

# *Federal Superannuates National Association*

## *Nanaimo & Area*

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February 2006



## NEXT MEETING Thursday 30th March 2006



**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.

The luncheon will be Roast Beef with Salad, Potatoes, two vegetables, buns and butter with a fine dessert tray. Water, tea or coffee to your choice. Cost is \$15 per person, inc tax. Tips at your discretion.

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, 23rd March, 2006.

Speaker at this meeting will be provided by the North Vancouver Island BC Hydro "Wise Owls" Organization who will discuss with us Banking, Legal and Financial scams that are of great interest to seniors.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAG!**

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And much more

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



With the holidays now receding into the past and bearing under what has turned out to be a rather bleak and stormy winter so far, I am writing this column in anticipation of the upcoming Presidents Conference. I will be attending that function in Toronto from 23 - 26 February 2006. Since our last newsletter we have held our Annual General Meeting with all the Executive Board returning for another year. Unfortunately Vic Ashdown has resigned from the Vice- Presidency to devote his efforts wholly to the WMS membership database, which in itself is a full time job. Al Heinrich has stepped up to be Vice-President with the mind to take over the Presidency from me in the fall. We therefore will be looking for someone to run for the VP position and, as well, we will be looking for a new HBO, seeing as Leroy Wood wants to pursue other endeavours. Also, as 2005 was the Year of the Veteran, our Branch participated in laying of four wreaths on Remembrance Day. Wreaths were laid in Nanaimo, Gabriola Island, Parksville and Qualicum Beach. Our sincere thank you goes out to those who graciously laid wreaths on behalf of our members.

In looking forward to the Presidents Conference your executive Board held a special meeting on 02 February 2006 to discuss the major issues which they felt would be arising thereon and getting a solid position on these for the Branch. The Presidents Conference was also discussed at the Regional Meeting held 06 February 2006 in Duncan with the expectation of finding common ground among the Island Branches. A pre-convention meeting will be held in Toronto just prior to the first session to firm up where we on the island stand on the issues. I will try and to get some information on the conference out as soon as I am able following the convention, if not by email, at least something for the June newsletter. A volunteer appreciation event will be held on 09 March 2006 to honour those who give so freely of their time to this Branch. Phoners and volunteers are always required, so I urge all members to look at becoming a volunteer and give it some serious consideration and then come forward to join us in the operation of your Branch.

We are looking forward to both the March General Meeting and especially our June General Meeting, which will be held this year in Parksville. As well as these two meetings, a Long Term Care Seminar will be held in Nanaimo for our membership, and those who may be considering their future as they grow older will find this a useful meeting to attend. Ron will have greater detail elsewhere in the newsletter.

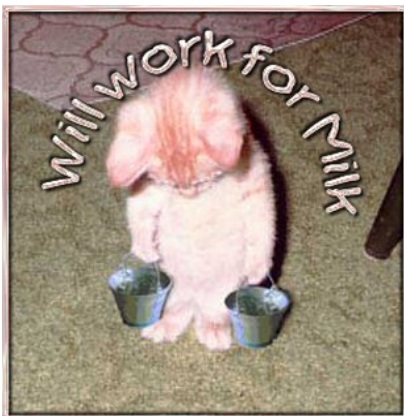
Those, who did not attend our Annual General Meeting missed a really good meal, as this was our Christmas luncheon as well, it was very well attended. I would like to thank the volunteers at the Canadian Legion Branch 256 for this wonderful repast and we look forward to holding meetings there in the future.

In closing, I hope to see you all at our General Meeting on 30 March 2006. Until we meet again I hope we remain in good health and spirits.

*Bob Hoogerbrug*

### **IT BRINGS TEARS TO YOUR EYES**

A reader heard a ring at the doorbell and opened it to be greeted by this piteous sight..



### **Volunteer Appreciation Day**

**Date:** March 9/06

**Time:** 11:30 - 1:30

**Nanaimo Golf and Country Club**

All FSNA volunteers are welcome...come and enjoy a light buffet lunch and music by "Music with Ian." A trio consisting of guitarist, flute and vocalist. Come and enjoy a well deserved lunch.

*Barb Campbell*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

as at 11th January, 2006



### ASSETS

Bank Balances	5232.15
Petty Cash Balance	100.00
Float Due—Membership	100.00
Prepaid Stationery & Postage	425.83
G.I.C. Investments	19856.21
Accounts Receivable	759.63
DOB Contingency Fund	3199.81
Equipment	7927.47
Less Depreciation –	7927.47      0.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>29,247.80</b>

### LIABILITIES

Per Capital Payable	5933.74
Total Reserve Funds	5,796.54
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>11,730.28</b>

### EQUITY

Retained Earnings	17392.34
Current Earnings	125.18
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>17,517.52</b>

**29,247.80**  
(Liabilities & Equity)



## How to Contact Your Executive



- President**—Bob Hoogerbrug 751-8735  
r-choog@shaw.ca
- Vice President & Recruiting and Retention**— Al Heinrich 738-0192  
agh@shaw.ca
- Membership Director** - Vic Ashdown -  
248-2027 ashdown@shaw.ca
- Past President**—Marg Mostowy 756-1069  
fsnananaimo@shaw.ca
- Treasurer**—Bob Stitt 758-7681  
stittar@shaw.ca
- Secretary**—Cathey Hoogerbrug 751-8735
- Membership Secretary** - Doris Grieves 716-1952  
dgrieves@shaw.ca
- Historian, Nominations Committee and Volunteer Coordinator**— John Ablett 752-7572
- Program Director**—Pat Mason 753-6008
- Awards/Speakers**—Charles Scrivener 758-2240  
scrivener@shaw.ca
- Registration**- Susanne Body 729-9588  
sbody@shaw.ca
- Services & PSHCP/PSDO Liason**—  
Leroy Wood 758-0078  
woodsie@shaw.ca
- Newsletter**— Ron Gladstone 751-2940  
gldstone@shaw.ca
- 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**
- Parksville, Qualicum & Nanoose 468-7706  
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- Nanaimo & Area June Wiebe 756-4873  
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- Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino Marg Pierce 723-9791

### Dear Members



I don't want to sound like a broken record but, as we center into a New Year, I must remind everyone that, if you make a reservation for a luncheon and do not cancel by the time appointed we will have to charge you for it. It is not unreasonable. The Legion buys the food and caters for the number we quote them. It is unfair of us to expect them to bear the loss if you are not there to eat the food.. So please bear this in mind when your phoner calls. The cost of the Lunch is now \$15.00 (inc tax). There will be a plate for tips if you care to leave them. Please note that, when you phone, this is not a table reservation. We will always try to help you out but you should remember that if you are not there by about 11.30 a.m. the chance of two of you getting a seat together might be slim.

*Pat Mason*



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



### MEMBER NUMBER COUNT

As of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Nanaimo and Area Branch had 1667 members comprising 1106 superannuates and 561 spouses. There are 1274 on DDS and 393 pay at Branch. Since the last Newsletter Report (October 20th), the following membership changes have taken place:

#### NEW OR REINSTATED MEMBERS (22)

Gerry Boucher & Cathy Elchuk, Parksville  
 Craig Clarke, Nanaimo  
 Ben Duncan, Parksville  
 J R Ethier, Ucluelet  
 William Fuller, Nanaimo  
 Keith & Anne Gibson, Parksville  
 F Hodgkins, Nanaimo  
 Ray & Joan Honig, Nanaimo  
 Mary Krause, Nanaimo  
 Bob & Mary Lake, Gabriola  
 Mac & Vida Maqubela, Nanaimo  
 Loyde & Merle Mutch, Parksville  
 Lawrence Pokeda & Patricia Reynolds, Port Alberni  
 William Sutherland, Parksville  
 Patricia White, Parksville

#### TRANSFERRED IN (18)

Anderson, Nanaimo, from AB16 Calgary & District  
 Dorothy Arnet, Tofino, From BC14 Sidney & District  
 Harry & Janet Bezanson, Nanaimo, from BC03 Duncan & District  
 Robert & Gwendolyn Chisholm, Parksville, from ON43 Ottawa  
 George Cooper, Nanaimo, from NO88 National Office  
 Anne Elphick, Nanaimo, from ON43 Ottawa  
 John Hicke, Parksville, from SK27 Yorkton-Melville  
 Caroline Howard, Nanaimo, from AB16 Calgary & District  
 John & Betty Mackesy, Parksville, from BC03 Duncan & District  
 Phil & Elezena Mackey, Nanaimo, from BC06 North Vancouver Island

Richard Morrison, Nanaimo, from AB17 Edmonton  
 Chris Morry, Nanaimo, from NB64 Moncton  
 Jack & Phyllis Roy, Qualicum Beach, from BC08 Vancouver

#### TRANSFERRED OUT (12)

Noel Balke, Denman Island, to BC06 North Vancouver Island  
 Terry & Anita Hickman, Nanaimo, to BC08 Vancouver  
 Al & Cathy Homeniuk, Nanaimo, to BC12 Kamloops  
 Ken & Catherine MacDonald, Qualicum Beach, to BC08 Vancouver  
 Joan & Edward Tarrant, Nanaimo, to BC08 Vancouver  
 Jean Turner, Nanaimo, to AB17 Edmonton  
 Al Turpin, Nanaimo, to (not specified)  
 Joan Winters, Nanaimo, to BC02 Chilliwack

#### MEMBERSHIP CANCELLATIONS (4)

Audrey Bremner, Qualicum Beach  
 Mary-Jane Burns, Nanaimo  
 Betty Lowry, Parksville  
 Muriel Starr, Parksville



### In Memorium

Walter Gulich, Nanaimo, survived by wife Arlene  
 Ken Jackson, Nanoose Bay, survived by wife Joyce  
 Douglas Herbert McDonald, Port Alberni  
 Grace Miles, Parksville, survived by husband Gene  
 Owen Roberts, Parksville, survived by wife Daphne  
 Hazel Silliphant, Lantzville, survived by husband Donald

#### NEWLY LOST SHEEP

Joseph & Marianne Bartram, Nanaimo  
 Rosina Pleasants, Nanaimo  
 Douglas Read, Nanaimo  
 R D & Loretta Reader, Qualicum Beach  
 Kate & Donald Wilson, Nanaimo

#### WEB-BASED MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM (WMS)

We went online with WMS as of January 1<sup>st</sup> and it is working well. All Island branches are now on WMS and I am still assisting some of them with training. As a member of the national WMS Ad Hoc Committee, I will be spending most of my WMS time working to improve the current System.

**DON'T FORGET – 2006 DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE FOR THOSE PAYING AT BRANCH! UNPAID MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE CANCELLED MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>.**



# Here and There

Designed for latest information. We have full text editions only in the e-mail version since cost considerations in printing and postage regretfully limit the size of this newsletter

## NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

The Nanaimo & Area Branch sends out this Newsletter via email to those that wish to receive it in that format. This method of delivering the Newsletter has proven very popular and you are urged to consider receiving 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 an PDF attachment and is scanned for viruses, etc., by up-to-date security software before dispatch.

Please let either Ron Gladstone or Vic Ashdown know if you wish to receive the Newsletter via email. If you're not sure, please email us and ask for an email copy of this one. 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 Membership Director, Vic Ashdown, is responsible for the Membership Data Base, including email addresses. Vic provides Ron with only those addresses needed to send out the email version.

Please consider taking the Newsletter electronically - it saves a lot of money and effort!

## **A LIFE ON THE OCEAN BLUE**

The Central Vancouver Island RCMP Vets Assn. have extended us an invitation to join them on a cruise they have organized on Barclay, de-Saturday 15th returning at 8 berni. The



the MV Frances parting 10 a.m. July, 2006 and p.m. to Port Alberni. The coast is \$27.00

The trip will take us down the Port Alberni Canal to Ucluelet where there will be an opportunity to spend some

time ashore. For information contact Gordon Pierce at (250) 723-9791. There is a snack bar on board which has quite a varied menu of short order items but you may wish to bring some snackies of your own. There is no bar, although coffee, tea and soft drinks are available. Sounds like fun!!

—oOo—

## **FSNA LONG TERM CARE SEMINAR**

We have just received confirmation that the FSNA Long Tem Care Seminar will be held at the Howard Johnson Harbourside Hotel, (Hemingway Room) 1 Terminal Avenue, Nanaimo, BC, at 10:00am on Monday May 1.

**Mr. John Ostaf** will again be making the presentation.

If any questions arise, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail

**Brian R. Morin,  
Veinot, Morin & Associates Inc.  
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Nepean, Ontario, K2G 4G2  
tel: (613) 226-8482 or 1-866-770-8482  
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E-mail: [Morin7@aol.com](mailto:Morin7@aol.com)

—oOo—





## THE WORD FROM NATIONAL

### 2006 Federal Elections

We now have a minority Conservative government. When the elections were called, it was expected that there would be many changes in the way the government was going to do business. Once members of the new Cabinet will have been named, FSNA will contact the Ministers responsible for the issues of importance to the Association: the President of the Treasury Board, the Minister of National defence; the Minister of Social Development, and the Minister of Health. FSNA will continue to advocate government action on issues of importance to its members, specifically, and to older Canadians, in general. A few branches reported that they participated actively during the campaign. Some organized meetings with the candidates, most contacted local candidates and provided them with the document on issues of importance to FSNA. The four political parties that were sitting at the time of Parliament dissolution provided their positions on these issues and their responses are posted on our federal elections Web site page.

### Branch Presidents' Conference

All branch presidents (or their representatives) have registered for the Presidents' Conference to be held in Toronto on February 23-26, 2006. The Workbook has now been sent to all the participants. In all, there will be some 115 participants consisting of the branch presidents, the NBOD members and the National Office staff. There are no invited speakers to this conference and the main objective of the

conference is to seek consensus on a number of issues.

### Court Challenge to Bill C-78

FSNA members have been kept informed of developments on the pension surplus trial through our Web site. The latest development is that, just before Christmas, the judge presiding the trial made a decision favourable to the plaintiffs in deciding that the documents that had been tabled by the plaintiffs are admissible as evidence. This is very significant as many of these documents were written by senior government officials and many support the contention that the surplus belonged to the stakeholders: the employer, the employees and pensioners.

It is not known when the trial will resume. FSNA has contributed \$90,000 up to now as its share of the costs of this court action. The 18 plaintiffs to this trial claim that the \$30.2 billion surplus should be returned to the three pension plan accounts. The matter of surplus allocation between the government, the pensioners, and the employees might be raised during the trial, but only as a matter of surplus ownership as opposed to surplus utilisation

### Negotiations: Public Service Health Care Plan

With the recent federal election campaign, which added another hurdle to the negotiations, there is still no announcement regarding the renewal of the PSHCP. The new PSHCP is scheduled to be implemented on April 1, 2006. FSNA members will be informed as soon as an announcement is made.

### SDB class actions rejected

The Supreme Court of British Columbia dismissed the claims of both the Public Service and Canadian Forces class actions regarding the Supplementary Death Benefits (SDB). These actions challenged the age-related benefit reduction as discriminatory and contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedom. The plaintiffs' lawyers are reviewing the judgment and will be considering their options. Further information can be found on their Web site: <http://www.branmac.com/Pages/deathbenefits.html> The judgment issued on January 19, 2006 is posted at: <http://www.branmac.com/go/download/JGarsonWithlervAG.pdf> branch of the Minutes of the October 2005 National Board of Directors Meeting.

# Seniors Behind the Wheel

Ron Gladstone

Medical Fitness and driving competence – not age, should be the gauge for judging the competence of ALL drivers. Unfortunately, the popular media finds it more stimulating to their circulation to pin the responsibility for cause of accidents to some feature of the person involved. If it is a teenager—its childish irresponsibility. If a senior - its senile incompetence. Both are used as ammunition for advocating severe restrictions on teenage driving and mandatory loss of licence based solely on age for seniors.

In a recent Ontario case involving the death of a girl hit by an 84 year old woman, the driver was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment for negligence causing death, however, all the evidence went to show it was the negligence, not her age that caused the tragic accident.. She had been in good health, just recently medically examined and more than a dozen expert witnesses testified that age, of itself, does not cause poor driving.

With very few exceptions, seniors are self-policing and would welcome the opportunity to have their driving skills evaluated and, if necessary parameters such as restricted night driving placed on their licences. What is really needed with our aging population is the development of a diagnostic screening tool to help doctors identify medically impaired drivers who pose a risk on the roads, with a stress on the aging population but also applicable to any age. After all, the statistics do not support the fact that seniors are more dangerous as drivers—from accident numbers per number of registered drivers the opposite is apparently true, but we must remember that seniors do not usually drive the distances, hours or the busy highways of the bulk of the driving population. Its something worth thinking about and keeping in mind.

*(This is personal opinion, based on various articles and does not constitute an official position of FSNA)*

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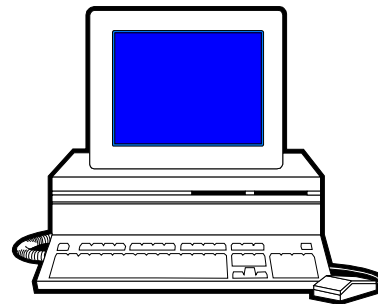
## **Subject: You know you're from BC when .....**

1. You know the provincial flower is actually Mildew
2. You feel guilty throwing aluminums cans or paper in the trash.
3. You use the statement "sunny break" and know what it means.
4. You know more than 10 ways to order coffee.
5. You know more people who own boats than air conditioners.
6. You feel overdressed wearing a suit to a nice restaurant.
7. You stand on a deserted road in the rain waiting for the "Walk" signal.
8. You consider that if it has no snow, it is not a real mountain.
9. You can taste the difference between Starbucks and Tim Horton's
10. You know the difference between Chinook, Coho, and Sockeye salmon.
11. You know how to pronounce Squamish, Osoyoos, Nanaimo, and Tsawwassen.
12. You consider swimming an indoor sport.
13. You can tell the difference between Japanese, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Thai food.
14. In winter, you go to work in the dark and come home in the dark while only working eight-hour days.
15. You never go camping without waterproof matches and a poncho.
16. You are not fazed by "Today's forecast: showers followed by rain," and "Tomorrow's forecast: rain followed by showers."
17. You cannot wait for a day with the forecast "showers and sunny breaks".
18. You have no concept of humidity without precipitation.
19. You know that Dawson Creek is a town, not a TV show.
20. You can point to at least two ski mountains, even if you cannot see through the cloud cover.
21. You remark the mountain is "out" when it is a clear day and you can actually see it.
22. You put on your shorts when the temperature gets above 5, but still wear your hiking boots and parka.
23. You switch to your sandals when it gets about 10, but keep the socks on.

(Ew!)

## Seniors On-line

As we get more and more people receiving our newsletter on line, I get questions as to how I convert it to the Adobe format. One way, of course, would be to pay over \$300 and get the program. Unfortunately, that is mainly for businesses and contains functions that we would never use. Luckily, there is an easier solution. Just go to your search engine and look up "PDF 995". From there you can download a converter free and, if you want to pay \$10 can even have it without pesky pop-up ads. When you load this, it puts a printer driver on your computer which will allow you to save any document you can print to pdf format. You just select it as the printer and it will prompt you to save it as a file that can be read by Adobe. This file, for example, becomes "feb06.pdf" Why bother? Well, it takes up a lot less space on the computer and the web and is of far greater quality. That is why more and more business programs are being put out on the Web in Adobe. Give it a try.



Try the Vancouver Island Website. Go to <http://www.fsna-nvi.com/index.html> We contribute to it and, indeed, as soon as I've finished this newsletter I'll get on with it.

**PS.** I shall probably be getting a new computer as soon as I finish this newsletter so I may be out of touch for a few days at the beginning of March.

## The Last Word



Last month, we issued our first Information Bulletin to those who have agreed to receive e-mail correspondence from us. It has been very favourably received. By this means we are able to distribute longer documents that would be impossible in the newsletter sent by ordinary mail due to the cost of postage and printing. This does not mean we are neglecting our "snail mail" readers—we will continue to do all we can to keep you informed and, to that end, we will carry on with the cut down versions of the info we have been using up until now. Where possible we will also give you a source of some of the forms, material etc if you require them. It's the march of progress, I believe they call it.

We are also considering trying to compile a resources registry. Where can I find somebody to mow my lawn? clear snow from my driveway? do add jobs? assembly do-it-yourself furniture that's just beyond my arthritic fingers? Also, how to find places to get flu shots, travel advisories, access to care services and Provincial and Federal government assistance. The only problem is that we must specify that we cannot recommend or guarantee any of the services involved—for obvious reasons. It would be up to you to talk to the contacts we provide and make your own decisions. This will be quite a project and we need to know if you think it is worth-while before we put all the effort into it..

See you at the meeting.

*Ron Gladstone*

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