

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 our final issue of ***THE GOOD LIFE*** for 2024.

- How healthy is our Pension Plan and with another surplus on the way, what is in store for us?
- Recruitment, Recruitment, Recruitment, the need to achieve 66%.
- Welcoming two new members into the SWO Family.
- After the success of his first volume on short stories, Stephen Kristof is back with Volume 2.
- Bits of the past and things to come!
- The photo vault just opened wider.
- Here is Part 1 of a little history of the days prior to CBC.
- Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!
- Full details on our upcoming year-end Christmas Party.

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By Phil Peck

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Gerald Head

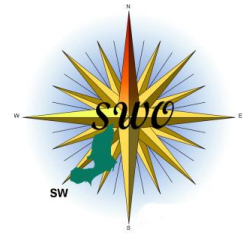
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**Thank You!**

**2024 – Yearend Christmas  
Party Details**

*Proof Editor: Brian Worrall*

## **CBC Pension Board of Trustees Update (September 2024)**



*Many questions have been asked regarding the health of our pension. This is an excerpt from the updated CBC Pension Board of Trustees Communiqué.*

### ***“The Plan’s funded status continues to be strong!”***

The CBC Pension Plan continues to be in a sound financial position, with key measures of overall pension plan financial health remaining positive in this quarter. Member benefit security is our number one priority.

The Plan’s funded status exceeds 100%, both on a going concern and solvency basis, signifying a strong and secure financial position.

As of June 30, 2024, the Plan had an estimated going concern funding surplus of \$2.5 billion, an increase of \$80 million from the start of the year. The Plan’s estimated going concern funding ratio was \$146.2% at quarter end, an increase of 1.1% from the start of the year.

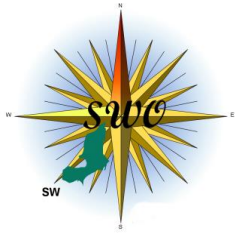
The Plan’s estimated solvency (or windup basis) funded status was in a surplus of \$1.4 billion on June 30, 2024, an increase of \$275 million since the start of the year. The Plan’s estimated solvency funding ratio at quarter end was 121.4%, an increase of 4.6% from the start of the year.”

For a full report log into the <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/newsletter/>

As well, there are many updates, news articles, etc. on the CBC PNA website and the latest information coming on another \$55-million surplus for 2023.

As explained in the emails and in a previous newsletter, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI), will have us go through the same process as previously completed for our recent surplus payout. We will need to acquire once again 2/3 approval vote from our membership. Once this is completed, OSFI has agreed that this approval will stay in place for the next five (5) years.

The SWO board diligently completed 100% of its’ membership with a positive vote and we will strive once again to achieve those numbers.



## **Heading to Two-Thirds: Phil Peck (Membership Director)**

The push is still on to increase the number of members in the Pensioners Association. For many years, the percentage of pensioners in the association was declining. The association was in peril of losing its standing with the CBC, if membership levels fell below 50%.

Now that enrolment is increasing, there would be a big benefit if two-thirds (or more) of pensioners are members.

When the federal pension regulator reviewed the plan to distribute the pension surplus to pensioners, it required confirmation that 2/3 of pensioners supported the plan. Thus, we had to vote, and that delayed the payouts.

If the Pensioners Association represented more than 2/3 of the CBC pensioners, maybe the regulator would accept that the association speaks for pensioners. No need to delay those pay-outs.

Check with your former CBC colleagues, ask if they are association members? If not, encourage them to join. The enrolment form is at the bottom of this webpage <https://www.cbcpensioners.ca/join-us/>

## **Welcome: *Our New Members to the SWO Chapter***



**Bernard Graham** is the first CBC pensioner to retire from CBC-London – the one in Ontario. He moved to London in 2017 to become Executive Producer, at a time when the London operation was expanding.

Bernard started his career with CBC as a casual VTR operator at CBC Calgary in 1985. He progressed to be ENG editing, then to directing and producing TV News.

After moving to London, Bernard started teaching in the Media Studies program at Western University and continues to teach courses in audio and podcasting.

Bernard and his partner, Chris Franklin (who also worked for CBC for many years), enjoy travelling. You may bump into them on your next trip. Have a close look at the photo.

Bernard retired from CBC in 2019 and joined the Pensioners Association this year, because as he says, he was 'very impressed' with the way the association handled the pension surplus issue.

We hope other pensioners concur with Bernard's thinking.

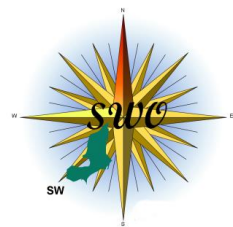
**Scott Scantlebury** moved to Windsor 30 years ago, as the CBC local news returned to Channel 9. Under the Windsor Project, he carried a camera and a notebook as one of the first Video Journalists in the CBC. He reported on Sports and anchored the sportscast on the Windsor Late News.

Before coming to Windsor, Scott was a sports reporter at CBC-TV in Charlottetown from 1988 to 1994. Prior to that he was Sports Director at CHTN Radio in Charlottetown. Scott became Public Relations Officer with the Greater Essex County District School Board in 2005 and continued to appear on local radio and TV newscasts until recently. Now as a CBC Pensioner, Scott is one of the newest members of the SWO Chapter. He plans to play golf more often and keep his hand in the media world by doing some freelance work.



## Short Stories to Enjoy with Wine :

### *Stephen Kristof - CBC Radio Technician*

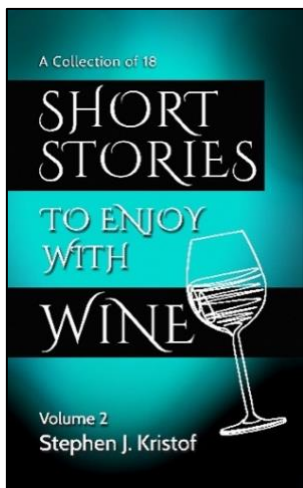


It's hard to believe that nearly forty years have passed since Denise and I first met at CBC. I really can't say that it, "feels like just yesterday," but my memories of those early years working in Master Control at the old Security Building and of all the staff who were there, are so warm and still vivid!

While Denise continued to be an indispensable member of the CBC team throughout her career, I moved on to other pursuits, including entrepreneurship, management, teaching and writing. During those years, we were blessed to raise Kara, our beautiful daughter, who is already moving full-steam ahead in her own career. Since retiring in 2020 from my 'day job' in teaching, I've written three mass market books. The first two were published in 2021 and 2023, respectively.

Scheduled to be released in November 2024, my third book is the second volume of the popular "Short Stories to Enjoy with Wine" anthology series. At nearly 400 pages, this new book contains eighteen short stories and novelettes covering a wide range of fiction genres, including romance, crime/mystery, urban fantasy, paranormal reality, inspiration and humour. There's even a dollop of dystopian drama for the intrepid readers among us!

Following publication of my first book, a non-fiction self-help book that promoted emotional healing in the wake of the pandemic, I shifted gears to write fiction. Migrating from serious to far more light-hearted content stirred my creative process, while providing my readers with what they craved; escape and entertainment!

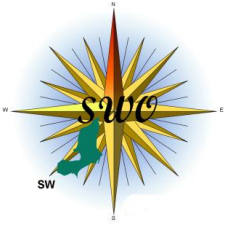


My Short Stories to Enjoy with Wine book series uses the common thread of vino to tie together highly varied tales with memorable characters, unique situations and, often, unexpected outcomes. Each story begins with a brief exploration of a different wine varietal and then segues into the story itself.

People ask me where I get my inspiration for the stories. Plain and simple, it's my imagination. It feels good that people appreciate and want more of it! 😊 Promoting an appreciation of wine while serving up literary entertainment is a gratifying bonus! I'll be doing some local book signings for the Volume Two launch this fall and winter. Follow me on [Facebook](#) to find out where and when. I hope you enjoy my newest book and, by the way, don't forget the wine. Cheers!

Stephen's books are available in Paperback, Hardcover and e-book from [Amazon](#), most local bookstores, select Essex County wineries, and most international online and physical booksellers.

Follow him on [Facebook](#) (facebook.com/StephenKristofAuthor) or check-out his [website](#) (StephenKristof.com).



## **Some History, Facts and Nostalgia: Gerald Head**

The CBC PNA Ontario Region was established in 1999 with Walter Wicks, President and John Dixon, Vice-President. Howard Simpson was President from 2004 to 2006 and subsequently over the following years Andrew Simon, Gary McCarthy, Leone Earls, Gerry Head, Gail Carducci and (currently) Barbara Saxberg served as President.

Looking at some motions of past meetings brings up some interesting items: September 9, 2009, "G. McCarthy moves that one meeting a year of the Ontario Region Board be held in the territory of one of our chapters in rotation, with location recommended by the host Chapter's executive, with that chapter's members invited to observe the meeting and partake of a buffet luncheon underwritten by the region; and that this event include a meeting of the Chapter executive, also available for observation by its members." Motion was seconded by R. Freeman and carried. In my time on the Board, this was done once at the North Central Chapter BBQ. Now modern technology makes it possible for anyone to observe the meeting.

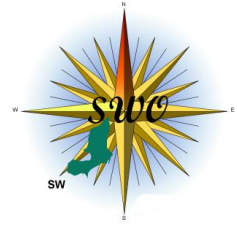
Another motion made that same day states: " A. Simon moves that following a chapter election, the Region will authorize and fund a thank-you dinner for termination and newly elected executive officers (maximum total of 6), plus a representative of the Regional Board invited, at a maximum total cost of \$50.00 per person dining." Motion was seconded by C. MacLeod and carried. During my time on the Board I never saw this motion acted on.

Looking for a bit of nostalgia? On the CBC PNA website, CBC Has opened its Archives and is publishing a newsletter every 2 weeks with pieces on past shows. Check it out! There are many choices and it's free.

[https://subscriptions.cbc.ca/listmanagement/forms/flashback?cmp=newsletter\\_Flashback\\_1882\\_10\\_2047](https://subscriptions.cbc.ca/listmanagement/forms/flashback?cmp=newsletter_Flashback_1882_10_2047)



# FLASHBACK



## CKLW Boblo Remote Swingin' Time



C.B.C. EMPLOYEE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 117  
SOIREE DE NOEL DES EMPLOYE(E)S DE RADIO CANADA

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 3/88      Date: Samedi 3 dec. 88

TIME: 6:30 Cocktails      HEURE: 18h30 Cocktails  
7:00 Dinner      19h00 Diner

PLACE: SERBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
6770 Tecumseh Rd. E.

COST: \$ 10.00      PRIX: \$10.00  
Person/Cash Bar      Personne/Bar payant

MUSIC: "BOB & THE BOYS"

Take a moment to View, Click Like and Comment on all our posts on Facebook, visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/SWOChapterCBCPensioners>



## **CKLW MEMORIES - PART 1: Gerald Head**

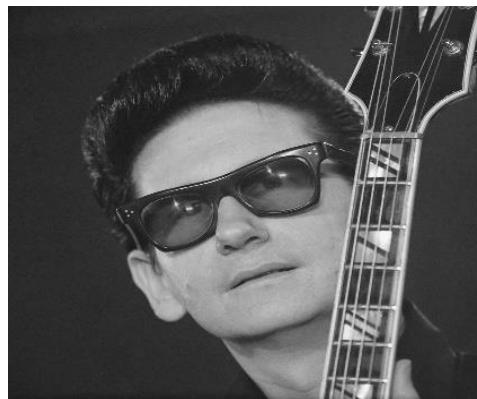
In April of 1965 I accepted a job working in the mail room of CKLW. I was hired to replace Marsh Gray who was to be a floor manager in the studio. I left the Windsor Star where I worked 6 days a week (Saturday being time and a half) making 50 dollars a week to a salary of 55 dollars a week but a 5-day week at CKLW. The mail room is the best introduction to the business. You get to meet everyone and learn how the business works. I was, at the time, enrolled in a course to become a radio announcer. My first week at CKLW showed me that some other job would suit me better.

One day, Frank Merrifield came to me and said, “we are going to Central Chrysler to pick up the news van”. Frank went in and got the keys and then drove me over to the parking lot. Frank left and I opened the van and got in. Damn! Stick shift. I had never driven a stick shift, but I knew how it works. I drove around the parking lot a few times until I had built up my confidence and headed out. It stalled and blocked both lanes of Goyeau Avenue. A mechanic came to my rescue and after 10 minutes of trying, he got it started and finally I was on my way. Slowly and cautiously I headed for the station. 45 minutes after Frank had dropped me off I was finally there. Frank asked me, “what took you so long?” I replied, “it stalled and needed to be fixed.” I didn’t say anything about my driving skills.

One day while Swingin’ Time was airing live in the studio, Art Cervi came to me and said, “Roy Orbison is at the Cadillac Motel on Dougall Avenue. Would you go get him and bring him here so that we can interview him?” I went out to use the company station wagon, but it was gone. Art gave me the keys to his Chrysler New Yorker and I headed out.

It was now 4:10 p.m. I had 20 minutes to get it done. 8-cylinder, power steering, power brakes – the New Yorker was far superior to our company car! 90 mph up Crawford onto Tecumseh Road (pray for no train), onto Dougall and into the parking lot!

I didn’t know what room Roy was in! Fortunately, I saw him walking across the lot. Roy gets into the car, said “Hello!” I laid rubber heading back. Roy was near-sighted. He wore coke-bottle glasses. He could not see beyond the front of the car. “Are we going to Detroit?” he asked. “No. It’s just down the street two minutes away.” We pull into the driveway. A camera, microphone and Robin Seymour are waiting at the garage door. 2 minutes to spare. I parked Art’s car in the back lot and went to the mailroom. I sat down and started to shake. I could have killed us both driving like I did. Hey! That’s show biz. The show must go on!





For many years Gabe and Linda have selflessly allowed us to hold our Summer BBQ at their home. First, the beautiful water setting by the lake and later continued into their new home in LaSalle, with their well-manicured backyard! A great deal of work went into preparing their home for us to gather. This year was our largest gathering to date. On behalf of all the members of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter, a very huge Thank You to you both for your generosity!



**2024 YEAR-END CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024**

**GIOVANNI CABOTO CLUB, 2175 PARENT AVENUE**

**DOORS OPEN AT 4:00PM – DINNER SERVED AT 6:00PM**

***ANTIPASTO ITALIANO, PENNE PASTA WITH MEAT OR MARINARA SAUCE, TOSSED SALAD  
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND CABOTO'S FAMOUS ROASTED CHICKEN,  
ROASTED POTATOES, MIXED VEGETABLES, BREAD & BUTTER, ITALIAN PASTRY  
COFFEE/TEA***

**NOTE: ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE US**

**FREE**

**FOR SWO CHAPTER MEMBERS (WITH A SPOUSE, PARTNER, GUEST OR CAREGIVER)**

**\$40/PERSON FOR ALL OTHERS**

**\*RAFFLES, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE\***

**RSVP TO ANY BOARD MEMBER BY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024**



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 CBC PNA organization.***