spence had the privilege of working in 73 countries, and he readily agrees his wife is a saint.

"Susan Spence has allowed me to run around the world like an idiot, and she's been brilliant at running the house, and keeping the kids happy. That takes a special kind of woman, and I thank her every day," he says. "At the same time, I traveled a lot, but I didn't stay longer to be a tourist. The work was over, and I came home right away."

At the end of 1996, Spence decided to leave the CBC and strike out as a freelancer. He left the Corporation on good terms, with a decent payout, and was happy to return.

"In fact, I returned to Adrienne Clarkson's show three days later, at a much higher salary," he says. For just over a month, he was booked solid on different projects, then...nothing.

"I was sitting at home, waiting for the phone to ring, and I thought to myself, 'What have I done? I gave it all up for my ego? Did I make a big blunder?'"

He remembers hiding in his house because he didn't want the neighbours to see him outside during the day, clearly unemployed. Just as he contemplated asking the CBC to rehire him, the phone began to ring. It hasn't stopped.

Highlights have been working with Mercer, who he describes as the funniest man in Canada, and one of the kindest: "I'd never seen such a great collaborative group."

Continued...

MEET A MEMBER: DON SPENCE, CONT'D...

Covid hit shortly after *RMR*, says Spence, “then the work stopped. I thought, ‘This is how my career ends. Maybe I’ll never work again.’” But Covid did not shut down Spence’s career.

His most challenging recent assignment was director of photography for *Hoarders Canada*, which he describes as emotionally draining.

“It was one of the hardest things I’ve ever done, watching the emotional stress of these people who can’t part with their things, the bugs, all the stuff we had to endure. Rich or poor, they were all the same, it’s just that the rich people have higher-quality garbage,” Spence says. “All we could do was leave the house clean on the day we left.”

The Amazing Race Canada was both a challenge and a joy.

“Jon Montgomery from *The Amazing Race* is on a par with Rick [Mercer], one of the best people I’ve worked with,” Spence says. “It’s a great crew, with a great director. My son Alex was on the show with me, as the tech manager.”

Spence says he tried to encourage Alex to go into banking or medical school, but it’s not surprising the son followed in the father’s footsteps: “My wife and I knew we had to get our kid out of the house, so I brought him on a shoot as a helper. He was paid and he loved the work.”

Although Alex was skilled with a camera, he was drawn to managing technical crews. He’s currently working as a technical producer for the camera department of the world’s biggest reality show *Beast Games*.



Spence on assignment in Halifax for *The Amazing Race Canada*, in 2023.

(Photo by Rob Brunner)

Continued...

MEET A MEMBER: DON SPENCE, CONT'D...

Times change, the next generation steps into the fold, and Spence says he's not sure he wants to do it anymore.

"This year, I traveled for 30 days with one suitcase on the Amazing Race," he says. "I'm 70 now, usually the oldest guy on the crew. When I get home, I'm tired, and think, 'Maybe I'm done.' Then somebody waves money at me, and I weaken."

He dreams about putting his feet up and having time to himself. But if Rick Mercer came calling again, would he jump at the opportunity? Spence smiles, "Yah, I'd probably do it."

GOOD NEWS: WE'LL BE GETTING ANOTHER SURPLUS PAYMENT**BAD NEWS: WE'LL HAVE TO VOTE AGAIN****GOOD NEWS: THIS VOTE WILL APPLY TO THE NEXT FIVE YEARS****MORE GOOD NEWS: ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST MEMBERSHIP**

CBC pensioners and employees who recently reaped the benefits of the PNA's hard work are poised for another windfall. President Dan Oldfield led the PNA's efforts to ensure we received our rightful share of the surplus in the CBC pension plan for 2021 and 2022.

There is another surplus payment coming for 2023, and it seems likely there will be one for 2024, as well.

Once again, the payment for the 2023 surplus will depend on our ability to secure a two-thirds vote in favour. The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), the financial regulator, demanded a vote last time before allowing the Corporation to release our funds from the pension plan. OSFI has decided we need to repeat the exercise; however, this time a successful vote will apply for the next five years.

The upcoming vote and surplus payment payout present us with another golden opportunity to strengthen the PNA.

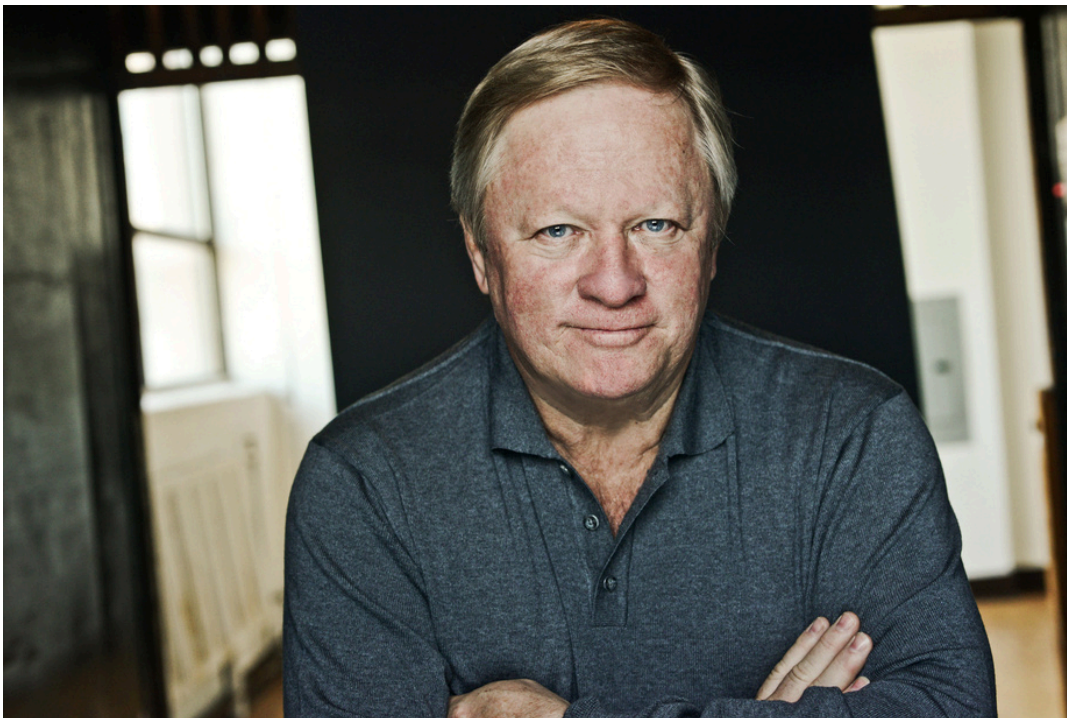
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ANOTHER SURPLUS PAYMENT, CONT'D...

There are challenges in achieving a two-thirds "yes" vote:

- it applies not just to those receiving a CBC pension, but to deferred pensioners who may be less informed: people who left the CBC, may be working elsewhere, and aren't collecting their pensions yet;
- similarly, more than 4,000 CBC pensioners are not PNA members and likely aren't aware another vote is coming;
- at the time of the vote, members who are snowbirds or traveling may not be monitoring their mail as closely as usual; and
- last time, some members found OSFI's large package of information intimidating and they may have the same reaction this time.

All pensioners benefit from our Association's efforts, even those who have yet to join the PNA. This year's surplus payout boosted our membership. It used to hover at just over 51% of all pensioners and is now at 57%. OSFI's requirement of a two-thirds vote in favour suggests it may reconsider the need for a vote if we increase PNA membership to 66.6%. At least two-thirds of all CBC pensioners would give the Association far more credibility in the eyes of the regulator. That's the minimum goal.



"Joining the PNA is how all of those receiving a pension and a fair share of pension surpluses can show their appreciation and recognition of the work the PNA does on behalf of all CBC pensioners," says PNA President Dan Oldfield, a key player in securing our pension surplus payments. (Photo by Denise Grant)

Continued...

ANOTHER SURPLUS PAYMENT, CONT'D...

The upcoming vote and surplus payment payout present us with another golden opportunity to strengthen the PNA.

“Growing the membership means growing our voice, growing our credibility with the plan sponsor, CBC and pension regulators. It also means growing our ability to draw on the incredible skills and knowledge of the CBC retiree community,” says PNA President Dan Oldfield. “Joining the PNA is how all of those receiving a pension and a fair share of pension surpluses can show their appreciation and recognition of the work the PNA does on behalf of all CBC pensioners.”

It falls to all PNA members to recruit new members. Call or email former colleagues and ask whether they've joined the PNA. Contact people you know who are on the verge of leaving the CBC. Encourage them all to watch our professional video, that explains all the benefits of membership. (See box below.)

Oldfield has done the heavy lifting. It falls to all of us to follow up on his efforts.

WHERE TO WATCH THE PNA'S RECRUITMENT VIDEO



Go to the PNA website <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca> and click on the “JOIN US” button on the top right. It was produced by a stellar team of TV professionals, all PNA members.

TORONTO MEMBERS MAKING PNA PLANS

Lise Lareau, one of four Toronto Directors of the Ontario PNA Board, invited local members to brainstorm new ideas for upcoming gatherings. Stay tuned for more about that.



Back row: Ontario VP Talin Vartanian, Ontario Treasurer Ben Daube, Toronto Director Nazat Lilley, Christina Sorenson, Jade Mah, Toronto Director Lise Lareau.
Seated: National VP (Anglophone) Gail Carducci, Ontario Secretary Mike Darley, Toronto Director Susan Helwig, Ted Hackborn.
(Photo courtesy of Ted Hackborn)

HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS? PLEASE TELL US

If you change your email address, remember to share it with the PNA.

Write to info@cbcpensioners.ca and ontario@cbcpensioners.ca.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

BY PNA ONTARIO PRESIDENT BARBARA SAXBERG

All signs on Parliament Hill point to a federal election sooner than we thought, despite Pierre Poilievre's recent failed attempt to topple the government, and threats from the Bloc. We know a Conservative government would like nothing better than to eliminate all defined-benefit pension plans, and to defund the CBC.

The PNA intends to take a public stand on four issues:

- the preservation of public broadcasting;
- the preservation of defined benefit pension plans and CPP;
- opposing forced RRIF withdrawals at the age of 71; and
- protecting the Canada Health Act, and improving access to primary care.



Illustration by Scott Galley

The PNA's National Advocacy Committee will be preparing backgrounders on each of these issues, along with a series of questions you can put to local candidates. Members of the Committee met recently with the Canadian Media Guild to determine where and how we might support each other on public broadcasting and defined benefit pension plans, which are as important to CBC

employees as they are to us. It's important to note that PNA members are free to speak on political matters in ways that employees often are not, and it's our intention to use our voices. We also are reaching out to other potential allies, including the union at Radio-Canada (STTRC). Please watch your email, social media, and the PNA website for further information.

In other news, the Ontario Region is busy on multiple fronts. We're pleased to welcome new Board members Nazat Lilley, Bill Gillespie, and Raj Ahluwalia. Recruitment efforts continue. We are busy preparing for our Annual General Meeting in November (see page 15 for more information). And plans are afoot for holiday parties across the

Continued...

A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER, CONT'D...

the Region. You will find details on all these elsewhere in this issue of *Livewire*.

And of course, we can always use your help. We depend on volunteers to keep the Region vibrant. If you're interested in getting involved, contact any member of the Board to see how you might contribute. We'd love to have you!

PNA MEMBER IS NEWEST INDUCTEE ON PETERBOROUGH'S "PATHWAY OF FAME"

Former CBC radio engineer John Lewis is skilled at operating a studio console, and at sitting behind the mic. For more than three decades, he's been a host on the local cable channel YourTV, in his hometown of Peterborough. Lewis has been showcasing musicians on his programs *Junction 28* and *The Skinny*, interviewing artists such as Tanglefoot, Jimmy Bowskill, and Jackson Delta, as well as introducing up-and-coming talents.

Last month, the City of Peterborough inducted Lewis to its "Pathway of Fame," along with other local luminaries, such as Margaret Laurence, Ronnie Hawkins, Robertson Davies, and playwright and PNA member David Carley.



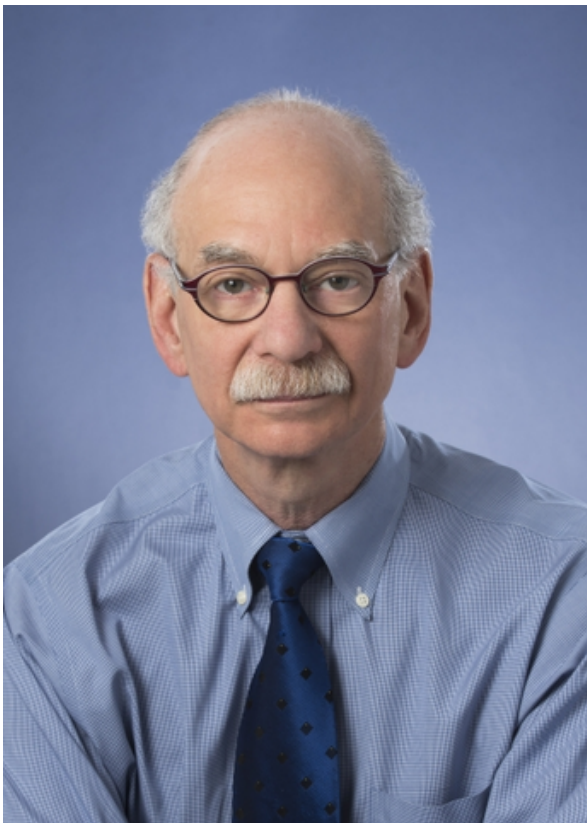
Former CBC Radio engineer John Lewis at his induction on Peterborough's "Pathway of Fame" (Photo by Amanda Lewis) and the stone laid in his honour. (Photo by John Cosello)

GET UP TO SPEED AT OUR ONTARIO REGION AGM

NOTICE OF MEETING VIA ZOOM

Our next Annual General Meeting (AGM) will offer PNA members a few opportunities:

- to meet the Board members who are keeping the good ship PNA afloat in Ontario;
- to hear from PNA President Dan Oldfield about our next surplus payments, and ask him questions;
- to exercise your vote on bylaw amendments; and
- to hear from and engage with our guest speaker, Dr. Coleman Rotstein, one of Canada's foremost specialists in infectious diseases.



Dr. Coleman Rotstein, guest speaker at our AGM, is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Toronto, and an Attending Physician at the University Health Network. From 2017 to 2021, Dr. Rotstein was a member of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Plan to join us via Zoom or phone on Wednesday, November 13th, at 10:30 a.m.

Please register by emailing us at ontario@cbspensioners.ca.

We'll send you a link and, for those who don't have Zoom, a phone number.



SHARING OUR HISTORY: AN UPDATE ON THE LEGACY PROJECT

BY SUSAN HELWIG

Legacy Interviews, a project to record and share interviews with former CBC employees, is moving ahead with a plan to do more recordings this fall and winter.

Once again, we're looking for volunteers from the PNA in Ontario who support this oral history project and would like to get involved as producers or interviewers.



Our goals are to build a collection of interviews that will be of interest to the Library and Archives Canada, and to share them on a PNA website.

We're seeking the best career stories that will capture parts of the history of CBC, as we have interesting and important stories to tell about our working lives.

A team of advisors, all members of the PNA, met over the summer to review our progress, and to create new guidelines. Future interviews will meet one or more of these criteria:

- behind-the-scenes stories about CBC decisions that affected the structure of the Corporation;
- stories about the birth and the production of the most significant programs on Radio and TV;
- people who played an important role in adapting to major technological change at the CBC (digital audio and video recording, the transition to computers, the birth of the internet, etc.);
- back stories of controversies at the CBC (e.g. loss of Hockey Night in Canada);
- experiences in covering major Canadian and world developments, as well as memorable sports events, such as the Olympics;
- recollections about contributions to a significant CBC project;
- a career that paved the way for others.

So far, we have completed interviews with nine people who told us how their CBC careers began, and unfolded.

Continued...

LEGACY INTERVIEWS, CONT'D...

They are all audio, but video is both welcome and necessary to showcase the range of experience from work at the CBC.

This is a volunteer project. We are seeking experienced producers and interviewers with a candidate in mind whose story fits our guidelines.

Send your ideas to pnalivewire@gmail.com, with "Legacy Projects" in the subject line. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

SWO CHAPTER BARBECUE IN WINDSOR



In July, PNA members in Southwestern Ontario gathered in Windsor at the home of Gabriel Menard. Below, Denise and Steve Kristof (Photo by Michael Fitzsimmons)



Above, Malcolm Campbell, Barb Pray, Karen Morrison (Photo by Michael Fitzsimmons) and Fitzsimmons is pictured to the right. (Photo by Talin Vartanian)



Below, Percy Hatfield (Photo by Michael Fitzsimmons)



Left, Barbara Peacock and Diane Bezaire (Photo by Talin Vartanian)



BY THE NUMBERS: SIGNIFICANT RECRUITMENT PROGRESS IN ONTARIO

On October 12, 2022, members elected new leadership for the PNA Ontario Board of Directors. Here's a snapshot of recruitment before and after:

- 2021 – 23 new members
- 2022 – 66 new members
- 2023 – 119 new members
- 2024 – 140 new members (to date)

Ontario Region breakdown - number of members (new in 2024)

- Golden Horseshoe Chapter – 214 (25)
- Durham-Trent Chapter – 127 (11)
- Southwestern Ontario Chapter – 97 (3)
- North Central Ontario Chapter – 78 (7)
- Not affiliated with a Chapter * – 38 (3)
- Toronto members ** – 692 (91)

* *Some Ontario members live outside the boundaries of any Chapters*

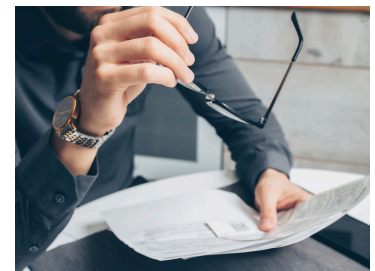
** The PNA determined that Toronto (like Montreal and Vancouver) is too large to be a Chapter

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We are one lucky bunch of pensioners to have Dan Oldfield on our side. He and everyone who worked with him to win the pension surplus battle, are formidable. I am grateful—in fact I'm sure we are all grateful—for their tenacity and hard work on our behalf.

Kudos.

Lynda Shorten
Former Director, Radio Current Affairs



THE BENEFITS AND THE PLEASURES OF INTERGENERATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

BY GAIL CARDUCCI
VP PNA NATIONAL BOARD



At a recent family dinner, I mentioned a budding friendship my husband and I are developing with Ada and Paco, a young couple in their thirties. My daughter-in-law Sarah, who's from Cuba, remarked that people segregate themselves by age much more in Canada and the United States than in other countries and cultures.

She made me think about my friend Fay who is 102. And, of course, of Ada and Paco. Fay and Ada are almost 70 years apart in age, and both friendships bring me joy. My long-time friend Jeff and his husband moved to a Caribbean island a few years ago, and I still miss him. He's 19 years my junior and was the best shopping buddy I ever had.

While we're inundated by ads for products that promise to enhance our mental, emotional, and physical well-being, there's one thing we can do that will deliver all of this....and it's free! Make a friend. And not just any friend, but one who's from a different generation.

We're approaching a time in our lives that may seem challenging. When you have younger friends, it's less daunting to learn new technologies and keep up contemporary trends and cultural shifts. In turn, we can offer them mentoring and support. Friendships with older people offer a wealth of wisdom and experience, helping to chart a course for our own lives.

Loneliness and social isolation are significant challenges for many seniors, especially those who lose a spouse or live far from family. Friendships across generations provide

Continued...

INTERGENERATIONAL FRIENDSHIP, CONT'D...

a unique kind of emotional support and companionship. Younger friends bring enthusiasm, energy, and a different perspective on world events; while older friends offer empathy and understanding, based on their life experience. And it's not only having a friend that makes us feel good, but also being a friend that brings a sense of purpose and connection.

Studies have shown that seniors with strong social connections have better physical health. Interacting with friends from different generations encourages us to stay active and engaged in social activities. Whether it's participating in community events, sharing hobbies, or simply taking walks together, these friendships promote physical well-being. And let's not forget the practical value of tech support from the younger generation.

Continued...

TIPS FOR MAKING INTERGENERATIONAL FRIENDS**Tap familiar settings**

Younger and older adults often work and mingle in the same places, whether it's an exercise class or a community group. Use your shared activities as a springboard for a deeper connection.

Take a chance

If you're thinking about talking to someone, inviting them to lunch or connecting in some way, but you're afraid of rejection because you're from a different generation, risk it and see what happens.

Aim for genuine connection

Worry less about making a good impression and more about showing true interest in the other person's life and experiences.

- *Reprinted with permission from Harvard Health Publishing. For more information go to www.health.harvard.edu*

INTERGENERATIONAL FRIENDSHIP, CONT'D....

So, my question to Sarah was “What do Ada and Paco want with a couple of old codgers like us?”

Maybe they miss their families in Mexico. Maybe they appreciate our life experience. Maybe they like hearing our stories. But it just might be that we make their lives better, too.



WRITTEN ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

OUR MEMBERS WRITE BOOKS, AND WE'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW ABOUT THEM

Let's Bake: Over 100 Recipes for Gifting and Giving **by Gail Sweeney**

Non-fiction, published in 2024

Gail Sweeney, wife of the late CBC cameraman Michael Sweeney, is delivering this book just in time for the holidays. In addition to recipes, it includes tips on wrapping, packaging or gift boxing the treats you bake; the best way to present what you've made at a gathering; and occasions and celebrations best suited for certain recipes.



Gail Sweeney
(Photo by David Wilson)

If you're an author and would like us to share news about your book, write to pnalivewire@gmail.com.

**Join Gail Sweeney for a Q&A about holiday baking
and a chance to win a copy of her new book
Thursday, November 21st at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom
Email to register: ontario@cbcpensioners.ca**

PNA MEMBER MICHAEL D'SOUZA IS THE NEWEST INDUCTEE INTO THE CBC NEWS HALL OF FAME



For more than three decades, Michael D'Souza was a CBC senior producer, foreign editor, senior writer, and network assignment producer. He worked on flagship programs such as *As It Happens*, *The National*, and *Sunday Morning*.

Editor-in-Chief Brodie Fenlon says D'Souza was a devoted mentor at the CBC, and adds this: "His style of quiet, behind-the-scenes leadership is the

stuff that drives successful newsrooms across Canada, but is rarely celebrated or publicly acknowledged."

D'Souza will be inducted into the CBC News Hall of Fame on Wednesday, November 13th at 1 p.m. Although the ceremony is at capacity, a live stream may be available closer to the date. If you would like the link, please email Sujata Berry sujata.berry@cbc.ca.

All are invited to the after-party beginning at 3 p.m., at The Pint, 277 Front Street West, across the street from the Broadcasting Centre.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that when you move, it's critical to share your new address not only with the PNA, but with the CBC's Pension Payroll division?

Let both know with one email. Send it to info@cbcpensioners.ca and pension@cbc.ca.



MY MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT AT THE CBC

A NEW LIVEWIRE FEATURE

FIRST CONTRIBUTION BY BEN DAUBE



I was hired right after the 1970-72 strike as a TV Production Assistant, and soon discovered I could go anywhere in the CBC if I carried a headset and looked like a technician.

I'm a big jazz fan. One day, I wandered into Studio 7. There was Norman Granz. There was Oscar Peterson. There was Ray Charles —rehearsing, loosey-goosey! I just sat down next to a floor monitor and drooled.

And I was being paid to be there.

Ben Daube's CBC career began as a production assistant at CBLT, and ended as an assistant director in TV Current Affairs.

Share your most memorable moment at the CBC.

Write to pnalivewire@gmail.com.

A REVITALIZED NORTH CENTRAL ONTARIO CHAPTER

Kudos to the Board members who have breathed new life into the North Central Ontario Chapter. This summer, they hosted a Georgian Bay boat cruise as well as a PNA picnic in Orillia.

North Central Ontario Board members at Penetanguishene Harbour. Left to right, VP Archie Campbell, Secretary Dave Field, President Kerry Johnston and Treasurer Brian Dawes. (Photo by Talin Vartanian)



PNA PICNIC AT LAKE COUCHICHING



In August, PNA members from North Central Ontario gathered for a picnic at the home of Bob Burt, on the shore of Lake Couchiching.
(Photo by Katie Meyer)



Right, Floyd Burrell and Gail Brownell (Photo by Talin Vartanian) and below, Gerry Samson, Bob Burt, Carol and Brian Dawes (Photos by Katie Meyer)



Right, Bridget O'Toole and Paul Hoffman (Photo by Talin Vartanian)

THE INSIDE WIRE: A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER BOND OVER IRISH MUSICIAN HOZIER

BY JAN LAKES

"Mom, Hozier has just dropped three new songs. Come listen."

My 17-year-old daughter is sharing her favourite artist's new music? Gasp. I'm there for it.

Because of these moments with Audrey, I'm now a big fan of Hozier, too. The latest release "Nobody's Soldier," is from his latest EP *Unaired*, another hit in our house.

But first, who is Hozier?

Andrew John Hozier-Byrne is a 34-year-old Irish musician, singer and songwriter whose music crosses genres: folk, soul, and blues. He hails from a family of artists. In fact, his mother created the album covers for two of his releases.

Hozier is probably best known for his 2013 breakout hit "Take Me to Church."

Audrey cues up the song on our living room speaker. Just a few beats in and we love it. It starts off catchy and soon follows into a time-travel, raspy journey. Hozier's sound is free, unpolished, and real. It could be a release from the 70s, 80s, or 90s.

He often uses themes of romantic relationships, love, religion, and politics to reflect on social justice issues.

Recently he's stood against the war in Gaza. "Nobody's Soldier" is a comment on what it's like to observe the atrocities of war in the digital age. Young people see disturbing



Jan Lakes and her daughter Audrey Seaton (Photo by Audrey Seaton)

Continued...

Continued...

THE INSIDE WIRE, CONT'D...



ABOUT JAN LAKES

For most of her 24 years with the CBC, Jan Lakes happily steered the ship as the producer of Sudbury's award-winning radio program Morning North. She also created radio documentaries that aired on national programs and, at one point or another, filled in for every job in the shop. In her "second act," Lakes has found a new calling as supervisor of health and fitness at the YMCA, bringing together her passion for fitness and her love of the Y. (Photo by Jan Lakes)

images on their social media feeds every day and try and make sense of them. As Hozier puts it, "Coffee and blue light screens till the morning."

Audrey loves the complexity of the music, woven with the lyrics: "You may think it's a beautiful love song, but it's a reflection of a war and how it's perceived. His music makes you feel so much that every song is a different experience."

She says "Nobody's Soldier" feels powerful and rebellious. "You hear it and you feel the weight of his words...how war is digested in the media."

For me, the trumpets at the start, and following every chorus, make sense. They sound like air raid sirens, a call to action.

I'm thankful that "Nobody's Soldier" gives me an opportunity to talk to my daughter about these issues: the effect they have on her as a teenager, how they can influence the direction of her life, and why she now feels a need to act when a situation doesn't seem right.

Continued...



Hozier's latest album
Unreal Unearth

THE INSIDE WIRE, CONT'D...

And how can you not love a musician who draws thousands to his concerts, and spends the rest of his time in rural Ireland looking after bees?

If you happen to be lucky enough to see him in concert, you may be in for an extra treat. Sometimes, he hands out wildflower and barley seeds, for his song "Wildflower and Barley."

WELCOME TO PARTY CENTRAL!



We're coming up to party season, and there are several PNA gatherings planned in Ontario.

Members from anywhere in the Ontario Region of the PNA are welcome to attend any party they desire, with one guest, at the subsidized price set by the Chapter. Non-members may attend at full price.

Tuesday, November 26 at 11 a.m.

Durham Trent holiday party at Kedron Dells Golf Club, 2400 Ritson Road North, Oshawa. RSVP to barrie.burhoe@gmail.com and pay at the door, \$10 for a full-course meal

Wednesday, November 27 at 12 noon

Golden Horseshoe holiday lunch and AGM at the Burlington Convention Centre, 1120 Burloak Dr. E-transfer \$25 per person to payghchapter@gmail.com

Saturday, December 7 at 12 noon

Ontario Region holiday lunch at the Bier Markt, 58 The Esplanade, Toronto. E-transfer \$25 per person to pnaontevents@gmail.com

Saturday, December 7 at 4 p.m.

Southwestern Ontario holiday party at the Giovanni Caboto Club, 2175 Parent Avenue, Windsor. Details to come in SWO newsletter, on the PNA website

PNA WALKING TOUR OF ONE OF CANADA'S OLDEST CEMETERIES

Toronto PNA members organized a walking tour of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, one of Canada's most historic cemeteries, and Ontario's largest, with more than 168,000 graves. Many notable Canadians are buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, as well as a few CBC luminaries, such as Fred Davis, Peter Herrndorf, Larry Zolf, and Foster Hewitt.

Our guide Chantal Morris is a history buff who loves cemeteries. She works as a medical laboratory technologist, and runs Toronto Cemetery Tours as a side hustle.

A few of the people whose stories we heard: William Christie of "You make good cookies" fame; suffragist Emily Howard Jennings Stowe, the first woman to practise medicine in Canada; William Ward, as in Ward's Island, who rescued many from the treacherous waters of Lake Ontario; Harry Edward Foster (aka Red Foster), the pioneer of play-by-play hockey announcing; the early life of "America's Sweetheart" Mary Pickford, whose father is buried at Mt. Pleasant; and William Davies, who created the phenomenon that is peameal bacon.



PNA members enjoy a walking tour of Ontario's largest cemetery, Mt. Pleasant. (Photo by Ian Cooper)



Walter Winchell died on January 20, in Waterdown. He was a technical manager in the film group of Operations Development.

Dieter Fritz Wilhelm died on February 22, at the age of 82. He was a television technician for several decades.

Beverley Kelly died on June 20 at the age of 80, in Hamilton. She was a human resources manager in Edmonton, Calgary, and Windsor.

Chris Patton died on July 2 at the age of 83, in Vancouver. During her time in Toronto, Chris helped launch *Marketplace*, and directed programs hosted by Alex Trebek and Barbara Frum.

Hilda Grucela died on July 5 at the age of 96, in Cobourg. She was married to Antoni Grucela, who worked at CBC Ottawa.

Irene Orr died on July 11 at the age of 100, in Windsor. She worked in Human Resources as a payroll officer at both CKLW and CBET Windsor for more than 30 years. Irene was also instrumental in the creation of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of the PNA.

Jonathan (Johnny) Amitay died on August 7 at the age of 84, in Toronto. He was a graphics designer in the Design Department in Toronto.

Steve Hyde died on August 8 at the age of 84, in Toronto. He was a television production assistant.

Continued...

IN MEMORIAM, CONT'D...

Michael Stratton died on August 12 at age 82, in Toronto. He worked in TV Sales.

Stevie Cameron died on August 31 at the age of 79, in Toronto. She was an author, an investigative journalist, and host of *the fifth estate* in the early nineties.

Carol Anne Maher died on September 2. She was a member of the Ontario Region of the PNA. We do not have information about her role at the CBC.

Barry Carson died on September 10 at the age of 76, in Peterborough. He was finance manager for CBC Radio.

Carlos van Leeuwen died on September 11 at age 64, in Toronto. He was a radio engineer for many years.

Peter Ward died in Ottawa on September 15, at the age of 93. In the 1970s, he was a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, he reported from Vietnam and Cuba, and created the CBC Radio program *Capital Report*. For almost three decades, he also wrote "Ward on Wine," a wine column in *The Ottawa Citizen*.

Ray Folcik died on September 17 at age 72, in Toronto. He also was a longtime radio engineer.



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Visit the Ontario page of the PNA website for information about upcoming events, and to read our bylaws, and minutes of our Annual General Meeting.

<https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/regions/ontario/>



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