

Federal Superannuates National Association

Nanaimo & Area

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February 2005



NEXT MEETING



Thursday 31st March, 2005

Location: 256 Royal Canadian Legion Branch at 1630 East Wellington Street, which is located between Bowen and Townsite Road. Doors will open at 10 a.m.
Following a short business meeting, a lunch will be served.

Caesar Salad Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies with Pie and Ice Cream

Tea, Coffee, Ice Water

Cost—\$14 per person

You will be asked by your local telephoner if you plan to attend and reserve your meal and, if you do, you are reminded of our cancellation policy. As we are required to pay for all meals we order, if you find you are unable to attend, you are asked to cancel your reservation to avoid being charged for the meal. To do so, please call **Pat Mason** at 753-6008 or **Barb Campbell** at 954-0733. The last date for cancellation to avoid billing will be Thursday, 24th March, 2005.

Our speaker will be from either the BC Ambulance Service or from the Committee on Electoral Reform in B.C.

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAG!

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that the holiday season has passed and we are well into the New Year, it would be appropriate to reflect on the year just gone by. We now have a much different National Executive as well as some new directions to our organisation. You have a new Branch Executive although many of the faces remain the same. One of your Executive was lost to us with the passing of Cliff Pickton from Port Alberni . He will be sorely missed. Darryll Hamilton has retired from the board and a heart felt thank you goes out to him for his diligent work on behalf of us all.

In the coming year we are hoping to entertain a visit by our new National President Dennis Jackson, once arrangements can be made for him to visit all our island branches on the same trip. We will be looking forward to his visit if it comes to pass. The effort from National over the next five years or so is on the area of retention and recruitment. To this end, We welcome Al Heinrich from Qualicum Beach, who will be joining us as our new Retention and Recruitment Director. He brings much executive experience from his former branch where he served on the executive for some years. We will endeavour to make FSNA better known here in our area to those who are retired and have not yet considered joining us as members.

We will be holding our usual slate of meetings this year, with the March, September and November meetings to be held at Branch 256 RCL in Nanaimo. Our June meeting will be held at the Best Western Barclay Hotel in Port Alberni. We are hoping to have a special speaker to make this a memorable one. This venue has proven to be a popular one so We hope you can all join us there. A phoner's training meeting was held at St. Philips Church in Lantzville on 08 February 2005. I addressed this meeting on behalf of the Executive and I think it was a worthwhile endeavour given what our phoners are worth to the Branch.

Someone posed a question as to what is done with our dues. For example if a double membership is \$ 40.20 per annum, our Branch only retains about \$ 11.00. Of this amount, \$ 4.00 alone goes to the publication, printing and distribution of the newsletter. Therefore we are left with around \$ 7.00 to carry out all the Branch activities. It would be prudent on our part to avail ourselves of the Internet. At present only about 135 newsletters are distributed electronically. Think of how much the Branch would save if we could raise this number substantially. The sum of \$ 7.00 is not exactly earth shattering given how expensive things are today. We really do try to spend our money wisely and stretch the dollar whenever we can. If it were not for the small sums invested in GIC's this Branch would probably run in a deficit position for most of the year.

To sum up, what ever you can do as a member helps immensely in keeping our Branch operating. Volunteers are always appreciated and any small contribution can assist us greatly. We hope to see you all at the next General Meeting on 31 March at the RCL in Nanaimo. All the best from your executive and we hope you will have a wonderful spring season. Keep safe and goodbye for now.

Bob Hoogerbrug

PARKING

For all who have had difficulty parking round the Legion Pat Mason Reminds us that there is extra parking behind the building across Townsite Road.

To further accommodate our members it is also being arranged to have the back double doors opened for access to the hall.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

as at 14 Jul 2004



ASSETS

Bank Balances	2,052.39
Cash Balance	100.00
Float Due—Membership	100.00
G.I.C. Investments	14,413.37
Accounts Receivable	50.00
DOB Contingency Fund	3,100.00
Equipment 7,927.47	
Less Depreciation 7,059.22	858.25
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	20,674.01

LIABILITIES

Per Capital Payable	112.27
Accruals	200.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	312.27

EQUITY

Retained Earnings	20,769.89
Current Earnings	-408.15
TOTAL EQUITY	20,674.01

24771.62
(Liabilities & Equity)



How to Contact Your Executive



- President**— Bob Hoogerbrug 751-8735
r-choog@shaw.ca
- Vice President & Membership**—
Vic Ashdown 248-2027
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- Past President**—Marg Mostowy 756-1069
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- Treasurer**—Bob Stitt 758-7681
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- Secretary**—Cathey Hoogerbrug 751-8735
- Membership Secretary** - Doris Grieves 716-1952
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- Recruiting and Retention**— Al Heinrich 738-0192
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- Historian, Nominations Committee and Volunteer Coordinator**— John Ablett 752-7572
- Program Director**—Pat Mason 753-6008
- Awards/Speakers**—Charles Scrivener 758-2240
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- Registration**- Susanne Body 729-9588
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- Services & PSHCP/PSDO Liason** -
Leroy Wood 758-0078
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- Newsletter**— Ron Gladstone 751-2940
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- Hospital Visiting Nanaimo**— Alex Kohuch
755-3040
- Parksville** Harold Goodman 248-3269
- Port Alberni**—Marg Pierce 723-9791
- Phone Chairs & Area Coordinators, etc**
- Qualicum Beach** Sherwood Moore
Parksville Barbara Campbell 954-0733
campbellba@shaw.ca
- Ucluelet** Sandy Henry 726-7086
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- Port Alberni**—Marg Pierce 723-9791
- Cards**
- Parksviille, Qualicum & Nanoose 468-7706
friedan@shaw.ca
- Nanaimo & Area June Wiebe 756-4873
ejwiebe@telus.net

Dear Members

Thanks to all for the cancellation calls advising me that you were unable to attend. It was a great help on for organizing the meals. Incidentally, if you call me and get no answer I have "call display" and will call you back as soon as I can.



Thanks too to those members who sent in their \$14 when they didn't cancel but were unable to attend. I was not able to contact all who reserved and didn't show. We will be sending you a bill, which I hope you will pay.

I am again Program Director for the Branch for the 2005/6 years and will look forward to meeting you at the meetings.

Pat Mason



MEMBERSHIP REPORT



MEMBER NUMBER COUNT

As of February 17th, 2005, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1514 members comprising 1007 superannuates and 507 spouses. There were 1139 on DDS and 375 pay at Branch. Since the last Newsletter Report (October 18th), the following membership changes have taken place:

NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS (10)

Thomas & Shirley Gilchrist, Parksville
 Wayne & Judy Legge, Nanaimo
 Andrew & Joyce Meacock, Nanaimo
 Joan Rowntree, Nanaimo
 Isabell Ryan, Nanaimo
 Ian & Laura Smith, Nanaimo

TRANSFERRED IN (15)

L Daley, Nanaimo, from BC09 Victoria – Fred Whitehouse
 Marie & Moses Du Plessis, Nanaimo, from BC03 Duncan & District
 Neil Gillis, Parksville, from BC04 Fraser Valley West
 Andrew & Mary Hutcheson, Parksville, from AB19 Red Deer
 Danny & Carol McCoy, Nanaimo, from BC01 Central Fraser Valley
 Ed Mitchell, Parksville, from ON43 Ottawa
 Ron Schey, Parksville, from AB16 Calgary & District
 Edley & Jean Selwood, Parksville, from BC14 Sidney & District
 Laurance & Barbara Stanners, Nanoose Bay, from BC09 Victoria – Fred Whitehouse
 Barry Thomas, Qualicum Beach, from ON43 Ottawa

TRANSFERRED OUT (8)

Bob & Daisy Armstrong, Nanaimo, to BC04 Fraser Valley West
 Bill Johnson, Nanaimo, to BC09 Victoria – Fred Whitehouse
 Carl & Barbara Little, Nanaimo, to BC06 North Vancouver Island
 Bob & Maureen Riggs, Nanaimo, to BC09 Victoria - Fred Whitehouse
 Kane Voss, Parksville, to BC08 Vancouver

MEMBERSHIP CANCELLATIONS (5)

Dennie Anderson, Nanaimo
 Leslie & Margo MacKenzie, Tofino
 Vena Scheldrup, Lantzville
 Phillip Thorne, Nanaimo

IN MEMORIAM (13)

John Freeman, Qualicum Beach, survived by wife Joan
 Mary Hollister, Nanaimo, survived by husband Harry
 Ronald Huot, Port Alberni, survived by wife Juliette
 Bill Lowry, Parksville, survived by wife Betty
 Doris McCooeye, Qualicum Beach, survived by husband Alex
 Eva McDonald, Nanaimo
 John McTaggart, Parksville, survived by wife Betty (John was Branch President 1991-92)
 Irene Osborne, Nanaimo, survived by husband John
 Cliff Pickton, Port Alberni, survived by wife Marian (Cliff was a current Director & Historian)
 Roger Warburton, Parksville
 Frank Weber, Parksville
 Ladislava Vokoun, Parksville
 Tom White, Nanaimo, survived by wife Carol

WEB-BASED MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM (WMS)

The Trial Site is online again but with limited utility. An actual trial run of the WMS began in late January using the Ottawa Branch as the test bed. All efforts for the next few months will be focussed on that trial. Obviously, the results will indicate whether or not full implementation is feasible.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005

For those paying at Branch, this is your last chance to pay up for 2005. Those memberships unpaid on March 31st will be cancelled.

Vic Ashdown

NEWSLETTER ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION

(The following is the text of a message sent by Vic Ashdown to members whose e-mail address we know which is repeated here so that all members are informed of the availability of the newsletter electronic publication)

At this time last year, the Nanaimo & Area Branch started sending out its quarterly Newsletter via email to those that wished to receive it in that format. This method of delivering the Newsletter has proven very popular. Therefore, the purpose of this email is to ask you if you wish to receive it in this fashion.

The advantage to you is that you will receive it in full colour about ten days earlier and will be able to file it away on your computer for easy reference. The advantage to the Branch is that we save \$4.00 annually per household in printing and postage costs, not to mention the time required to stuff and label envelopes, etc.

The email version is in Portable Document Format (PDF) so you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer to read it. This software can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> and is very useful to have for reading other documents on the Internet. The email Newsletter is sent as a PDF attachment and is scanned for viruses, etc., by up-to-date security software before dispatch.

Please let me know whether or not you wish to receive the Newsletter via email. If you're not sure, please reply and ask me to email you a copy of the last one (end-October 2004) to see how it works. Of course, if you do decide to try the email version, you can always change back to the regular mail version at any time.

The email Newsletter is sent out by Ron Gladstone. The reason you are receiving this email from me is because I, as Membership Director, am responsible for the Membership Data Base, including email addresses. I provide Ron with only those addresses he needs to send out the email version.

Thanks for your time. Please consider taking the Newsletter electronically - it saves a lot of money and effort!

Vic Ashdown

THE PRICE OF SERVING CANADA

The idiocy of Bureaucratic Bumbledom strikes again

Are you aware that someone born in a hospital on a Canadian military base overseas to Canadian parents in the Armed Forces is not automatically a Canadian citizen? This, despite having a Canadian birth certificate and social insurance number (SIN)? Krista Bruton-Anderson is such a case. She was born in the military hospital on the Canadian base at Lahr, Germany, where her father was a soldier (Intelligence Corps). A birth certificate was issued. When her parents returned to Canada, so did Krista, where she has lived ever since. Life was normal until she grew up, got married -- then tried to get her SIN changed to her married name. The ministry of human resources rejected her birth certificate and said no, she wasn't a Canadian citizen, and destroyed her social insurance card. When contacted, DND public affairs at first insisted there must be a mistake -- children born overseas to service personnel, especially on a Canadian base, were automatically citizens. Citizenship and immigration in Ottawa also believed being born on a Canadian military base to Canadian military parents and possessing a Canadian birth certificate was proof of citizenship. Krista knows otherwise. It seems Human Resources Canada has changed the rules since 9/11, without the apparent knowledge of DND and immigration and that she'd have to obtain "proper proof" of citizenship, pay a \$75 application fee, get passport photos, have her identity certified by a notary public and then be prepared to wait eight months while the backlog of citizenship applications was processed.

It is understood that this might also apply to children born of parents serving Canada in a diplomatic posting, so, if you have kids, or grandchildren born abroad and properly registered (you thought) it might be as well to check. In any case, remember this as a question to pose to candidates at the next Federal election.



THE WORD FROM NATIONAL

Please note our new façade!

Bulletin to Branches 2005-01

Recruitment Campaign:

Through FSNA biennial recruitment campaign soon to be launched, a brochure will be sent to all pensioners except to FSNA members whose dues are deducted at source, inviting them to join FSNA. The FSNA material is sent on its own, i.e. it is no longer inserted with pension cheques. The 2005 package will include an invitation to pensioners who decided not to join our Association to participate in a survey to let us know if or how we can change to serve their needs.

Meetings of the Pension Advisory Committees

A meeting of the Canadian Forces Pension Advisory Committee was held in December 2004 and a meeting of the Public Service Pension Advisory Committee will be held on January 27. The National President, the Executive Director, and the Research and Communications Officer have accepted an invitation to make a presentation on FSNA to the RCMP Pension Advisory Committee on February 18.

Public Service Health Care Plan Negotiations

As of the writing of this Bulletin to Branches, no further negotiations dates have been set for the renewal of the Public Service Health Care Plan. The current status of negotiations is therefore unchanged from that reported in December.

New Research and Communications Officer

Charlotte Roy has joined the National Office as a Research and Communications Officer. Her main responsibilities will be in the health care area. She will also assist the Executive Director in his capacity of Chair of the Coordinating Committee of the Congress of National Seniors' Organizations. Charlotte has extensive experience in benefits and pensions in the federal Public Service. Her last assignment was with the Pensions and Benefits sector of the Treasury Board Secretariat.

In Memorium

Cliff Pickton



We were all saddened to learn that our good friend and dedicated member of the Executive had passed away after a short but valiant fight against cancer. He maintained his dedication to serving others right up to the end and, in spite of his personal problems continued to organize an Association event in his beloved home town, Pt Alberni. It was not only as a member of FNSA that Cliff gave unstintingly of his time and energy. He was active in both local and national affairs and strove always to do that which he believed in. It is seldom an organization such as ours is lucky enough to have such an active and dedicated member and he leaves a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. We want his family and friends to know that we miss him as much as they do and to let them know that we share in their sorrow at his passing.

To Volunteer is Canadian

....and its FUN!

by Ron Gladstone

Canadians have long had the reputation for leading the world in volunteering but, unfortunately, it is slipping from that privileged position as fewer Canadians are stepping forward to offer their services to charitable and non-profit organizations. From a high of 31% of the adult population in 1997, the numbers have fallen to 27%. It is our aim here in the FSNA to redress this decrease and encourage you to come forward to help run our organization.

Surveys have shown that small towns and cities and rural areas have a higher rate of volunteering than mega cities and here, in mid-Island, we have a mix that should provide some of the highest rates in the country. So why is it so hard to get people to come forward?

There are, no doubt, many reasons. It is easier to support by just belonging, we do not feel we have the necessary skills to make a go of it, we do not have the time, we are too old (or infirm) and so on. The fact is that you can only really get the feel of belonging to an organization by being part of running it; we all have skills that can be useful even if its only sitting on a chair at meetings and taking tickets or telephoning people to see if they are coming to meetings. As to age, just ask yourself “How much younger will I get if I don’t volunteer?” – a Stradivarius is a pretty old fiddle but can still produce a great tune. Time? That is one thing we as retirees usually have plenty of. As to infirmity, I think I have told you before of my astonishment when the volunteer helping me to prepare for surgery a few years ago was a lady I knew to be dying of cancer. She said she was helping herself by helping others.

Volunteers across the country when surveyed said that, while they were initially reluctant to step forward, once they got into community service they began to enjoy it so much they couldn’t figure out why they hadn’t done so before. It helped them develop interpersonal and communication skills, increased their horizon of knowledge of what was going on in the community and, because they were regularly seen at association events, led to enlarging their circle of friends.

Here in the Nanaimo area it is straight fun. Executive meetings are lively and there is much good natured bantering and differences of opinion. There is a great sense of accomplishment when an event is organized and succeeds. Even if it isn’t as big a success as we had hoped, it is helpful to avoid making the same mistakes in future.

So ‘shake a leg’ and ‘put your best foot forward’ and volunteer to help. Just contact the President or any member of the Executive (see Page 3) to let them know that you are ready to support your Association. It will really be worthwhile.

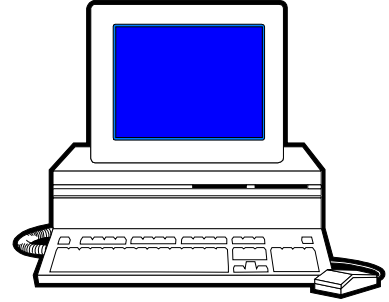
(For statistics and some of the ideas in this article I relied on the transcript of the Daniel Schwartz program on volunteering in Canada on CBC’s *The National*)



Help make the world go round

Seniors On-line

First of all, you should know that there is a new version of Adobe Acrobat our, Version 7. It is free. Just go to it on the Web and download it.



Next, there are some more viruses going around. Trojan.StartPage is one. Just keep your virus protection current and updated and you shouldn't have any problem.

Finally, CIBC is warning that there are fraudulent "phishing" messages in the form of fraudulent "advisories" from the bank. They all begin—"Dear Visa Bank client" or "Visa Customer" and are signed "Visa Security Team". A common thread of both is that they ask you to fill in a form giving your Visa Card Number which, if you think of it, is a bit suspicious since the bank should know what your card number is. The bank warns that, if you receive such messages do not under any circumstances respond with your Visa Card Number as requested. If you have done so, call Visa Customer Service at the number on the back of your card and report it.

The Last Word

You will be pleased to learn that we are now settled in our new house (more or less), I seem to be able to use my new knee a lot more comfortably, my cataract-free left eye hasn't dropped out yet, so I no longer have any excuses for not giving your newsletter my full attention. I had a somewhat larger pile of "just have to get in" articles so have had to forgo my favourite source of cartoons. I have no doubt they will return in the future.



Among other things in this issue, you might note the new picture of our HQ façade in Ottawa. Hopefully we will be able to get another later when the snow has all gone. If not, perhaps we can persuade them to move to Vancouver Island where three days of snow a year amounts to a blizzard.

To go with a new façade we have a new National Executive and it will be interesting to see how events develop on the National scene. Each new team brings in fresh ideas—for better or for worse. As the poet said—"The old order changes giving place to new, lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

As usual, I will be relying on your input to make this paper responsive to your interests and all contributions will be gratefully received.

See you next meeting.

Ron Gladstone

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